



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 March 2021

Excellency,

Pursuant to operative paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 75/196, noting the impossibility of holding the high-level debate on the theme “Urban safety, security and good governance: making crime prevention a priority for all” during the seventy-fourth session as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly invited the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, to hold, within existing resources, the high-level debate during the seventy-fifth session.

In this regard, I have the honour to inform that the High-level Debate on Urban Safety, Security and Good Governance: Making Crime Prevention a Priority for All will take place on Thursday, 22 April 2021, at 10:00 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters.

This one-day high-level debate will consist of an opening session and a general debate in the morning, followed by an interactive panel discussion and a closing segment. In accordance with the resolution 75/196, a summary of the discussion will be prepared for transmission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to all Member States.

I encourage Member States to participate at the ministerial level in the general debate. The list of speakers for a general debate will open for inscription on Thursday, 25 March 2021 at 10 a. m. until Sunday, 11 April 2021, at 5 p.m. For inscribing on the list of speakers, please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch (email: galindo@un.org with copy to gaspeakerslist@un.org). The time limit for statements will be up to three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. The list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the General Assembly. The provisional list of speakers, to be circulated on Tuesday, 13 April 2021, will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the level of representation.

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

Statements may be pre-recorded for the ministerial level or delivered in-person by representatives physically present in the General Assembly Hall. Due to limited time available for the meeting, pre-recorded statements will be played without introductions by representatives physically present in the General Assembly Hall. Details on the guidelines for submission of the pre-recorded statements can be found attached.

A concept note of the event, including a draft programme is attached. Further details of the programme will be made available in due course.

For further information, you may contact Ms. Narmin Ahangari, Adviser for Human Right and Humanitarian Affairs Team (narmin.ahangari@un.org).

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



Volkan BOZKIR

CONCEPT NOTE

High-level Debate of the General Assembly on Urban Safety, Security and Good Governance: Making Crime Prevention a Priority for All

Thursday, 22 April 2021, General Assembly Hall - UNHQ

Mandate

The High-level Debate will be held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/196 entitled “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”. The General Assembly noting the impossibility of holding the high-level debate on the theme “Urban safety, security and good governance: making crime prevention a priority for all” during the seventy-fourth session as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, invited the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, to hold, within existing resources, the high-level debate during the seventy-fifth session.

Background

Individual cities face increasingly acute security challenges as a result of local vulnerabilities heightened by the activities of criminal gangs and groups, including transnational organized crime groups, that pursue their illegal economic operations, including drug trafficking and other crimes. Organised crime often preys on communities that are vulnerable, disadvantaged and fractured. States are affected by the destabilising effects of these criminal groups and the associated challenges including, but not limited to corruption, money-laundering, illicit trafficking of goods, and terrorism. These phenomena undermine good governance and the rule of law and directly affect the security of citizens. Considering that more than half of the global population now lives in urban areas, and that by 2050 that share will rise to two thirds, understanding the impact of crime at the city level is becoming more important than ever.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goal 16) recognises the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The 2030 Agenda also explicitly highlights the objective to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11). This goal was also reflected in the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. This could be achieved through equitable development and effective crime prevention and criminal justice systems. It is equally important that the impact of organized crime on local communities is also addressed at the highest level.

In its 2019 Global Study on Homicide, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) outlined that, although rapid urban growth itself is not a driver of higher homicide rates, the presence of organized crime, income inequality, poor governance and infrastructure in fast urbanizing areas do lead to higher crime rates. The study also highlights the disproportionately high percentage of homicides committed with firearms, gang-related crime, illicit trafficking and all forms of violence including recruitment by terrorist and extremist groups, and sexual exploitation. This is particularly pertinent given heightened vulnerabilities in the current COVID-19 context.

The study also recognizes that each city, and indeed each neighborhood, has its own specific risk factors that can only be addressed through responsible policymaking that considers experiences from cities throughout the world. An analysis of the links between crime and other factors, for example demography, housing, income, or social conditions, including gender equality, is required to enhance the understanding of the relationship between location and crime and to address people's needs in terms of safety. In order to ensure effective action and the development of effective governance models on criminal justice policy issues, women should be fully involved in discussions on the development and implementation of crime prevention policies and programmes at all levels, including those that aim at urban upgrading and creating safe public spaces, including transportation.

