Preparations for the twentieth session of the General Assembly

I. Place and dates

1. At its last session, the General Assembly unanimously decided to accept the generous joint invitation of the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe (resolution 610(XIX)). Its next session and other related meetings will then be held in the Victoria Falls area, from 24 to 29 August 2013, in accordance with rule 1(2) of its Rules of Procedure.

II. Facilities provided by the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe

2. The first preparatory visit to Zambia and Zimbabwe was held between 26 February and 3 March 2012. The visit went successfully and left very positive impressions about the preparedness of and the fruitful cooperation between the two countries on all aspects of the logistics of the session. A second preparatory visit is scheduled to take place at the end of August, to follow up on the progress of all areas involved.

3. The Agreement for the holding of the 20th session of the General Assembly has already been approved and will be signed by the three parties later in May, on the occasion of an official visit of the Secretary-General to the Victoria Falls area.

4. Arrangements are well advanced towards special visa conditions to facilitate seamless transportation of the delegates between the two countries for the duration of the General Assembly as well as for pre- and post-session tours.

5. A preliminary draft structure of the next session is being prepared by the Secretariat taking into account the benefits of the last structure and the observations received from the Members, as well as the requirements of a smooth and functional distribution of the sessions between the venues in both countries.