



PRESS RELEASE

**GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA CALLS FOR GLOBAL COMMON FRONT IN
COMBATING COVID-19**

*Role of United Nations system crucial
to coordination of international response*

New York, 8 April 2020 - The Group of 77 and China, the largest grouping of developing countries in the United Nations system, has issued a joint [statement](#) voicing its concern at the immediate and longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on developing countries.

The Group expressed its solidarity with countries impacted by the global pandemic and saluted the sacrifice and dedication of first responders, healthcare professionals and others on the frontline of response efforts, including medical researchers racing to develop vaccines and treatments. It commended donor partners and institutions that had initiated special measures to assist developing countries in their efforts to combat the pandemic, including the commitments given by the G-20 to safeguard the global economy and support developing countries amidst the pandemic. The Group also commended the solidarity and cooperation among developing countries, within the framework of South-South cooperation, in contributing to the efforts to confront the pandemic.

The Group welcomed the launch by the Secretary-General of the \$2 billion COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to strengthen health systems and assist vulnerable populations across the globe. The Fund will underpin the UN's coordinated multi-agency and multi-sectoral approach to addressing the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis at the national and local levels. In its statement, the Group called for greater sharing of information and technology for the detection, prevention, treatment and control of the pandemic and urged the World Health Organization to take the lead in developing a strategy to ensure that Governments have adequate supplies of essential medical equipment to contain the pandemic and mitigate its impacts.

The Group noted that many of its member countries were confronted by debilitating economic uncertainties, including severe fiscal and foreign exchange constraints and that the global community must remain focused on accelerating the full implementation of the people-centered 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Coordinated and effective measures were needed to maintain the stability of global financial markets and supply chains, including cutting tariffs and removing trade barriers, particularly for pharmaceuticals and health supplies, in order to facilitate the unfettered flow of trade and promote global economic recovery.

The Group also called on the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries and resolved not to allow any stigmatization or discrimination of States, peoples or individuals in connection with the pandemic. It called on the international community, developed and developing countries alike, to work together in solidarity to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and to build a community of a shared future for humankind.

The Group of 77 was established in 1964 by the 77 developing countries signatories to the Joint Declaration issued at the conclusion of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held in Geneva. The Group today comprises 133 members plus China and seeks to promote the collective economic interests of its members and to enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major development issues within the United Nations system, including South-South cooperation for development.

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is the Chair country of the Group of 77 for 2020.

For more information, please visit the website of the Group of 77 at:

www.g77.org

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