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2020 session  
Agenda item 1

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council  
On 8 May 2020**

Sponsors: **Cambodia; Germany; Italy; United Arab Emirates;**

Signatories: Belarus; Belgium; Bolivia; Canada; China; India; Kazakhstan; Pakistan; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Singapore; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom;

**Socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDG**

*The United Nations Economic and Social Council,*

*Deeply concerned* with the global health crisis unlike any in the 75-year history of the United Nations that affects socio-economic aspects of the whole world,

*Reminding* the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already infected more than 3.5 million people worldwide with more than 250 thousand deaths so far,

*Aware of* the significant socio-economic impact of the global pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Noting* the long-lasting impact of the containment measures on the global economy, trade, and unemployment rates,

*Keeping in mind* that certain segments of the population such as the elderly, youth, women, migrants, people with disabilities, and low-income people are at a higher risk of suffering the consequences of the pandemic,

*Stressing* the need for each country to take certain measures to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19,

1. ***Calls to*** action, for the immediate health response required to suppress the transmission of the virus to end the pandemic:

a. ***Encourages*** to coordinate healthcare systems that scale up health capacity for testing, tracing, research, vaccine and medicine development, quarantine, and treatment;

b. ***Further recommends*** countries to build stronger and more effective public systems across countries as international organizations (ECOSOC, UN, WHO, etc) need to receive strong support from all countries in the development and implementation of policies to strengthen public systems around the world;

2. ***Encourages*** developed countries to assist countries at risk, strengthen and expand their health systems, and stop transmission through the combination of testing, contact-tracing, and quarantine, associated with appropriate restrictions on movement and contact;

3. ***Calls upon*** countries to donate greater resources for the International Monetary Fund, including through the issuance of new Special Drawing Rights, and enhanced support for the World Bank Group and other International Financial Institutions and bilateral mechanisms;

4. ***Supports*** fiscal stimulus and sustained humanitarian financing to ensure humanitarian assistance continues to reach the 100 million people most in need as it is crucial to help most vulnerable;

a. ***Also invites*** countries to engage in trade of medical supplies and other necessities;

5. ***Recommends*** the creation of a global stimulus package and the adoption of active fiscal policy and accommodating monetary measures:

a. ***Trusts*** to provide direct support to workers, businesses, and households, including both formal and informal sectors;

b. ***Recommends*** to implement taxing excess profits, guaranteeing loans, and suspending work taxes, ensuring that all support measures target the poor and the most vulnerable to prevent massive job losses and large-scale unemployment;

6. ***Invites*** to support employment:

a. ***Encourages*** to support small and medium-sized enterprises, decent work and education;

b. ***Proclaims*** to prioritize social cohesion measures and extend social protection to all and implement employment retention (e.g. paid leave, short-time work and other subsidies);

c. ***Suggests*** tax relief and income smoothing measures to support business continuity, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the self-employed (e.g. subsidies, credit mediation/refinancing to overcome liquidity constraints);

d. **Further suggests** targeted lending and financial support for specific sectors to protect enterprises, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as investing in health systems is crucial in building resilience against COVID-19 but also offers an opportunity to create decent jobs;

7. **Requests** the protection of the people through the following measures:

a. **Requires** to implement remote-working in all sectors of the economy, businesses and enterprises that allow it and to ensure compensation if remote-working is impossible;

b. **Further requires** to make online education and other technical needs accessible in countries that experience shortage

c. **Urges** to prevent discrimination and exclusion of certain groups due to COVID-19;

d. **Suggests** to increase access to paid parental care, sickness benefits, and sick leave to ensure income security for those who are quarantining, sick, or taking care of their elderly, family members, and/or children;

e. **Recommends** to provide financial help and food supply under strict supervision to avoid social crime;

f. **Further urges** to monitor domestic violence and assault cases, set up hot-lines and shelters;

g. **Ensures** the youth employment and the employment of the recent graduates through youth programs, partially paid-internship, paid volunteering, and support of UNICEF to prevent the surge of gender-based violence, child marriage, youth involvement in the underground economy;

h. **Invites** adapting social protection of migrant, seasonal, and self-employed workers through access to unemployment benefits, public unemployment programmes, and social assistance;

8. **Further recommends** the time-bound G20 initiative to suspend debt service payments for the poorest countries and to strengthen debt sustainability;

9. **Further calls** to put a special emphasis on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic by limiting access to guns and lethal drugs, screening patients for suicidal thoughts, treating underlying mental health conditions, providing access to remote therapy and hot-lines, and putting the special attention to front-line workers such as doctors, nurses, shop keepers, and police officers;

10. **Solemnly affirms** to embrace principles of peace, solidarity, shared global responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals as COVID-19 pandemic highlighted global inequality and injustices that cannot continue.