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;
PRINCIPLES TO BE ENSURED

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

DECISION 75/510 (E-VOTING)