

16 March 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 3 March 2021 regarding the General Assembly plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to be held on Friday, 19 March 2021, at 10 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/237.

In this regard, and, without setting a precedent, I intend to invite Dr. Uzodinma Iweala, author, medical doctor, CEO of The Africa Center, and eminent person active in the struggle against racial discrimination to attend the meeting and address the Assembly on the occasion. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria will also address the commemorative meeting.

Herein, due to COVID-19 pandemic-related limitations in place on access to the United Nations premises, including quarantine requirements and without setting a precedent, I intend to present for the Assembly's consideration at the beginning of the plenary meeting on the 19th of March, a draft decision regarding the participation in formal plenary meetings of the General Assembly at the seventy-fifth session. The draft decision is proposed, without setting a precedent for future plenary meetings of the General Assembly, where quarantine requirements or travel restrictions are in place, to allow those who are invited by the General Assembly either to make a statement at a plenary meeting or to present a report, and are not a representative of a Member State or an observer delegation, to submit a pre-recorded statement, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall after the introduction by the President of the General Assembly at the plenary meetings concerned during the remaining part of the seventy-fifth session. The text of the draft decision is enclosed, and it will be issued as A/75/L.67.

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



Volkan BOZKIR

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

Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Participation in formal plenary meetings of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session

The General Assembly, noting with concern the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and noting that there are certain limitations in place on access to the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, including quarantine requirements:

(a) Decides, without setting a precedent for future plenary meetings of the General Assembly, that, during the remaining part of the seventy-fifth session, where quarantine requirements or travel restrictions are in place, those who are invited by the Assembly either to make a statement at a plenary meeting or to present a report, and are not a representative of a Member State or an observer delegation, may each submit a pre-recorded statement, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall after the introduction by the President of the General Assembly at the plenary meetings concerned;

(b) Also decides that, in addition to the verbatim records of the plenary meetings, the President of the General Assembly will circulate, as a document of the Assembly, a compilation document of the statements delivered by means of pre-recorded statements at each of the formal plenary meetings, which will be attached to the verbatim records of the meeting.