

3 February 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 2 February 2021, from H.E. Ms. Egriselda Aracely González López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador and H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, the co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, regarding the **general debate of the AHWG, to be held in-person in the General Assembly Hall at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 11 February 2021.** I look forward to your active participation in this important meeting.

The letter also sets out a tentative programme of work for the four thematic debates and an informal interactive dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat.

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

Volkan BOZKIR

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





2 February 2021

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG) during the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, appointed by the President of the General Assembly to lead, during this session, our collective endeavours aimed at further enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the United Nations' main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ.

We are fully committed to working closely with all UN Member States on this important task that deserves our close attention and has considerable political significance for the work of the United Nations, as well as for the overall state of multilateralism. We stand ready to heed the call of the President of the General Assembly to identify and implement practices to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly. We shall spare no effort in order to achieve a substantial negotiated outcome during the 75th session of the General Assembly, implementing all previously agreed measures and building upon all previous achievements and efforts, and envisaging forward looking results that may provide guidance and strengthen the work of the General Assembly despite difficult circumstances such as the ones we are facing nowadays amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, we are looking forward to the analysis of the Secretary-General on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the General Assembly (OP4 of A/RES/74/303).

We would like to invite you to the **general debate of the AHWG, to be held in-person in the General Assembly Hall at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 11 February 2021,** with the opening statement by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır. (If necessary, the general debate will continue in the afternoon of the same day.)

In line with the established practice, the updated Inventory Chart of the implementation status of revitalization resolutions will be available before the first meeting of the AHWG (<a href="https://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/">www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/</a>).

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations New York The aim of the general debate is to discuss the way forward, building on the progress achieved during previous sessions, as well as on previous UNGA resolutions. Some of the key areas, where we believe we could focus our efforts most, are:

- Addressing COVID-19 challenges on the work of the GA and its six main committees: lessons learned and a way forward.
- Achieving greater relevance of the General Assembly: negotiating and adopting action-oriented outcomes.
- Streamlining and rationalizing the UNGA agenda and the interactive nature of discussions during the meetings.
- Streamlining and rationalizing the number of high-level events and side events (mainly during the high-level week).
- Achieving greater coherence and coordination in the work of six main committees, including on cross-cutting issues and their own revitalization efforts, while taking better advantage of the lessons learned.

Furthermore, we would also like to draw your kind attention to the following tentative programme of work for the upcoming four thematic debates and the interactive dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat (based on A/RES/71/323). This streamlined tentative programme of work is based on previous practice and lessons learned and it also takes into account the current pandemic situation:

- 1. Thursday, 25 February 2021 at 10 a.m. virtually (thematic debate on GA role and authority, including on public diplomacy and global communications)
- 2. Thursday, 11 March 2021 at 10 a.m. virtually (thematic debate on the Office of the PGA)
- 3. Thursday, 25 March 2021 at 3 p.m. in-person meeting in the GA Hall (informal dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat and briefing on the Secretary-General's analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including on operational support, management strategy, policy & compliance, safety & security, use of UN premises, among others)
- 4. **Wednesday, 14 April 2021 at 10 a.m.** virtually **(thematic debate on working methods,** including on coherence and coordination among the six main committees and the role of the General Committee)
- 5. Friday, 23 April 2021 at 10 a.m. virtually (thematic debate on SG selection process)

The lists of speakers for the general debate and the four thematic debates of the AHWG are open. Delegations wishing to inscribe should email General Assembly Affairs Branch at <a href="mailto:galindo@un.org">galindo@un.org</a>. To facilitate interpretation, delegations are requested to email their statements to <a href="mailto:estatements@un.org">estatements@un.org</a> at least 1 hour in advance of their delivery, indicating the title of the AHWG in the subject line.

