



**Statement by
His Excellency The Right Honorable Prime Minister
Mr. Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini
Kingdom of Eswatini**

**During the Meeting of Heads of State
and Government**

on:

***“Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
in the Era of COVID-19
and Beyond”***

**Tuesday, 29 September 2020
United Nations Headquarters
New York**

Please Check Against Delivery

The Prime Minister of Canada H.E. Justin Trudeau
The Prime Minister of Jamaica H.E. Andrew Holness
The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres
Fellow Heads of State and Government
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Five years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our focus has been more concentrated on populations most in need, and ensuring that no one is left behind. However, the pandemic has rendered all populations vulnerable. The COVID-19 pandemic has validated our fragility to socio-economic shocks, particularly in low- and middle-income countries as well as countries in special situations. It continues to divert development finance to mitigating the impacts of the crisis and undermines all progress made towards economic growth.

Financing remains a fundamental ingredient in effectively addressing the impact COVID-19 crisis and beyond. The impact of the pandemic is beyond what many countries can afford. It calls for solidarity, collaboration and coordinated global solutions; a clear reaffirmation of our collective commitment to multilateralism.

In the quest of mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the Kingdom of Eswatini has put in place a post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan aimed at saving the economy and livelihoods. The Plan will facilitate creation of

opportunities for income generation and wealth creation in priority areas of the economy. Our aim is to reignite economic growth and resuscitate the economy through private sector-led projects to be fully implemented beyond the COVID-19 national emergency. Due to the budgetary constraints, the country requires financial support to ensure that the post-COVID-19 recovery strategies are a success.

Eswatini is fully committed to ensuring that the recovery process is prioritized and is consistent with progress made in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Thank you and God bless you!