



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 May 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, the co-facilitators leading consultations on the political declaration and the modalities of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The co-facilitators, via the aforementioned letter, advise of the cancellation of the informal consultation scheduled for 21 May, in response to the request of Member States to extend the deadline for the submission of comments on the draft political declaration. A new date will be communicated in due course. The co-facilitators further transmit the written comments of the Group of 77 (G77) on the draft modalities resolution following the informal consultation held on 12 May.

I trust that you will continue to extend your full cooperation to Ambassador Lopes and Ambassador Joyini.

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

19 May 2021

Excellency,

We have the honor of addressing you in our capacity as the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration and the modalities of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

We wish to thank the delegations that have forwarded their comments and inputs to the content of the Political Declaration thus far and inform that we have received a request for further extension of the deadline. Hence we have decided to extend it until 21 May 2021 (cob).

We wish to further inform you that the informal consultation on 21 May 2021 is cancelled. New dates will be conveyed in due course.

Finally, we take this opportunity to share with you the written comments to the draft resolution on modalities sent by G77 and China, after our discussion at the informal consultation meeting held on 12 May.

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



H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini
Permanent Representative of South Africa
to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

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

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank you and congratulate you for the smooth consultations that we had this morning.

As requested by the Co-facilitators this morning, the Group has met to further discuss its reservation on OP1 -Op 4 and Op5 of the Draft Modalities resolution. The Group has thus come up with following the proposals on these paragraphs.

OP1

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action will be held on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, and consist of an opening plenary meeting from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., **two consecutive round tables** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and ~~one thematic panel~~ from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a closing plenary meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and also decides that the morning meeting of the general debate on that day will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and that that arrangement does not constitute a precedent;

OP4

4. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements of the round tables will be as follows:

(a) The round tables will address the overall theme of “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”;

(b) ~~The~~ **Each** round table will be **co-**chaired by a two Head of State or Government to be **invited** ~~appointed~~ by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with **regional groups** ~~the Member States~~;

(c) In order to promote a substantive and constructive dialogue, participation in ~~the~~ **each** round table will include ~~twenty-five~~ Member States, **observers, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and experts, as well as selected representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations that are actively engaged in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**; ~~to be invited by the President of General Assembly, in consultation with the regional groups and bearing in mind the level of representation and the equitable geographical representation with due regard for gender balance~~;

d) Accredited delegates, observers and selected non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance will be able to follow the proceedings of the round-table sessions in the overflow room;

(e) The proceedings of the round tables shall be webcast;

OP5

Delete OP5.

I would like to highlight that after considering the answers provided by the Co-facilitators today regarding the format of the high level event, the Group is still of the view that the suggested format will not provide enough opportunity for all delegations to make a statement during this commemorative event. That is why, In order to allow more time for Members States and Observer States to participate fully in this event, while taking into account the difficulties of having a full fledged plenary commemorative event, The group requests that the modalities of the 10th anniversary be reconducted for this event.

The Group believes that having two round tables open for the participation of States and other stakeholders, will ensure a higher level of inclusivity that is lacking in the current format.

The Group kindly requests that the co-facilitators reflect these elements in the revised draft.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me, if you have any question,
Happy Aid

Best regards,
Ahlem Sara Charikhi
First Secretary
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