



9 September 2020

Subject: First meeting of the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session (in-person)

Excellency,

Following consultation with the Bureau, I have the pleasure to inform you that I intend to convene a formal meeting of the Economic and Social Council on Monday, 14 September 2020, at 10 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall.

Pursuant to decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020 entitled, “*Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*”, the Economic and Social Council should take note of all the decisions and resolutions adopted under its mechanism at the first plenary meeting to be held as soon as circumstances allow. The meeting on 14 September will be held in order to take note of the proposals, in accordance with decision 2020/205, and to consider other relevant items, including pending matters from the previous 2020 session. The items for consideration by the Council at the meeting on 14 September are reflected in the enclosed Annex A and will also be announced in the Journal of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General’s letter dated 7 July 2020, regarding the reopening of the UN Headquarters states that in the event that a meeting is to be held, “*Occupational safety experts will be asked to complete a risk assessment of such requests and prepare mitigation measures to minimize the risks to staff and delegates.*” I have requested the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team to provide a risk assessment for the 14 September meeting, based on the proposed modalities of the meeting, which include precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing a face covering; limiting the size of delegations to one representative; adjustment of the seating plan to ensure physical distancing; live webcast of the meeting to allowing representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers to do so through webcast; and statements to be made by delegations from their national seats. I will share the occupational safety and health risk assessment with Member States as soon as I receive it.

All Permanent Representatives of States members of the Economic and Social Council
cc: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations New York

With regard to the elections to subsidiary and related bodies to be conducted in the meeting on 14 September, I will provide more details on the modalities for secret balloting in a separate letter.

Pending receipt of the risk assessment, in order to prepare for the meeting, delegations of United Nations Member States, the Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union are invited to register one representative who will attend the in-person meeting. Delegations may also register one alternate representative. A link to the online registration form will be provided through an announcement on eDelegate no later than 10 September. Only pre-registered delegates will be permitted entry to the meeting.

Questions related to the meeting can be addressed to the Permanent Mission of Pakistan (Mr. Imran Khan, Counsellor, email: miklodhi@gmail.com). Advance copies of the proposals for consideration at the meeting are also attached to this letter. Advice on possible programme budget implications of draft proposals, where already available, is indicated in the attached provisional agenda. Information on other draft proposals will be provided as soon as possible through e-deleGATE. Members of the Council wishing to request a vote on any of the draft proposals to be considered at the meeting are requested to inform the Secretary of the Council (herity@un.org). The e-list of speakers for the meeting will be open in e-deleGATE as of 10 September. Delegations wishing to inscribe are encouraged to do so in advance.

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



(Munir Akram)

President of the Economic and Social
Council

Annex A

Provisional agenda of the in-person meeting on 14 September

Annex A

Provisional agenda of the in-person meeting of ECOSOC on 14 September

The Economic and Social Council will:

1. Under item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
 - (a) Adopt an oral decision on the division of responsibilities among the ECOSOC Bureau members;
 - (b) In accordance with Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020, take note of the decisions and resolutions adopted through silence procedure between April and August 2020 (see list in attached E/2021/CRP.1). Member States will have the opportunity to make explanations of position in connection with the decisions and resolutions adopted.

2. Take action on the following draft resolutions:
 - (a) Under item 14, “Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations”, draft resolution entitled “Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (*to be issued as E/2021/L.5 – advance version attached*), submitted by Grenada, in its capacity as Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization, and co-sponsors;
 - (b) Under item 15, “Regional cooperation”, draft resolution entitled “New strategic vision of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia” (contained in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General [E/2020/12](#)). (The Secretariat has withdrawn the oral statement of programme budget implications circulated in March 2020. The draft resolution has no programme budget implications.);
 - (c) Under item 16 “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan”, draft resolution entitled “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan”, submitted by Guyana in its capacity as Chair of the G-77 and China (*to be issued as E/2021/L.6 – advance version attached*) (The Secretariat has confirmed that the draft resolution has no programme budget implications.);
 - (d) Draft resolution entitled “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women”, submitted by Guyana in its capacity as Chair of the G-77 and China (*to be issued as E/2021/L.7 – advance version attached*);
 - (e) Under item 19(e), “Social and human rights questions: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees”, draft resolution submitted by Malawi on the expansion of the Executive Committee of UNHCR ([E/2021/L.4 – attached](#)). (The Secretariat has confirmed that the draft resolution has no programme budget implications.)

3. The President will draw lots to determine the seating arrangement for 2021 session of the Council.
4. Under item 4, "Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments", the Council will conduct outstanding elections, including through secret balloting. The list of candidates as of 8 September is attached.
5. The Council will discuss any other business.