



24 June 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 June 2021 from H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Kimihiro ISHIKANE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan, co-facilitators leading the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, as per General Assembly resolution 74/2 of 10 October 2019 entitled "Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage".

The aforementioned letter conveys the date of the second virtual informal consultation to be convened on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. to discuss a compilation of the proposals received from delegations on the zero draft. Connection details for the meeting will be circulated by the Secretariat.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Volkan Bozkir", is located below the text.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



Permanent Mission of the  
Co-operative Republic of Guyana



Permanent Mission of Japan  
to the United Nations

24 June 2021

Excellency,

We are honoured to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators leading the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the high-level meeting on universal health coverage. We would like to thank you for your participation and constructive engagement during the first informal consultations held on 17<sup>th</sup> June and for the comments and proposals submitted via email.

Attached to this letter is a compilation of the proposals received from delegations on the zero draft. Please review the compilation text to ensure that your proposals are correctly reflected.

We have the further honour to invite all delegations to the second informal consultation to be held virtually via Cisco WebEx Platform on **Tuesday 29 June from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**. The logistical information will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

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

Handwritten signature of Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett in black ink.

Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of the Co-operative  
Republic of Guyana to the United  
Nations

Handwritten signature of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in black ink.

Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir  
President of the 75th General Assembly  
United Nations

## Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage

The General Assembly,

- PP1. *Recalling* its resolution [74/2](#) of 10 October 2019 entitled "Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage" in which it decided to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2023 in New York, aimed to undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the 2019 political declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030, **[RF DELETE PARA & INCLUDE PP2BIS]**
- PP2. *Recalling* **[RF DELETE: also]** the outcome of the **[EU ADD: first]** high-level meeting on universal health coverage **[EU ADD: on 23 September 2019]**, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled "Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world", which reiterated, inter alia, the importance of scaling up the global effort to leave no one behind and to build a healthier world for all, as well as accelerating efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course,
- PP2 bis. [RFadd:**  
*Recalling also the decision by the Assembly to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2023 in New York, aimed to undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the 2019 political declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030,]*
- PP3. *Recognizing* that through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>i</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all,
- PP4. *Recognizing also* that, through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>ii</sup> Heads of State and Government supported research and development of vaccines and medicines, as well as preventive measures and treatments for communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those that disproportionately impact developing countries,
- PP5. *[Taking note of the Secretary-General's 2020 report on an inclusive approach to strengthening health systems in the context of universal health coverage,]* **[RF DELETE PARA]**

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<sup>i</sup> See resolution [70/1](#)

<sup>ii</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex

- PP6. *Reiterating* the commitment to the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda,
- PP7. *Recognizing* that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention,
- PP8. *Expressing* deep concern that, prior to the [EU DELETE, CANZ, MEX, USA SUPPORT: coronavirus disease] {COVID-19} pandemic, at least half of the world's population lacked access to essential health [ALGERIA ADD: care] services and almost 100 million people each year were pushed into poverty due to out-of-pocket health expenses, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional setbacks and exposed vulnerabilities in health systems,
- PP9. *Recognizing also* that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact [EU DELETE: on the poor and the most vulnerable] [EU ADD; CANZ, MEX, USA SUPPORT: on the most vulnerable, people living in poverty, women and girls [USA ADD: and marginalized], with repercussions on health and development gains, thus hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage, [RF RETAIN AS DRAFTED]

1. *Decides* that the one-day high-level meeting on universal health coverage to be convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the third day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., consisting of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment;
2. *Further decides* that:
  - (a) The opening segment, to be held from 10 to 10.30 a.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the President of the World Bank Group, as well as an eminent high-level champion of universal health coverage, selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly, giving due consideration to gender **[EU REPLACE, MEX, USA SUPPORT; BLR, RF OPPOSE: parity [ equity]]**;
  - (b) The plenary segment, to be held from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;
  - (c) The closing segment, to be held from 5.30 to 6 p.m., will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly;
3. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the two multi-stakeholder panels will be as follows:
  - (a) Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.;
  - (b) Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, taking into account gender **[EU DELETE: equity] [EU, MEX ADD; BLR, RF OPPOSE: parity]**, level of development and geographical representation;
  - (c) The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels will take into consideration the direction and outcomes of other preceding health processes and initiatives, as well as the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, with a view to ensuring the most effective and efficient outcomes and potential deliverables and to sharing experiences and lessons learned to address remaining implementation gaps;
  - (d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, including the **[EU, USA ADD: World Health Organization and the]** World Bank, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical associations, **[USA ADD: human rights defenders.]** indigenous leadership **[USA ADD: , persons with disabilities and their representative organizations]** and community

organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender [EU DELETE: equity], [EU, MEX ADD; BLR, RF OPPOSE: parity [EU ADD; RF, HOLY SEE OPPOSE: adequate representation of age groups,] level of development and geographical representation;