Based on high-quality research and evidence-based analysis, UNODC developed an Urban Safety Governance Framework that seeks to enhance the well-being and resilience of people and communities through appropriate management and allocation of resources across a city. This new global initiative aims to make urban environments safe, inclusive and resilient by addressing the multi-causal factors of violence, crime and insecurity. Pursuant to this approach, UNODC assists Member States to move towards more holistic, integrated strategies and interventions that offer a wider range of responses, and recognize the need to act locally in addition to deploying efforts at the national or international level.

In preventing crime in an urban environment, there are considerable interlinkages with countering transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, and ensuring a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem. In light of such overlaps, this high-level debate will occur against the backdrop of relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Standards and Norms on (urban) crime prevention, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 (as amended 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as other relevant international human rights norms and standards.

Objectives

Building on a range of existing promising practices in the field of crime prevention and urban safety, as well as drawing from the inputs of academic and civil society experts, and case studies from a number of cities across the world, this high-level debate will provide an opportunity to exchange views about the need to, and ways in which to, prioritise safety and security in cities, taking into account how organised crime and transnational organized crime exploit and exacerbate local vulnerabilities. Participants will hear examples about how national governments and city administrations can identify crime risks and vulnerabilities, and ensure that safety and security policies are tailored to meet local needs, including by involving communities.

The debate will contribute to encouraging Member States to develop and implement “*comprehensive, evidence-based crime prevention policies, national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society*” (based on PP16, General Assembly resolution 75/196).

Throughout the event, participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and reflect on best practices and persisting challenges by addressing the following guiding questions:

- i) What are the underlying risk factors and challenges that create an enabling environment for crime, violence and insecurity in cities?
- ii) What are the connections between transnational organized crime and insecurity at the urban level?
- iii) What measures can be taken to prevent and reduce activities of criminal groups and organizations in urban settings, including measures that disrupt their illicit financing, and combat money laundering?
- iv) What factors can build community resilience and promote positive change at the grassroots level, with a particular focus on youth, women and people in vulnerable situations, including women and persons with disabilities?
- v) What concrete measures can be taken, and innovative tools can be employed to build and strengthen strategic partnerships and coordination across a range of issues relevant to crime prevention, safety and good governance?
- vi) How can we further engage cities to play an effective role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it relates to crime prevention and criminal justice?

Format

This one-day high-level debate will consist of an opening segment and a general debate in the morning, followed by an interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussion and a closing segment.

The opening segment will feature remarks by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General (TBC), and the Executive Director of UNODC. The general debate will be an opportunity for, ministerial and other high-level participants to share their States' achievements and efforts to accelerate progress towards reduction of urban crime. Participants in the interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussion will include Member State representatives, experts from international organizations, civil society, the media, academia, and the private sector.

Pursuant to operative paragraph 19 of General Assembly Resolution 75/196, a President's summary of the discussion will be prepared for transmission to Member States, as well as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

A provisional programme of the event is attached.

Provisional Programme

Thursday, 22 April 2021

10:00 am – Opening Segment

10:30 am

- Remarks by the President of the General Assembly
- Remarks by the UN Secretary General (TBC)
- Remarks by the UNODC Executive Director

10:30 am – General Debate

1:00 pm

3:00 pm – Interactive Panel Discussion: Addressing risks and challenges to city safety, security and good governance: the role of innovative practices and crime prevention strategies in building resilience in the urban environment

4:50 pm

The Panel will address risks and challenges city safety, security and good governance face as a result of the impacts of crime, including transnational organized crime. It will discuss how improving resilience and putting safety and security on the local and global agenda can help to fight this phenomenon. Innovative practices, multi-stakeholder responses and proactive strategies to prevent crime in the urban environment will also be presented during the Panel

Questions and Answers

4:50 p.m. – Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly

5:00 p.m.

ANNEX

Audio-Video Guidelines for Pre-Recorded Statements

Please read this entire document before submitting your pre-recorded video statement

Kindly note that all pre-recorded video statements should be submitted at least four days before the date that the statement is scheduled to be broadcast.

Audio visual file general guidance for Broadcast and Conferences

For technical questions, please call **+1 212 963 8648, Option 3.**

Video

For file submission video quality preferably:

- HD resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels in an aspect ratio of 16:9
- 29.97 frames per second (60 fields) known as 1080i/29.97, top field first; colour sub-sampled at a ratio of 4:2:2 (8 bits per channel with 10 bits per channel preferred). As is common with MPEG4 or MOV files.

Alternately file submission video quality as a minimum:

- HD resolution of 1280 x 720 pixels in an aspect ratio of 16:9
- 30 frames per second (60 fields) known as 720p top field first; colour sub-sampled at a ratio of 4:2:2 (8 bits per channel with 10 bits per channel preferred). As is common with MPEG4 or MOV files.

Audio

- General recommendation is that material should conform to SMPTE 382M Standard or AES3
- The preferred bit depth for audio recording is 24 bits per sample. The minimum bit depth is 16 bits per sample.
- All audio should be recorded at a minimum sample rate of 48 kHz, although sampling at 96 kHz is

encouraged. Recording or digitizing audio using an uncompressed lossless codec, such as WAV-PCM.

- Sound must be recorded with appropriately placed microphones, giving minimum background noise and without peak distortion.
- The audio must be free of spurious signals such as clicks, noise, hum and any analogue distortion.
- The audio must be reasonably continuous and smoothly mixed and edited. Audio levels must be appropriate to the scene portrayed and dynamic range must not be excessive. They must be suitable for the whole range of domestic listening situations.
- Surround and Stereo audio must be appropriately balanced and free from phase differences.
- The audio must not show dynamic and/or frequency response artefacts due to the action of noise reduction or low bit rate coding systems.

Interpretation requirements related to the pre-recorded video messages:

1. Ensure the speaker speaks clearly and at a moderate pace to enable accurate interpretation;
2. Provide a copy of the text of the statement;
3. For languages other than an official UN language, *provide an audio recording of the interpretation into one of the UN official languages embedded in the video*. In addition, provide the text of your statement translated into one of the official languages.¹

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ORIGINAL LANGUAGE STATEMENTS:

Please insert the original language audio into the left channel (or channel 1) of the video, and kindly include an official UN language translation in the right channel (or channel 2). English is the preferable UN language translation.

The audio should not be submitted in separate files. Both audio channels (original and official languages), should be embedded in the video file.

¹ In case of non-official languages, when a video address is played back and broadcast on the “floor” channel in the original language, the audio of the pre-recorded translation needs to be synchronously broadcast on the corresponding language channel.

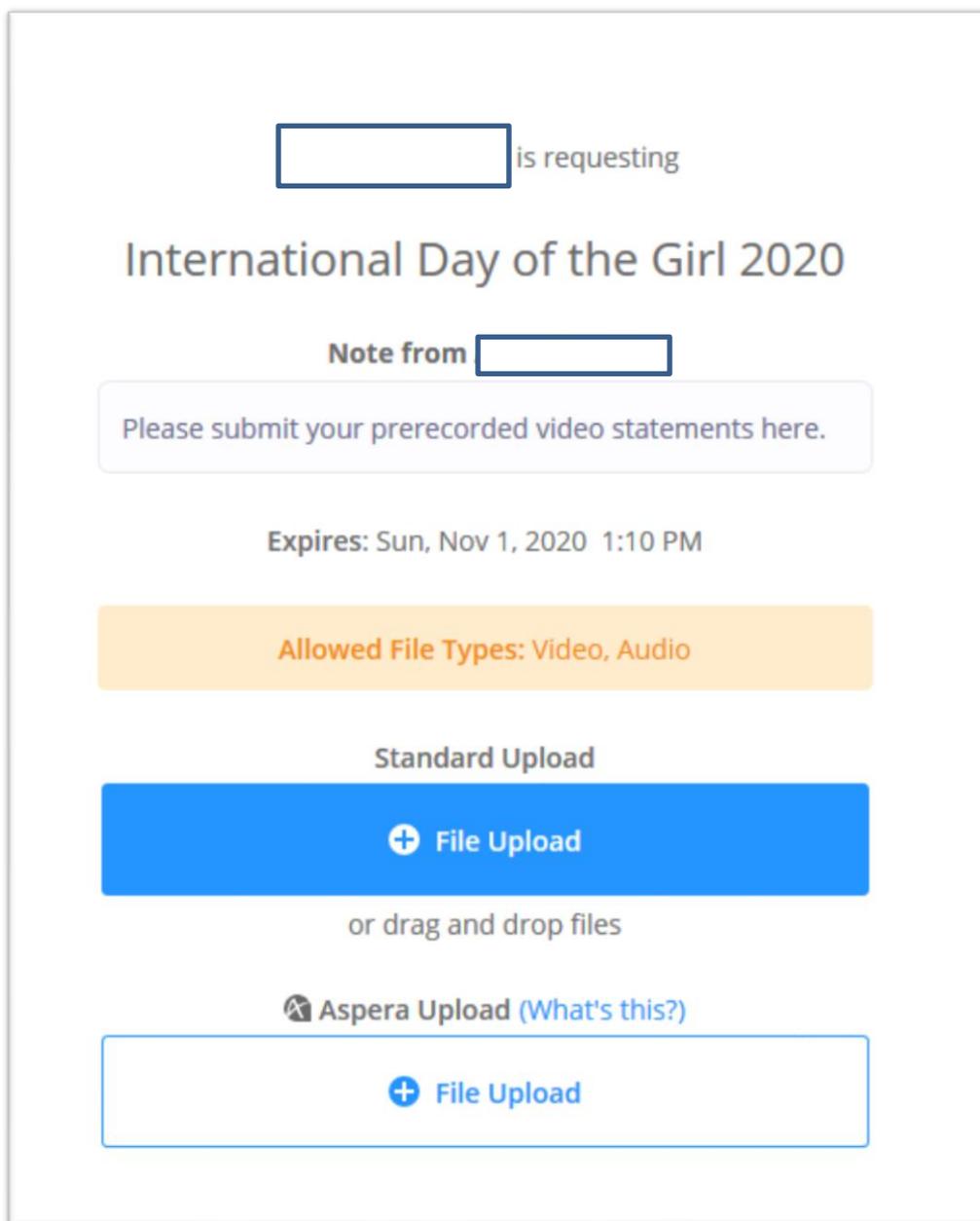
File-Naming and Submission Guidelines

Before submitting your video file, please use the following template for naming your file (without brackets):

[Delegation or Country or Presenter Name]_[22-Apr_2021]_[UrbanSafety].[extension] *(please exclude the brackets)*

Please follow the steps below for submitting your video file.

1. You should have received a link to the cloud storage space from your United Nations coordinator or representative. The link will take you to a web page like the one in the image below.



The image shows a web interface for file submission. At the top, a box labeled 'is requesting' is followed by the title 'International Day of the Girl 2020'. Below this is a 'Note from' box containing the text 'Please submit your prerecorded video statements here.' An expiration date is shown as 'Expires: Sun, Nov 1, 2020 1:10 PM'. A yellow banner indicates 'Allowed File Types: Video, Audio'. Under the heading 'Standard Upload', there is a large blue button with a plus icon and the text 'File Upload', followed by the instruction 'or drag and drop files'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Aspera Upload (What's this?)' with a white button containing a plus icon and the text 'File Upload'.

2. Click on the blue **“File Upload”** button (Standard Upload), or drag-and-drop your video file into the dialog window.

Once you have selected or dragged-and-dropped your file, the following dialog window should appear. Click on the **“Show Metadata”** button.

[Redacted] is requesting

International Day of the Girl 2020

Note from [Redacted]

Please submit your prerecorded video statements here.

