

27 January 2022

Dear Mr. President,

I write further to the letter from the Deputy Secretary-General of 7 January 2022 regarding business continuity of our work at United Nations Headquarters, and actions taken by the Secretariat to mitigate the risk posed by the COVID-19 situation for the safety and health of delegates and personnel on the United Nations premises in New York.

The COVID-19 metrics in New York City are currently trending downwards and are more comparable to the situation prior to the Omicron outbreak. Similarly, the number of positive cases recorded among United Nations personnel follows the same downward trend. Based on these encouraging developments and guided by medical advice, I have the honour to inform you that, effective 7 February 2022, the Secretariat will be able to increase the overall room capacity available for intergovernmental meetings to four full membership rooms, with the understanding that delegation size will continue to be limited and the honour system announced in your letter dated 16 September 2021, will be maintained.

Additionally, a decision was taken to lift the internal measures that were put in place for the Secretariat from 21 December 2021. From 7 February, all categories of United Nations personnel will resume their functions on-site under existing flexible work arrangements. These steps are taken without prejudice to any subsequent changes that may be necessitated as our business continuity efforts continue to be guided by the importance of mitigating any potential risks to the health of delegates and United Nations personnel.

I wish to assure you of our firm commitment to supporting the work of the United Nations General Assembly and all intergovernmental meetings taking place at United Nations Headquarters. To this end, we will continue to engage with your office as we move towards the next phase of our transition to the Next Normal.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



E. Courtenay Rattray
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Abdulla Shahid
President of the General Assembly
New York

**Suggested Provision of Conference Services during the resumed part
of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly
(starting 7 February 2022)**

Meeting room availability

- Full membership with interpretation:
 - General Assembly Hall
 - Combined Conference Rooms 1+2+3
 - Trusteeship Council Chamber
 - Conference Room 4

*Use of the General Assembly Hall, Trusteeship Council Chamber
and Conference Rooms*

- Use of the full membership rooms is with the understanding of a limitation of delegation size to 1+3 in the GA Hall, 1+1 in the combined CR.1+2+3 and to one in the Trusteeship Council Chamber and Conference Room 4 as well as the continuation of the honour system announced in the letter from the President of the General Assembly dated 16 September 2021.
- The Secretariat will continue to announce safety measures that need to be observed by the meeting participants, such as strictly not to attend a meeting if they are unwell, have a fever, cough or respiratory symptoms.
- Meeting participants are required to wear a mask unless directly addressing a meeting. Participants are also encouraged to avoid physical contact when interacting with others.
- In the General Assembly Hall, delegations may choose whether to deliver their statement from the rostrum or their national seat.
- Cleaning and sanitizing of conference rooms, the Trusteeship Council Chamber and the General Assembly Hall will take place between meetings, including cleaning of the rostrum surface and changing of microphone covers.

Side events

- It is recommended that side events continue to be virtual or offsite.

Interpretation Services

- The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management continues to emphasize to meeting participants that in order to facilitate the provision of Remote Simultaneous Interpretation to virtual and hybrid meetings, certain technical requirements must be met, including the use of proper equipment.