



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 September 2020

Excellency,

I am writing with respect to the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, to be held on 30 September 2020, as mandated by General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/269. Taking into account the number of Member States inscribed to speak at the Plenary Segment, and the two Leaders' Dialogues and the time allocated in resolution 74/269, it has become clear that the majority of delegations would not be able to speak at the Summit.

As the first Summit on Biodiversity held under the auspices of the General Assembly, and in light of the urgent need to build political momentum ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Kunming, China, having taken broad consultations with interested delegations, I wish to ensure that all Member States who have inscribed to take part in the Summit, will be given the opportunity to play their pre-recorded statements on 30 September 2020.

The overwhelming interest of Member States – at the highest level – to participate in this Summit is testament to our commitment to advancing ambition ahead of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

As such, **I propose to organize two spillover events in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and from 6 p.m. till end, if necessary.** An updated speakers' list will be provided shortly.

In the interest of maximizing inclusivity, and in order to find a feasible solution in line with the principles of multilingualism, costs associated with these spillover events, including interpretation services, will be borne by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. In this context, I would invite voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund from Member States to support the first-ever summit on biodiversity, and multilingualism.

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

Deadline for pre-recorded statements

I would like to remind delegations that the submission deadline for pre-recorded statements for the Biodiversity Summit, remains 26 September, as per the letter dated 25 August 2020, entitled 'Pre-recorded Statements Audio Video guidelines for the high-level meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020'. I also urge delegations to upload their written statements to e-Statements in order to ensure interpretation.

Time limits and introductory remarks

In accordance with decision 74/562, the President of the General Assembly is to finalize the other organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting. Introductory remarks by the representative who is physically present will be optional. Given the large number of speakers inscribed, it will be presumed that delegations will not be introducing their respective pre-recorded statements; rather the presiding officer will introduce the pre-recorded statements. Delegations are urged to keep to stipulated time limits (three minutes for individual statements and five minutes for group statements) to provide maximum opportunity to exhaust the speakers' list.

Any delegation that intends to introduce its pre-recorded statement should communicate this in writing to Mr. Jose Rene Tanoy (tanoy@un.org).

For any further guidance, you may contact Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Senior Advisor (toni-shae.freckleton@un.org), Ms. Nehali Anupriya, Adviser (nehali.anupriya@un.org), or Mr. Mohammed Amin Shaker (mohammed.shaker@un.org).

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



Volkan BOZKIR