Expires: Sun, Nov 1, 2020 1:10 PM

Allowed File Types: Video, Audio
File Metadata Requested: Please select files to add.

Expand All

+ Add Files

IMG_6688.MOV **SHOW METADATA** X

1 File (3.1 MB)

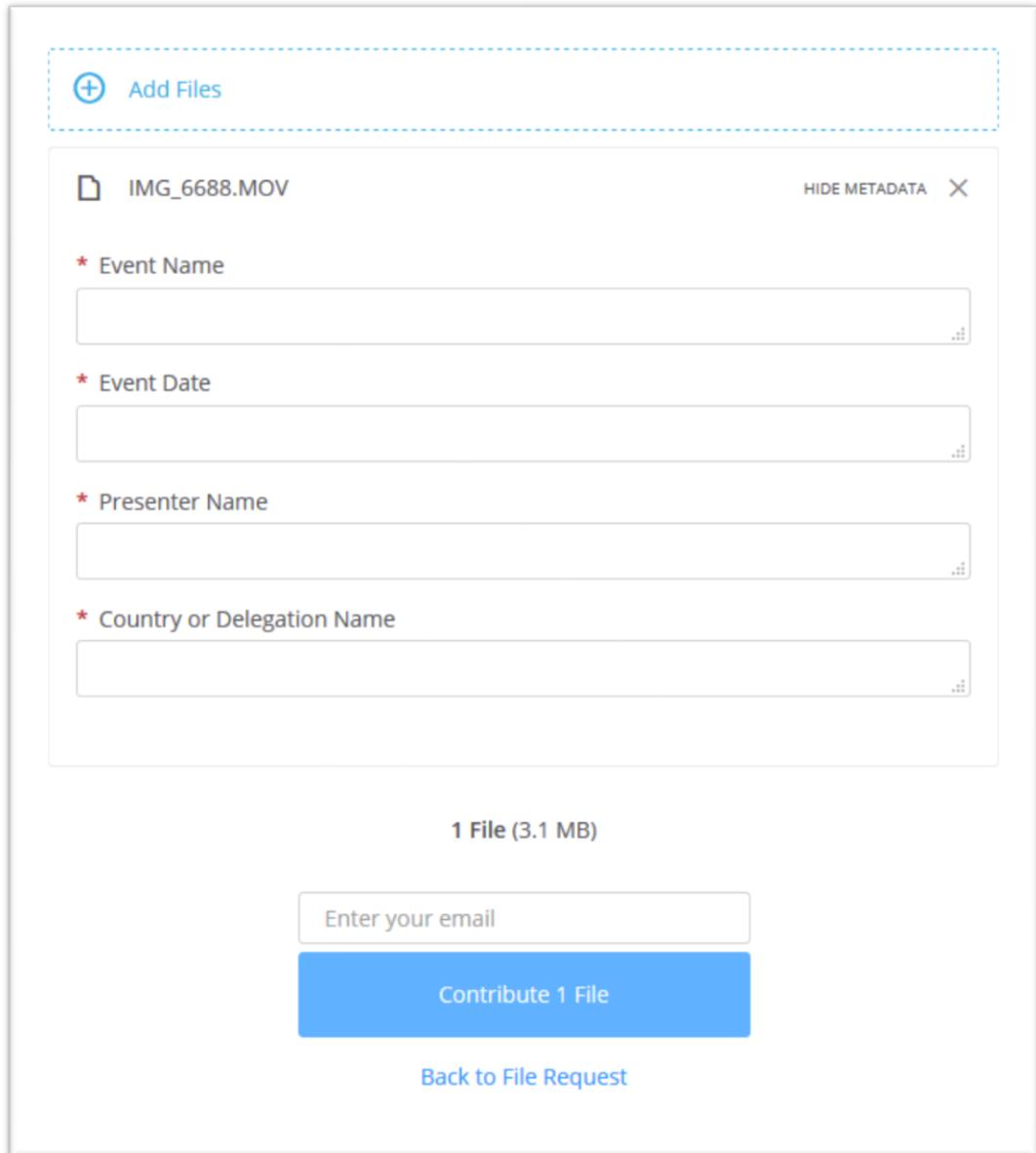
Enter your email

Contribute 1 File

[Back to File Request](#)

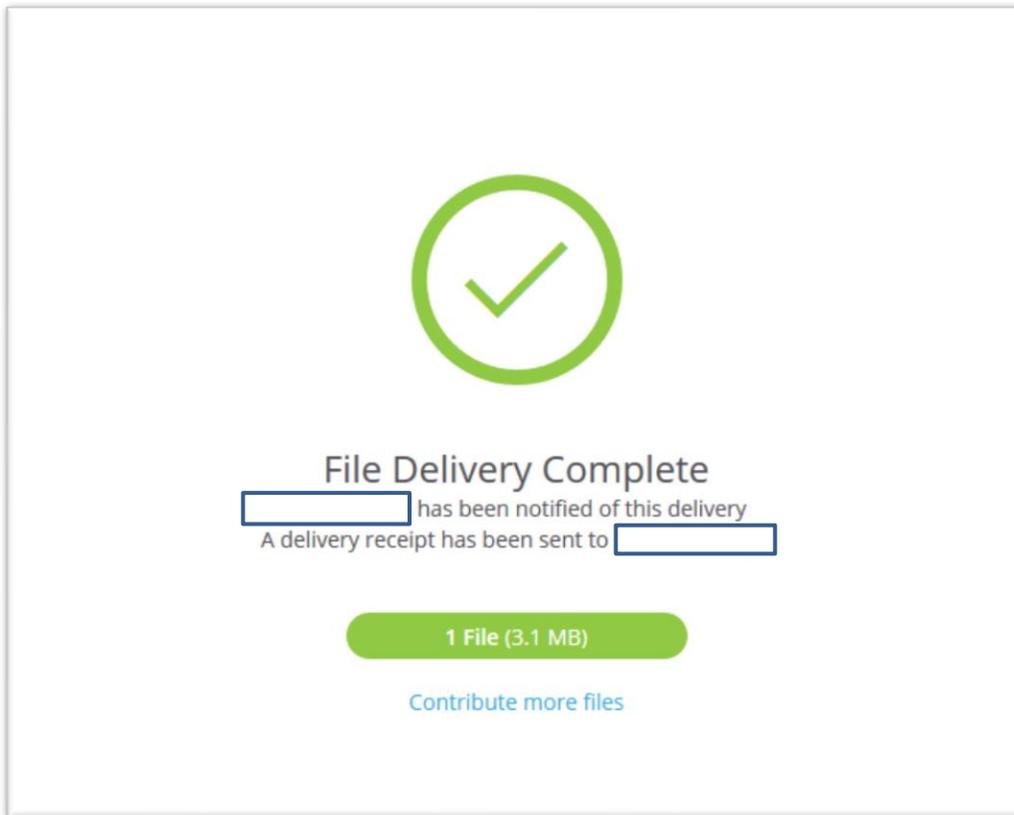
3. You will then be prompted to enter a few mandatory metadata fields. ***Please note that if you do not enter data in these fields, your file will not be accepted by the cloud upload service.*** The information you are asked to enter is as follows in the image below. Enter the requested information and then enter your **email address** in the indicated field. Then, click on the blue **“Contribute 1 File”** button.

Your video file will be uploaded into the system.



The screenshot displays a file upload interface. At the top, there is a dashed blue box containing a plus icon and the text "Add Files". Below this, a file named "IMG_6688.MOV" is shown with a "HIDE METADATA" button and a close icon. The metadata section contains four mandatory fields, each marked with a red asterisk: "Event Name", "Event Date", "Presenter Name", and "Country or Delegation Name". Each field has a corresponding text input box with a small grid icon on the right. Below the metadata fields, it indicates "1 File (3.1 MB)". At the bottom, there is a text input field labeled "Enter your email", a prominent blue button labeled "Contribute 1 File", and a blue link labeled "Back to File Request".

4. You will then see a progress bar indicator, followed by the dialog window below, indicating successful upload.



For technical questions, please call **+1 212 963 8648, Option 3.**