

29 June 2021

Excellency,

Reference is made to General Assembly resolution 73/304 entitled, “Towards torture free trade: examining the feasibility, scope, and parameters for possible common international standards” in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, to be chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and guided by the need to appoint individuals reflecting the highest standards of efficiency, competence in the fields of human rights and/or international trade, and integrity, to examine, commencing in 2020, the feasibility, scope of the goods to be included and draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter and to transmit the report of the group of governmental experts to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-fifth session.

Further reference is made to Secretariat note 75/908 entitled, “Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards” advising that the report of the group of governmental experts will be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session due to the delay in the process of establishing the group of experts.

In this regard, I have received a letter from H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union, the main sponsor of resolution 73/304, requesting the postponement of the submission of the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-sixth session.

Therefore, I have the honour to enclose herewith a draft decision to postpone the consideration of the report to the seventy-sixth session. The draft decision will be presented for the Assembly’s consideration at a plenary meeting in due course.

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



Volkan BOZKIR

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



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

**ONU/2021/154**

23 June 2021

Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the European Union with regard to resolution 73/304 entitled "Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards."

The resolution foresees that a group of governmental experts should submit a report on options to establish common international standards on torture-free trade to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-fifth session. As indicated by the secretariat in the note in annex, the group will not be able to prepare the report by the indicated time due to delays in its establishment.

As the main sponsor of resolution 73/304, the European Union would like to request an extension of the deadline in order to allow the group of governmental experts to submit their report to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-sixth session.

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

Francisco Duarte Lopes  
Ambassador

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

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 72

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly<sup>1</sup>

**Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 73/304 of 28 June 2019, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, to be chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and guided by the need to appoint individuals reflecting the highest standards of efficiency, competence in the fields of human rights and/or international trade, and integrity, to examine, commencing in 2020, the feasibility, scope of the goods to be included and draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-fifth session;

Taking note of the note by the Secretariat<sup>2</sup> in which the Secretary-General informed that due to the delays in the process of establishing the group of governmental experts, the report of the group of governmental experts will be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session;

Decides to postpone to its seventy-sixth session the consideration of the report of the group of governmental experts requested in its resolution 73/304.

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<sup>1</sup> In order for the General Assembly to take action on the present proposal, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 72 and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.

<sup>2</sup> A/75/908