



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 October 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith the Secretary-General's update on the impact and consequences of the COVID19 pandemic, as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 74/274 (International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19), 74/306 (Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic), and 74/307 (United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19).

The enclosed letter from the Secretary-General and accompanying document entitled "United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19" provides an overview of how the United Nations system is supporting its Member States in coping with the health, socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights consequences of COVID19. A most important subject matter, which I hope will be explored further when we convene the 31st Special Session of the General Assembly on the Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 October 2020

Dear Mr. President,

In its resolutions 74/306 and 74/307, respectively, the General Assembly requested me to provide regular updates on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its consequences.

In keeping with those requests, the annex to the present letter contains a document entitled, “United Nations comprehensive response to COVID-19”. It provides an overview of the extensive United Nations mobilization in response to the COVID-19 crisis: a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response; a wide-ranging effort to safeguard lives and livelihoods; and, lastly, a recovery process that leads to a better, fairer, more resilient and more sustainable post-COVID-19 world in which the sustainable development agenda can be achieved without leaving half of humanity behind or sacrificing the prospects of future generations.

With its extensive section on United Nations system efforts to promote and ensure global access to the medicines, vaccines and medical equipment needed to face COVID-19, the document also responds to the request made in General Assembly resolution 74/274 to brief the Assembly on those efforts.

The document, which was first issued in September, has been updated to reflect information on universal health coverage. It therefore provides a full overview of the data, analysis, policy recommendations and concrete support that the United Nations system has offered to Member States in dealing with the health, socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights impacts of the pandemic, as well as over 200 hyperlinks to more detailed content on many issues.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

António Guterres

His Excellency
Mr. Volkan Bozkir
President of the General Assembly
New York