



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 March 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovak Republic to the United Nations, and H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, co-facilitators of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG). The letter informs on the proposed way forward regarding the work of the AHWG in view of the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

My Office and the co-facilitators will continue to monitor developments as they unfold and make necessary adjustments, as the need arises.

Meanwhile, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 24th March 2020

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as the Co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalisation of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG) to inform you about the proposed way forward on the work of the AHWG in the context of the current unprecedented challenges related to the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

First, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all delegations for their active participation in and contributions to the AHWG general debate held on 2nd March 2020 and the first two AHWG thematic debates (on working methods and on GA role and authority) held on 12th March 2020. Delegations that were unable to participate and take the floor in the two thematic debates may forward their submissions to the Co-chairs in writing via the UN Secretariat (Ms. Lana Emelina-Sarte, DGACM, e-mail: emelina@un.org) no later than Friday, 3rd April 2020. We would also like to kindly remind all delegations that the general debate and the first two thematic debates are also available on UN webcast.

We greatly appreciate the quality and scope of the initial rounds of informal bilateral consultations, which we have held so far with many delegations. As a follow-up to these informal bilateral consultations, we would like to invite and encourage all interested delegations to submit to the Co-chairs any of their practical suggestions or potential language proposals in writing. The relevant contact points at the Permanent Missions of Ghana and Slovakia are: Mr. Daniel Okaiteye, Deputy Permanent Representative, e-mail: dokaiteye@yahoo.com and Mr. Róbert Chatrnúch, Deputy Permanent Representative, e-mail: robert.chatrnuch@mzv.sk respectively. If any delegation would like to express its interest in holding further informal bilateral consultations with the Co-chairs (currently to be conducted as a teleconference), such requests can be made through the same contact points at the Permanent Missions of Ghana and Slovakia.

As all delegations were informed by an e-mail dated 13th March 2020 sent by the UN Secretariat on behalf of the Co-chairs, the AHWG informal dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat, which was scheduled to take place on 19th March 2020, was cancelled and is expected to be rescheduled to a later date.

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

In line with the letter of the President of the General Assembly dated 17th March 2020, in which he informed Member States of his decision to postpone all meetings of the General Assembly mandated processes in UN Headquarters, two remaining AHWG thematic debates on SG selection process and on the Office of the PGA planned for 6th April 2020 and 21st April 2020 will be rescheduled to a later date.

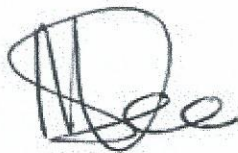
Guided by the very nature and overall objectives of the General Assembly revitalisation process, we believe that upon resumption of meetings in UN Headquarters and our normal working functions, we will need to collectively re-assess the state-of-play of the AHWG and agree on how best to achieve the desired added value during the remaining part of the 74th session of the General Assembly.

As Co-chairs, we also recognize that the current unfortunate situation and its direct consequences on the work of the General Assembly are in no way “business as usual”. The AHWG, as an essential tool at the General Assembly’s disposal for making its work more efficient, effective and rational, will need to take the current situation into account in its reflections on a comprehensive and timely response by the Assembly. (For instance, we are of the considered view that after the current crisis, the annual AHWG informal dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat will very likely and quite naturally focus more on topics such as crisis management, resilience, health, safety and security, e-meeting technology availability, etc.).

We remain fully committed to working closely with all Member States and the UN Secretariat in that regard, including by conducting further informal consultations on all aspects of AHWG work. Subsequently, in close cooperation and coordination with the President of the General Assembly, we will provide you with our recommendations and proposals on the way forward as regards further AHWG meetings and deliberations, as well as the relevant draft resolution of the General Assembly.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all delegations for their continued engagement, cooperation and support. We count on the same also for the period when we will be able to fully resume our work and meetings in UN Headquarters. In the meantime, we remain fully at your disposal for virtual informal consultations and are open for any suggestions, ideas or proposals on all aspects of AHWG work.

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



Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ghana
to the United Nations



Michal Mlynár
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations