



21 April 2020

Dear Colleagues, Delegates and Points of Contact; dear CODATA Members;

In my role as President of CODATA and with the support and authority of the Officers and Executive Committee, I am writing to convene an extraordinary, virtual General Assembly to take place at 11:00-13:00 UTC on 25 June 2020. Details regarding the agenda, virtual platform and full procedures will follow.

The first purpose of this virtual General Assembly will be to consider the Officers' and Executive Committee's recommendation to postpone the in-person CODATA General Assembly which is currently planned for 24 October 2020 and to reschedule it to be held in conjunction with International Data Week, Seoul, Korea, 8-11 November 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent international travel restrictions will present a major challenge to holding a full in-person General Assembly in October. In many countries travel and work restrictions are likely to endure for some time at the national level (and with implications for research organisations' policies). Therefore, the CODATA Executive Committee has agreed unanimously that it would be advisable to postpone the in-person General Assembly and to set a clear timetable and procedure for the next in-person General Assembly meeting.

In the attached document, we lay out the full case for this action, the procedure to be followed, and the necessary steps which we will request the virtual General Assembly to approve.

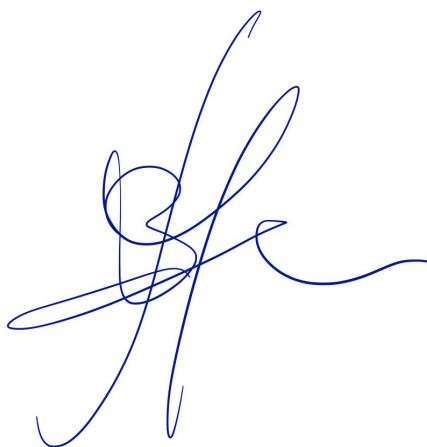
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The key points and actions requested are:

1. A virtual General Assembly is convened at 11:00-13:00 UTC on 25 June 2020.
2. The primary business of the virtual GA is to consider the Executive Committee's recommendation to postpone the full, in-person GA to November 2021, in conjunction with International Data Week, Seoul, Korea.
3. All members are requested to send the name of their voting delegate to the Executive Director, Simon Hodson simon@codata.org, as soon as possible and no later than 18 May.
4. No later than 27 April, the Executive Director will circulate the precise text of the recommendation to postpone the in-person GA and the associated, necessary changes to be considered by virtual GA.
5. No later than 20 May, the Executive Director will provide details to all delegates of the technological platform and voting mechanism.

I wish you all the very best in these challenging times and thank you for your ongoing support for CODATA and its global mission.

Yours sincerely,



Barend Mons, CODATA President.