



NOTE VERBALE

38th Meeting of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Elections of the Human Rights Committee on 17 September 2020

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presents its compliments to the Permanent Representatives of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and has the honour to refer to its note verbale, dated 1 September 2020, informing of the holding of the 38th Meeting of States Parties to the ICCPR on 17 September 2020. The meeting serves to hold elections for 9 members of the Human Rights Committee – whose term expires on 31 December 2020 – as well as to hold 1 by-election arising from the resignation of a member of this Committee on 31 December 2019.

OHCHR has the honour to inform States Parties that final approval of all arrangements has been received from the Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety (OSH) for the above-mentioned elections to be organised on Thursday 17 September (10:00 am -13:00 pm and, should the need arise, 15:00 pm - 18:00 pm) through an in-person meeting at the United Nations General Assembly Hall.

The OSH has conducted a risk assessment (attached as Annex 1) regarding this in-person plenary meeting on 17th of September 2020. The assessment was conducted in accordance with New York City and State requirements regarding public gatherings and the Phase Two restrictions for activity at the United Nations Headquarters complex, as detailed in the Crisis Operations Group Reintegration Plan.

OHCHR wishes to bring to States Parties' attention that the OSH has now assessed the meeting as "low risk" provided that all measures of mitigation of virus spread as detailed in the practical arrangements for these elections (attached as Annex 2) are respected. This assessment reflects the planned conduct of the meeting as outlined in the annexes to the present note verbale. It is based on a detailed activity plan and walk-through of the meeting room by the OSH team with key representatives from other departments within the Secretariat.

OHCHR respectfully informs delegations that, as this meeting will be among the first in-person meetings to be held at the premises of the United Nations Headquarters since the lockdown in March 2020, it is incumbent on all participants to conform with all the safety and risk mitigation measures that have been put in place for this meeting. This includes necessary social distancing and mitigation measures, such as the wearing

of face masks by all persons at all times, to minimize the risk to delegates and to United Nations staff.

In order to ensure social distancing, this meeting will be restricted to one representative from each State Party to the ICCPR. This restriction does not apply to delegations that have designated tellers, as these delegates will not be seated at their delegations' desks but at designated seats elsewhere in the room.

OHCHR has been advised that the OSH team will closely observe the proceedings of the meeting. If strict adherence is not observed by all delegations, OHCHR has been informed that OSH would be obliged to reclassify the meeting as "medium or high risk", which would have an impact on the ability to continue proceedings, especially if the need arises for a subsequent meeting in the afternoon of the 17th September 2020 to continue with the elections process.

OHCHR wishes to note that, in keeping with established practice and rules of procedure, delegations will only be allowed to vote if they have submitted the requisite credentials to the Secretariat. Delegations are therefore invited to submit, by 12.00 pm on 16 September 2020 at the latest, a scanned copy of the credentials issued by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or other communications (such as letters and notes verbales from the Permanent Missions) containing the names of its representatives to the 38th Meeting of States Parties to the ICCPR through the on-line platform "e-Credentials" which can be accessed through the e-deleGATE portal (<http://delegate.un.int>). In case of difficulty in accessing the portal, delegates can send a scanned copy of the credentials to OHCHR by email at newyork@ohchr.org. Due to risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, States Parties are furthermore kindly requested to bring the original hard copy of the formal credentials to the conference room on the day of the meeting only. States Parties are requested not to mail in or hand-deliver formal credentials ahead of the meeting.

Further information outlining practical arrangements related to the conduct of the 38th Meeting of States Parties to the ICCPR is attached to the present note verbale (Annexes 2, 3, and 4).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representatives of States Parties to the ICCPR the assurances of its highest consideration.

C.M.

New York, 9 September 2020

Permanent Representatives of States Parties to the
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights