



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 March 2017

Excellency,

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/7 of 4 November 2015, I have the honor to inform you that I will convene a plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, on 24 March from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters.

The theme for this year's observance is "Remember Slavery: *Recognizing the Legacy and Contributions of People of African Descent*". As in previous annual commemorations, and without setting a precedent, I intend to invite Mr. Lonnie Bunch, founding Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, to deliver the keynote statement at the commemorative meeting of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

In keeping with the decision of the General Assembly on the format of such meetings, Member States are encouraged to deliver regional statements during the commemorative meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Thomson".

Peter Thomson

To All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York.