



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](mailto: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](mailto: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