

# DECISION-MAKING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The Structure, Drafting and Adoption of  
UN General Assembly Resolutions

- ▶ December 2019: First reports of COVID-19
- ▶ March 2020: Global health crisis. Lockdown
- ▶ GA work during a lockdown
  - ▶ Rules of Procedure
  - ▶ Working Methods
- ▶ Business continuity →
- ▶ Principles to be ensured

- Member States
- PGA
- Secretariat
- General Committee

- ▶ Rule 3: Place of meeting
- ▶ Rule 76: Quorum
- ▶ Rule 87: Method of voting
- ▶ Recommendation from General Committee: *each delegation is to make no more than one statement in a debate, delivered by no more than one accredited representative physically present in the General Assembly Hall (and not with a video recording or screen-projected presentation), unless otherwise mandated by the Assembly;*

## RULES OF PROCEDURES AND WORKING METHODS

- ▶ Universal participation
- ▶ Equal treatment
- ▶ Transparency and broad consultations
- ▶ Solutions to take critical decisions (scope)
- ▶ Use of virtual tools and creative working methods
- ▶ Focus on hard mandates
- ▶ Multilingualism

## PRINCIPLES TO BE ENSURED

- ▶ Authorizes PGA, after consultation with General Committee, to circulate draft decisions to all MS under silence procedure (72 hours)
- ▶ If silence not broken, then it is considered adopted
- ▶ GA would take note in the first in-person meeting
- ▶ Explanation of position
- ▶ If silence is broken, additional consultations; revised draft

## DECISION 74/544 OF 27 MARCH 2020

- ▶ Exceptional application
- ▶ **PGA** shall **determine** that the circumstances apply, **after consultation** with the Chairs of the Main Committees **and guided by** the recommendation of the SG, in consultation with the Medical Director, the head of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat and the host State authorities
- ▶ Immediately communicated to MS and reviewed constantly

## DECISION 75/510 (E-VOTING)

- ▶ PGA circulates a draft proposal
- ▶ Silence procedure
- ▶ E-voting
- ▶ Quorum
- ▶ Amendments
- ▶ Procedural motions
- ▶ Point of order

## DECISION 75/510 (E-VOTING)