

1 February 2021

Excellency,

Further to the Secretary-General's letter dated 7 July 2020 regarding the requirement of a risk assessment when in-person meetings are to be held at the UN Headquarters, I have the honour to inform that the advice of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team remains as previously conveyed. Therefore, the meetings taking place in the General Assembly Hall during the month of February 2021 are considered low risk if the following precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, are put in place:

- Access to the meeting will be restricted to delegates (one delegate per Member State and one delegate each from the Holy See, the State of Palestine, the European Union, and other Observers inscribed on the list of speakers or indicating their wish to speak ahead of an informal meeting) 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 by the UN Protocol and Liaison Service;
- It is expected that delegates will start arriving on premises early enough and enter the building through the delegates' entrance;
- To assist in contact tracing, all delegates are required to swipe their United Nations issued ID card at the entrance of the General Assembly Hall;
- 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;

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

- 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 metres at all times, 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 most meetings 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 programme of work of the Assembly and agenda items to be considered at the formal meetings of the plenary are announced in the United Nations Journal and continuously updated on the website of the General Assembly.

Permanent Missions are strongly encouraged to report any COVID-19 cases amongst their delegations to the United Nations reporting portal (osh@un.org) as soon as possible to enable immediate action on contact tracing and testing.

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



Volkan BOZKIR