

El Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

San José, Costa Rica, April 1st, 2020
DP-P-028-2020

Estimado y respetado amigo:
Excellency,

As the spread of COVID-19 is shaping up to be a pandemic of potentially historic proportions, I write this open letter to reiterate Costa Rica's support to the crucial role that the United Nations is meant to play in these dire times. It is indeed, as you have mentioned, a humanitarian emergency much more than an economic catastrophe.

We fully share, and have advanced on our own, your repeatedly enunciated four-pronged strategy of urgent implementation today: a cease-fire in all conflicts, an all-out struggle to suppress our common enemy -COVID 19-, a global humanitarian appeal and a financial response for the present-day worries followed by a sustained economic attention to the needs of the most vulnerable. This must be done by all the Member States together, acting as one, in order to face and rebut this eminent threat to humanity.

Nevertheless, Costa Rica has gone a step further. We have requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a global pool for rights to technologies that are useful for the detection, prevention, control and treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic. And, as of yesterday, we called upon States to reconsider excessive military spending to free up resources to meet the current COVID-19 pandemic, and to support any initiative to establish a moratorium on the production of weapons in the current circumstances.

In your new report, "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19," you called on everyone to act together to address this impact and lessen the blow to people. In this regard, Costa Rica has asked the international financial institutions for greater flexibility in the assessment of developing countries' fiscal situations as well as crisis relief financial instruments, such as financing facilities for extraordinary budgets, lower interest rates, grace periods or extended payment deadlines, payment arrangements for existing portfolios and the eventual suspension of payments.

Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations Organization

El Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

Your leadership is decisive in galvanizing the international community around the United Nations as the epicenter of global governance. You represent the hopes of seven billion people that make up the United Nations - a robust institution with the mandate, track-record, experiences and failures, structure and resources, and with the capability to garner them. We commend your strong leadership in these uncertain times.

I am hereby asking you to call Costa Rica to duty, under your leadership, for this articulated action that you so earnestly and correctly request from Member States. Here we stand. Willing to offer a hand to our fellow Members States to rally around your call.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration,



Carlos Alvarado Quesada
President of the Republic of Costa Rica



*Estamos para apoyar
y servir juntos!*