Further to the attached note verbale to Permanent Missions dated 9 December 2020, delegations are kindly reminded to access the pages for the AHWG on eDelegate through the newly migrated eDelegate platform: <a href="edelegate.un.int">edelegate.un.int</a>. Instructions on how to reset passwords to access the portal for the first time are also attached. Delegates are encouraged to carefully review this information, to ensure their access has been correctly set up before the session begins. Technical questions and problems should be addressed to <a href="mailto:missions-support@un.int">missions-support@un.int</a>.

## Excellency,

We would like to encourage you personally, as well as senior members of your delegation, to take an active part in these meetings and the work of the AHWG during this session. We believe that the work of the AHWG could immensely benefit from the right balance between political oversight and guidance at the Permanent Representative level, as well as dedicated technical and substantive expertise.

We also believe that, through our collective and shared ownership, responsibility and dedication, we can achieve further substantive progress in the area of revitalization of the work of the General Assembly during this session. AHWG is our own platform and our own tool to achieve that goal. We should not shy away from being bold, creative and result-oriented. It is leading by example, that we may identify different calls for action and reassure a progressive development towards the future, addressing our challenges through a reinvigorated multilateralism, just as the Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations envisaged.

On our part, we are committed as Co-chairs to working tirelessly with all Member States and conducting our work in an inclusive, transparent and efficient manner. We remain fully at your disposal for informal consultations and are open for any ideas or proposals at any time during the whole process.

