



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 April 2020

Excellency,

I wish to refer to General Assembly resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014, entitled, “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”, particularly paragraph 41, viz: “Decides to consider the state of the human rights treaty body system no later than six years from the date of adoption of the present resolution, to review the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to ensure their sustainability, and, if appropriate, to decide on further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”.

Reference is also made to General Assembly resolution 73/162 of 17 December 2018, entitled, “Human rights treaty body system”, specifically paragraph 10, viz : “Reiterates its request, made in paragraph 40 of its resolution 68/268, that the Secretary-General submit to it a comprehensive report on the status of the human rights treaty body system, and, in view of the decision, in paragraph 41 of that resolution, to consider the state of the human rights treaty body system no later than 2020, requests the Secretary-General to submit that report in January 2020, in advance of the review of the human rights treaty body system”.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/162, the Secretary-General’s report on the status of the treaty body system ([A/74/643](#)), was issued on 10 January 2020 and is available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRTD/Pages/3rdBiennialReportbySG.aspx>).

Subsequently, I had planned to convene an informal consultation in New York by mid-April 2020, with Member States, and in the presence of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, to launch the process of the consideration of the state of the human rights treaty body system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/268. However, in light of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the consultation had to be postponed. Therefore, I would like to launch the process of the consideration of the state of the human rights treaty body system by this letter.

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

In this regard, I have the honour to inform you that I have decided to appoint H. E Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, as co-facilitators for this process.

The co-facilitators will undertake informal consultations with Member States, in both New York and Geneva, with contributions, as appropriate, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, from the treaty bodies, and from other relevant stakeholders. My office will support the co-facilitators in conducting the discussions in a transparent and inclusive manner. The modalities for the informal consultations will be communicated in due course.

Taking into account the views expressed during the process, the co-facilitators will submit a report to me before the end of the current session of the General Assembly, outlining recommendations for consideration, so as to assess and decide, if appropriate, on further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.

I thank Ambassador Hilale and Ambassador Lauber for having accepted this very important responsibility. I trust that you will extend your full support and cooperation to them throughout the process.

I avail 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.



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande