

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 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, I am pleased to announce that the Summit will be held on 30 September 2020, at 10:00 a.m. (UTC+01:00) in the Plenary Hall of the United Nations Secretariat Building, New York. The Summit will be held in a hybrid format, with participants able to attend in person or via a live webcast. The Summit will be the first of its kind, and will provide a unique opportunity for Member States to discuss the progress of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to take action to address the global biodiversity crisis.

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 September 2014. The pre-recorded Statements Audio Video guidelines for the high-level meeting are attached. 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

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