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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

13 August 2025

Dear Mr. President,

As we look ahead to High-Level Week during the upcoming eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, I am writing to provide an update on the impact of the liquidity crisis on our efforts to support the intergovernmental processes and our continued need to conserve resources. As I outlined in my letter of 21 February 2025, the Organization had to introduce several measures at Headquarters in New York in order for the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Global Communications and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to execute their work within a reduced spending ceiling which, inevitably, has impacted the support provided to Member States.

It will be recalled that cash conservation measures were taken to mitigate the impact of late and non-payment of dues by Member States on the work and operations of the Organization. Without these and other measures, the Organization risked not being able to fully pay staff salaries and to meet vendor obligations from September of this year. This would have seriously undermined our ability to hold High-Level Week in September and to provide support to intergovernmental meetings.

In light of the continuing severity of the situation, the measures communicated in February will have to remain in place until the end of this year and will therefore be applied during the main part of the eightieth session of the General Assembly. In this regard, I wish to assure you that the Secretariat will continue to make every effort to mitigate the impact on our ability to support Member States and to implement our mandates. We will continue to closely monitor the cash situation and will adjust our spending restrictions as the situation changes.

However, given the importance of the forthcoming High-Level Week, the Secretary-General has decided to lift temporarily some of the measures pertaining to operating hours and meeting support and related services with a view to ensuring the smooth proceedings of the General Debate, as well as the other mandated high-level meetings of the General Assembly.

His Excellency
Mr. Philemon Yang
President of the seventy-ninth session of the
United Nations General Assembly
New York

The temporary lifting of measures pertains to the period from Monday, 22 September, to Tuesday, 30 September 2025, and is limited to those Departments providing direct logistical and secretarial support to the General Debate and mandated High-Level Week meetings. This will allow for the General Debate to commence daily at 9 a.m. and continue until the List of Speakers for each day is completed, so that no speaker will be rolled over to the next day. Cash conservation measures will remain in place for the rest of the Secretariat and in other duty stations.

Once the High-Level Week has concluded, the liquidity measures communicated in my letter of 21 February 2025 for United Nations Headquarters will resume, starting on Wednesday, 1 October 2025. Irrespective of these measures, which are necessitated by the current financial situation, I wish to assure you of our continued firm commitment to supporting the work of the General Assembly and all mandated intergovernmental meetings taking place at United Nations Headquarters.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Courtenay Rattray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. Courtenay Rattray
Chef de Cabinet