



**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

May 18, 2020

HC-28-(S)-20

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honor to announce the official commencement of the In-Person Registration Program for domestic workers employed by United Nations personnel. This program was referenced in circular note HC-88-(S)-18, dated November 28, 2018.

The registration program will commence in May 2020, beginning with domestic workers employed by United Nations personnel who arrived in the New York metropolitan area on or after December 1, 2019. Representatives of the United States Mission Host Country Affairs Office will contact appropriate United Nations staff members to schedule appointments for domestic workers holding G-5 visas whose arrival falls within this time frame. The program will subsequently expand to include G-5 visa holders previously registered and residing in the New York City

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metropolitan area prior to December 1, 2019; personnel of the United Nations will be individually notified of the requirement to schedule these later appointments.

All appointment schedules and queries concerning the In-person Registration Program will be handled through the United Nations Visa Committee's point of contact with responsibility for domestic worker matters. This policy is intended to assist both the United States Mission and the United Nations in ensuring compliance with Domestic Worker Program requirements.

For its record keeping purposes, the United States Mission Host Country Affairs Office will track annual registration renewal dates. However, please note that it may be of benefit for the United Nations Visa Committee to develop an internal system to monitor renewal requirements. Similarly, it may prove beneficial for the United Nations Visa Committee to establish oversight and protection mechanisms, including by, *inter alia*, maintaining copies of employment contracts, and having the ability to access payment records should any disparities arise between a United Nations staff member and a domestic worker.

At present, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current social distancing restrictions, the initial appointment for new arrivals will be conducted either by telephone or video conferencing with a member of the Host Country Office. Once the current restrictions are no longer in place, the In-Person Registration Program

will resume and the registration appointments will be held at the United States Mission to the United Nations.

As notified in circular note HC-88-(S)-18, UN staff members must begin paying their domestic workers by check or electronic fund transfer within 30 days of the domestic worker's arrival into the United States. If a U.S. bank account has not yet been opened at the time of the registration appointment, the domestic worker will be required to return to the United States Mission at a later date to provide the requested information relating to the establishment of an account.

The United States Mission recognizes that as this new program is initiated, United Nations personnel may have questions related to program and process details. For this reason, representatives of the United States Mission Host Country Affairs Office are available to respond to queries and provide support for a successful partnership with the United Nations community via the UN Visa Committee on matters relating to the employment of domestic workers. Questions may be directed to UNDomesticWorkers@state.gov.

The United States Mission and the United Nations community share common goals in this endeavor, which include furthering collaboration in the obligation to protect foreign domestic workers brought to the United States to work for United Nations personnel. It is important to continue joint efforts to ensure that all domestic

workers understand their rights and protections, and that those employing these workers understand their contractual obligations and responsibilities.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretariat the assurance of its highest consideration.