

United Nations Nations Unies

POPULATION DIVISION – DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA – DC2-1950 – NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL: 1 (212) 963.3179 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.2147

16 March 2020

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 9 March 2020, I have the honour to update you on the organizational measures that the Bureau of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is proposing to take in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of today on the work of the Economic and Social Council in the near future, in which you propose to limit the application of the silence procedure to the elements described in your letter. I fully support your call to remain flexible regarding the planned meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies in light of current and future developments.

In my letter dated 9 March, I had informed you of the Bureau's 10-point plan to shorten and scale down the upcoming session of the Commission, which we were planning to hold on 30 and 31 March. In the light of recent developments, it became apparent that this plan would not be feasible as originally foreseen.

Following further consultations within the Bureau, I now propose that the upcoming session be postponed until mid-June 2020 at the latest. This should give the rapporteur, assisted by the Secretariat, sufficient time to prepare the report on the session for consideration by ECOSOC during its management segment in late July, assuming that there will be an agreement to waive the standard requirement related to documentation.

Furthermore, following consultations of Bureau members with members of their regional groups, the Bureau is of the view that we could further scale down the session to a one-day event. The one-day session would contain the necessary procedural elements and ideally some substantive elements, including the adoption of a resolution on the special theme as per normal practice. Alternative scenarios will be considered should this further scaled down approach become impractical in light of future developments.

H.E. Ms. Mona Juul
President of ECOSOC



Based on the feedback received from Member States, informal consultations on draft consultations could start online and, conditions permitting, be concluded in person. Informal consultations on draft proposals for the CPD, which were set to take place from 13 to 27 March, have been postponed. In view of the fluid situation, we hope to announce a new schedule for the informal consultations by the end of this month or early next month.

I will keep you informed of future developments with regard to the organization of the Commission's fifty-third session, as the Bureau assesses and adjusts its planning as necessary.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chau".

Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations
and
Chair of the fifty-third session of the
Commission on Population and Development