4. *Also decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance [CANZ, MEX DELETE; RF, EGY, US RETAIN: by consensus] through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly; [EU, BLR, PAK, CHN, SYR, EGY, ALG SUPPORT AS DRAFTED / RF RESERVES ON PARA]
5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization and other relevant partners, to organize and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, before the end of June 2023, with the active participation of appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local government, relevant United Nations entities, [EU USA DELETE; CHN RESERVES: non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council]; [EU USA ADD: invited civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council], philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth and indigenous leadership, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting; [RF SUPPORTS PARA AS DRAFTED]
6. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multi-stakeholder panels, at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government, and invites all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;
7. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider relevant initiatives, such as the International Health Partnership for UHC2030, in support of the preparatory process and the high-level meeting, particularly with regard to sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned;
8. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contribute to the high-level meeting;
9. *Invites* non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise [USA ADD; CANZ SUPPORTS: , including those] that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat to [MEX, USA, CANZ, EU REPLACE; BLR OPPOSE: [attend] [participate in]] the high-level meeting and the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing; [RF, BLR, CHN, SYR, EGY SUPPORT AS DRAFTED]

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may [CHN DELETE: **[participate in]** CHN ADD: **attend**] the high-level meeting [CHN ADD: **and participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing and the multi-stakeholder panels,**] [CHN DELETE: **including its panel discussions**], taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender [BLR, RF DELETE: **parity**], [BLR, RF ADD: **equity**] to submit the [RF DELETE: **proposed**] list to Member States for their consideration on a non objection basis<sup>3</sup> [CHN, RF, EGY, BLR. ALG, SYR DELETE; USA, EU, CANZ, MEX RETAIN: **and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the high-level meeting;**] [UK SUPPORTS AS DRAFTED]

[USA, EU, CANZ, MEX SUPPORT AS DRAFTED / CHN, EGY, BLR: REVERT TO PREVIOUS AGREED LANGUAGE ON ‘NON OBJECTION BASIS’ A/RES/73/131 OP11]

#### 10 ALT 1. [CHN]

**Requests the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing and the multi-stakeholder panels, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non objection basis;<sup>4</sup> [Source: A/RES/73/131 OP11]**

#### 10 ALT 2. [CHN]

**Requests the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of non governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing and the multi-**

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<sup>3</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. [RF, ALGERIA REPLACE: **[The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester].-Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.]**

<sup>4</sup> The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.



stakeholder panels, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for the meaningful participation of women, and submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;<sup>5</sup> [Source: A/RES/75/4 OP3 (e)]

10 bis. [RF]

Requests the Secretariat to assist the President of the General Assembly, with the support of other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in drawing up the list referred to in paragraph 10 above, and to take responsibility for appropriate pre-screening and evaluation of the requests from civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, as well as academic institutions and the private sector, ensuring that their competence, activities, aims and purposes are relevant to the high-level meeting and in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; (inspired by E/RES/1996/31)

11. *Invites* members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and other relevant initiatives to make a fundamental contribution to the process in terms of raising awareness of the importance of universal health coverage and its contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals [MEX ADD: among others];
12. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegations ministers from all relevant ministries, as appropriate, as well as representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous leadership, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and universal health coverage networks, with due regard to gender [EU, MEX REPLACE; RF OPPOSE: [parity] [equity]] [EU ADD; RF, HOLY SEE OBJECT: and representation of all age groups];
13. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting and the multi-stakeholder hearing shall be webcasted, and encourages the President of the General Assembly [EU ADD; USA; CHN, RF SUPPORT [and] the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the World Health Organization] to give the highest visibility to the high-level meeting, through all relevant media platforms and information and communications technologies;
14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, in close consultation with Member States, including the overall theme of the high-level meeting and the themes of the multi-stakeholder panels in line with paragraph 3 (c) of the present resolution.

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<sup>5</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.