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Strengthening of the United Nations system

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International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 and [74/2](#) of 10 October 2019,

Noting with concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which has spread all around the globe, as well as the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies, economies, global trade and travel and the devastating impact on the livelihoods of people,

Recognizing the competence, generosity and personal sacrifice of health-care professionals and services in the exercise of their duties to contain the spread of the pandemic,

Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recognizing that the poor and the most vulnerable people are the most affected and that the impact of the pandemic will have repercussions on development gains,



hampering progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 3.8,¹

Underscoring that equitable access to health products is a global priority and that the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of health products of assured quality are fundamental to tackling the pandemic,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the pandemic,

Recognizing also that the COVID-19 global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

1. *Reaffirms* the fundamental role of the United Nations system in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and in supporting Member States, and in this regard acknowledges the crucial leading role played by the World Health Organization;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, to identify and recommend options, including approaches to rapidly scaling manufacturing and strengthening supply chains that promote and ensure fair, transparent, equitable, efficient and timely access to and distribution of preventive tools, laboratory testing, reagents and supporting materials, essential medical supplies, new diagnostics, drugs and future COVID-19 vaccines, with a view to making them available to all those in need, in particular in developing countries;

3. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation necessary to combat COVID-19 and to bolster coordination, including with the private sector, towards rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, antiviral medicines, personal protective equipment and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility, and affordability;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to immediately take steps to prevent, within their respective legal frameworks, speculation and undue stockpiling that may hinder access to safe, effective and affordable essential medicines, vaccines, personal protective equipment and medical equipment as may be required to effectively address COVID-19;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, to take the necessary steps to effectively coordinate and follow up on the efforts of the United Nations system to promote and ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment needed to face COVID-19, and, in this regard, to consider establishing, within existing resources, an inter-agency task force, and to brief the General Assembly on such efforts, as appropriate.

¹ See resolution 70/1.