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THE PRESIDENT

Paris, 23rd April 2020

N° 0275

Dear Delegates,

I would like to inform you that as had been announced, the Executive Committee met via video conference on Tuesday 21st April 2020 to consider the urgent issue concerning the change of dates of Expo 2020 Dubai due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As you are well aware, this pandemic has had an immense impact throughout the world and our Expo remained the only mega event still on the 2020 calendar. It is an issue of our common responsibility on public health for our Organisation to assure that Expo 2020 Dubai can be held at an appropriate time for the whole world. I was therefore very pleased to see the Executive Committee unanimously approve the proposal to change the dates of Expo 2020 Dubai to 1st October 2021 until 31st March 2022.

Furthermore, based on the legal advice received by the Secretariat, the Executive Committee unanimously proposed the methodology that our General Assembly can use in order to formally vote on this proposal given the unprecedented global circumstances. It is my strong belief that this method will allow us to follow the requirement of our Convention, that any such decision requires a two-thirds majority of Member States having the right to vote in order to be approved.

I therefore formally call on our General Assembly to submit their votes, as of Friday 24th April 2020, on the proposal to change the dates of Expo 2020 Dubai to 1st October 2021 until 31st March 2022, via diplomatic letter submitted via BOWS and then subsequently posted to the BIE Secretariat.

In accordance with our regulations, proposals of Committees must be submitted one month prior to the General Assembly vote. Therefore, it was agreed that a five-week period will be given to all Member States to formally submit their vote.

I would also like to stress that in order to ensure an orderly procedure in these extraordinary times, and in accordance with the proposal of the Executive Committee, any Member States wishing to clear their debt in order

All Delegates

to regain their right to vote on this resolution may do so via bank transfer to the usual BIE bank account up until 1st May 2020. At that time, I have asked the Secretariat to publish a new list of Member States having the right to vote. We will consider that the quorum has been fixed for this particular resolution to assure that a decision can be taken by the deadline of 29th May 2020. You will find attached to my letter a list of the current Member States having the right to vote as is customary one week before any General Assembly meeting. Furthermore, as this vote is conducted according to our regulations by open ballot and as proposed by the Executive Committee, all delegations will be able to access a real-time view of the status of the votes received from each Member States on BOWS.

You will find the full details in the minutes of the Executive Committee which were published on BOWS today as well as through a letter of the Secretary General tomorrow morning outlining all the technical details and requirements. I would like to stress once more the need for our Organisation and its General Assembly to work swiftly in order to assure the success of an Expo in which many of our governments have already committed large economic resources and whose global expectations are very high.

In closing, please allow me to remind all our Member States that voting for this resolution in no way commits any government to participate in Expo 2020 Dubai. We are all too well aware of the immense impact, both human and financial, that this pandemic has had on almost all our countries and it is natural that some of our governments may need to reassess their priorities in the coming months.

I thank you once more for the solidarity that many of you have expressed to me and the Secretary General personally and I truly look forward to being able to return to our usual working methods in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely,

THE PRESIDENT

OF THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES EXPOSITIONS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jai-Chul Choi', written in a cursive style.

AMBASSADOR JAI-CHUL CHOI