



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 April 2020

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 31 March 2020, informing of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 74/269 entitled, “Scope, modalities, format and organization of the summit on biodiversity”, I am pleased to provide an update on the organizational arrangements for the summit. At this critical juncture, the summit will provide a crucial opportunity to transform our relationship with nature and put biodiversity at the heart of sustainable development.

In fulfillment of this mandate, I have set up a Core Group in the Secretariat led by my office to oversee the organization of the summit on biodiversity including workstreams on content; communications; and logistics. The Core Group has taken careful note of the positions of delegations throughout the negotiations and will endeavour to have these reflected in the organizational arrangements of the Summit.

To support the content workstream – which will focus on the technical and substantive inputs to address the theme, “Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development” – I have taken the initiative to establish an informal Inter-agency Task Force co-chaired by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with representatives from relevant UN entities and other stakeholders. The first meeting of the Task Force was convened on 29 April 2020. I am certain that with the support of these entities, we will have excellent substantive support in the organizational arrangements for the Summit. Further information will be provided in subsequent correspondence.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande'.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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