

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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**CLOSING REMARKS AT
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN
THE ERA OF COVID-19 AND BEYOND**
Online/New York, 29 September 2020

Excellencies, Ladies and
Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

I thank the many Heads of State and
Government who spoke today for
sharing with us their concerns, needs
and solutions.

I am especially grateful to the Prime
Minister of Canada, His Excellency
Mr. Justin Trudeau, and the Prime
Minister of Jamaica, His Excellency
Mr. Andrew Holness, for their
unwavering leadership in this
initiative.

Excellencies,

The social and economic impact of this pandemic is going in one direction only: towards a global recession that will create unprecedented pain for the most vulnerable groups and communities, and prolonged suffering for many more.

We must stem the tide.

Decisive, strategic action has proven its worth at the national level. Even so, countries' budgets are stretched to the limits.

We must now act boldly, in line with science, solidarity and self-interest, at the international level.

As I have said many times, in a pandemic, solidarity is self-interest.

Today, we discussed the building blocks for a multilateral response that will take us through the current crisis, and support a stronger, greener recovery, in line with the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

[ADD points on discussion.]

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The social and economic impact of this pandemic has shaken the foundations of our economic and development models. We must rebuild them on firmer footing.

Today there has been palpable urgency, based on our common understanding that this crisis is unlike anything we have faced before, and will not end soon.

I am buoyed by the expressions of strong political will from world leaders, to turn that urgency into immediate action.

Thank you.