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

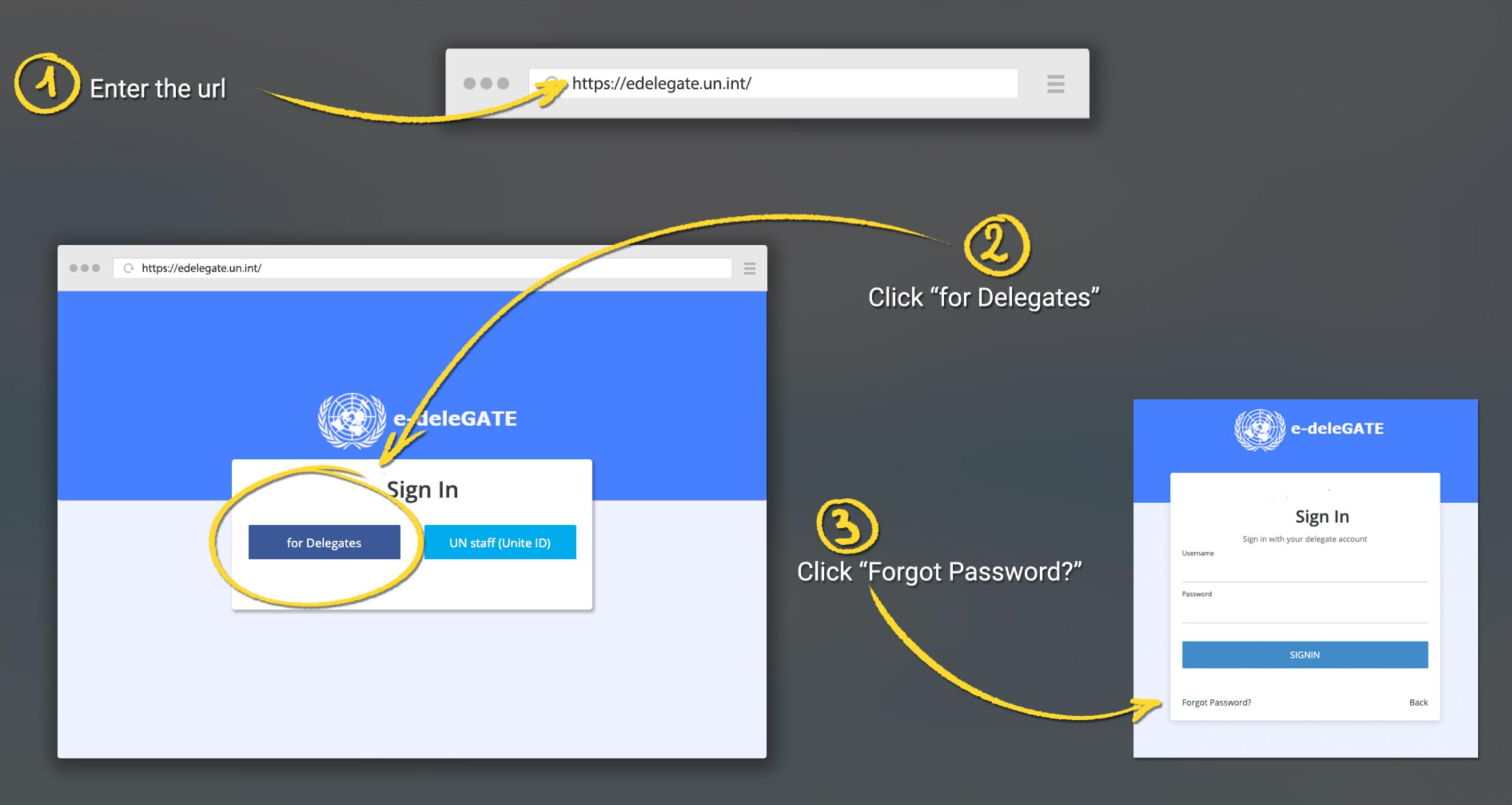
Egriselda López Ambassador

Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

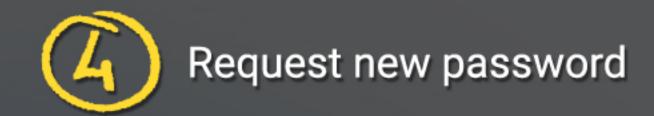
Michal Mlynár Ambassador

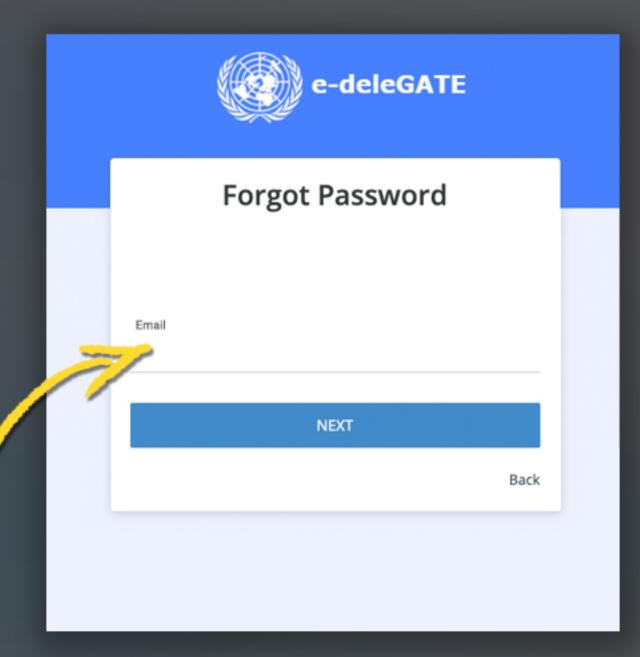
Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations

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## Access the new e-deleGATE for the first time



