



**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

EXEC 2021-44

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to Permanent Missions to the United Nations and requests your delegation's support to ensure the safety of participants at UN Headquarters and New York residents. The United States, as the Host Country of the UN Headquarters, bears a significant responsibility and we need your support to prevent UNGA 76 High-Level Week from being a super-spreader event.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a significant health risk around the world, with the Delta variant necessitating enhanced mitigation measures given its virulence among fully vaccinated and unvaccinated persons alike. Cases and hospitalizations are increasing significantly in the United States. All counties in New York City are currently rated as having the highest level of community transmission. We must continue to make every effort to protect health infrastructure here and abroad.

We know the UN Secretariat has already communicated some modalities for High-Level Week, but **the United States needs to make clear our call, as the Host Country, for all UN-hosted meetings and side events, beyond the General Debate, to be fully virtual.** Parallel meetings and high-level events drawing travelers to New York needlessly increases risk to our community, New Yorkers, and the other travelers.

In light of current health concerns, heads of delegation should consider delivering their statements to the UN General Assembly's General Debate by video. If delegations choose to  
Permanent and Observer Missions  
to the United Nations  
New York

**DIPLOMATIC NOTE**

travel to New York for the General Debate, the United States requests delegations bring the minimum number of travelers necessary.

In addition to these restrictions, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended mandatory mask use by all persons in UN Headquarters, social distancing (six feet), fixed seating, confirmed negative COVID-19 status to enter UN Headquarters, and, if possible, vaccination. A contact tracing plan for UNHQ meetings is also needed. The United States Mission to the United Nations facilitated a conversation between the UN Medical Team and the U.S. CDC to discuss these issues in greater detail on July 29. We feel strongly that these measures need to be included in the UN's UNGA 76 High-Level Week modalities. We continue to offer further coordination with our infectious disease experts at the U.S. CDC as needed.

The United States is particularly concerned regarding the possibility of the UN, through the auspices of the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, hosting several in-person high level events during High-Level Week – possibly to include events on climate change, vaccines, the 20th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, the Food Systems Summit, and the High-level Dialogue on Energy. We feel strongly that the General Debate should be the only event held with in-person participation during High-Level Week; the United States is willing to make every effort to make these important events on shared priorities successful in a virtual format.

To ensure the safety of UNGA participants and New York residents, the United States will significantly limit our in-person delegation traveling to New York, should U.S. officials travel to New York, and we encourage other member states to do the same. We must each do

our part in reducing the number of activities that would draw travelers to New York City at this time.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, August 16, 2021