



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 April 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations regarding the invitation to Member States to share, by 7 May 2021, written comments regarding the possible review of the format of the Pledging Conference.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



**Permanent Mission of Paraguay
to the United Nations**

26 April 2021

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your constructive engagement and the general views that you presented during the first informal dialogue to explore possible alternatives for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities convened on Tuesday, 20 April 2021.

Based on the comments shared, it is my understanding that the objective of the Pledging Conference is as important today as ever and that a new format could help advance our goal of increasing the resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. Additionally, it has been indicated that possible alternatives should avoid duplications and focus on making the Pledging Conference relevant in the context of the major reform process of the United Nations development system. In this regard, it is important to consider which UN development system entities should be covered by this conference.

The Member States may consider alternatives to make the Pledging Conference fit-for-purpose through a format comprising a structured and interactive dialogue on issues related to the funding of UN development activities in addition to the pledging segment of the event. For instance, the Conference could address funding for *joint or system-wide activities* with the aim of delivering collective results; facilitate an *issue-based* structured dialogue focused on 1 or 2 different funding issues every year; or serve as a space for dialogue on funding needs and gaps for *individual* entities to implement their strategic plans. The Pledging Conference might as well provide a space to delve more in-depth into funding issues that the Secretary-General highlighted in his report on the QPCR and / or are emerging from the ECOSOC operational activities segment.

As indicated in our first meeting, I kindly invite you to share your views and ideas by addressing, in addition to the abovementioned proposals, some questions prepared to help guide our discussions in the second informal dialogue.

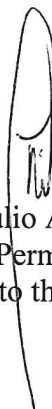
- What are the current expectations from the UN pledging conference in the context of the Decade of Action and the Covid-19 era?
- What UN development system entities should be included in the conference?
- How can the conference gain in terms of visibility and interest?
- What interlinkages can be made between the Pledging Conference and other major events?

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

I would be grateful to receive your ideas and inputs by **May 7, 2021**. For further information your office may contact Mr. Fabián Ybarra from the Permanent Mission of Paraguay and share inputs to the following e-mail paraguay@un.int, fybarraun@gmail.com and qcpr@un.org.

The date of the next informal dialogue will be confirmed shortly.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julio Arriola', written over the printed name.

Julio Arriola
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Paraguay to the United Nations