



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 December 2020

Subject: Special Session of the General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Excellency,

I have the honor to inform you that the Special Session of the General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, will be held on 3 and 4 December 2020, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at United Nations Headquarters in New York, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/4.

The Secretary-General's letter dated 7 July 2020 regarding the reopening of the UN Headquarters states that in the event that a meeting is to be held, "Occupational safety experts will be asked to complete a risk assessment of such requests and prepare mitigation measures to minimize the risks to staff and delegates". The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team concluded that the meetings of the proposed special session are at low risk if the following precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, similar to those for the Main Committee meetings, are put in place:

- Access to the meeting will be restricted to delegates (one delegate per Member State and one delegate each from Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union, as well as time permitting, a limited number of representatives from relevant organizations attending the special session, in line with paragraph 3 (c) of A/RES/75/4) and staff members of the United Nations Secretariat;
- Access to the General Assembly Hall will require a regular delegate's pass and the secondary color-coded access card that has been provided to the Permanent Missions;
- It is expected that delegates will start arriving on premises early enough and enter the building through the delegates' entrance. Delegates will be requested to maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters while waiting to access the GA Hall;

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New-York

- By swiping their United Nations issued ID card on entry, all delegates and support staff will declare as a condition of their entry that they: a) have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; b) have not had symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; c) have not had close contact with someone with COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, and d) have completed quarantine if in the last 14 days they have arrived from a country or US state that is considered elevated risk;
- The seating plan has been slightly amended to ensure physical distancing and delegates shall remain in their seats at all times;
- Apart from opening segment, all statements will be made by delegations from their national seats and delegates will be required to wear face coverings except for when addressing the meeting;
- All delegates will be requested to maintain social distancing of at least 2 meters, to refrain from physical contact, including handshakes and other physical contact, during the meetings in recognition of the physical distancing requirements;
- The Secretary will actively manage the exit by calling each row for departure in a staggered manner;
- The proceedings of the meeting will be webcast live and on-demand on UN Web TV, allowing representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers to do so through webcast.

The agenda and final program of the special session will be announced in the *United Nations Journal*.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Volkan BOZKIR