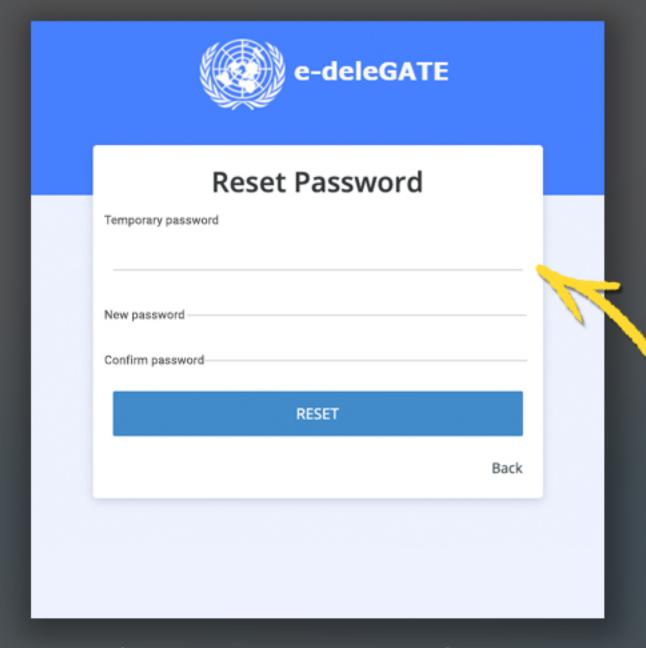


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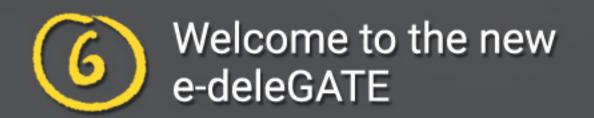
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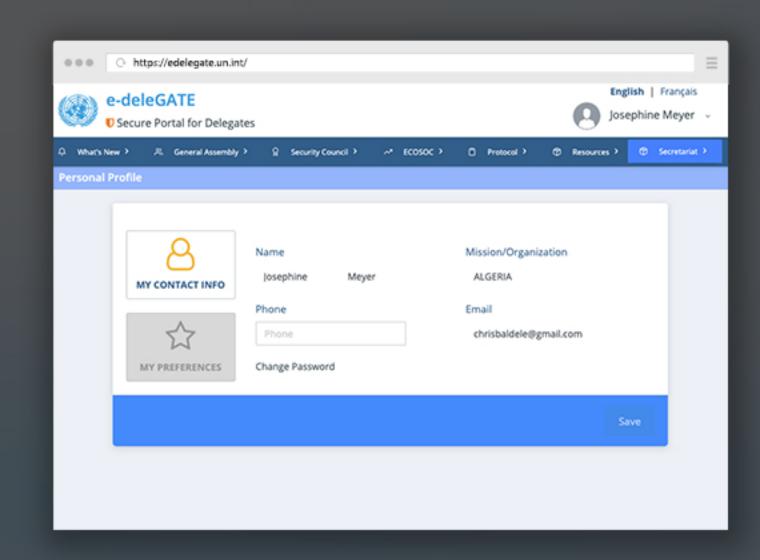




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REFERENCE: DGACM/OUSG/11/2020

## **Commencement of e-deleGATE migration**

The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member and Observer States to the United Nations, and to the Offices of Permanent Observers to the United Nations and has the honour to advise that starting from 16 December 2020, various modules on the e-deleGATE portal (<a href="https://delegate.un.int">https://delegate.un.int</a>) will be migrated to the new platform (<a href="https://edelegate.un.int/">https://edelegate.un.int/</a>) in a staggered manner. This migration project is a critical part of the Secretariat's efforts to continue providing secure and effective electronic services for all e-deleGATE users.

During the first phase (16 December 2020 to 8 January 2021), e-deleGATE modules of the following intergovernmental bodies are expected to be migrated: the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies including Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and other United Nations conferences. In the second phase (11 January to 31 January 2021), e-deleGATE modules of the Security Council and the Human Rights Council are expected to be migrated.

During the migration process, editing access to the concerned modules in the current platform (<a href="https://delegate.un.int">https://delegate.un.int</a>) will be temporarily disabled, while users will continue to have access to view those modules. Announcements will also be placed on the concerned modules to indicate that migration is in progress or completed. Once migration has been completed, a link will also be added to the modules in order to redirect users to the new platform. Upon full completion of the migration process, the Missions will be officially notified in early 2021.

For technical problems related to e-deleGATE, please contact <u>missions-support@un.int</u>.

The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member and Observer States to the United Nations, and to the Offices of Permanent Observers to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.