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Strengthening of the United Nations system

Letter dated 28 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, Singapore is the convenor of the Global Governance Group, or 3G, a grouping of 30 small- and medium-sized countries. The 3G was established in 2009 to promote greater engagement between the United Nations and the Group of Twenty (G20), with the broader aim of improving global governance. The 3G also seeks to encourage outreach and inclusivity by G20, including engagement with the United Nations, in order to enhance synergies and promote a coordinated and collective response to the challenges faced by the international community.

Besides convening an annual ministerial meeting with G20 Troika members on the margins of the General Assembly high-level week, the 3G prepares non-papers on issues of salient concern to the international community as part of our contribution to the G20 process. I am pleased to share this year's 3G non-paper with you in the lead-up to the Rome Summit of 30 and 31 October 2021. We have focused on three issues this year: ensuring equitable access to vaccines; strengthening the existing global health architecture to address current and future pandemics; and advancing global climate action. As these topics are very much aligned with the current priorities of the United Nations, I kindly request that the non-paper be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 124.

I look forward to our continued collaboration in New York, including through promoting stronger engagement between the 3G, G20 and the United Nations, to address the global challenges of our time.

(Signed) Burhan **Gafoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Sustainable and resilient recovery for people, planet and prosperity

Non-paper by the Global Governance Group

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for effective multilateral cooperation to overcome the global challenges of today and tomorrow. The Global Governance Group (3G) welcomes the strong advocacy by the Italian G20 Presidency to strengthen global health capacity, enhance global preparedness and response to health emergencies, advance vaccine multilateralism and vaccine equity, and accelerate global climate action to achieve a sustainable and resilient global recovery.

Accessible Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics

2. Ensuring equitable access to and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines remains a pressing challenge. In this regard, the 3G welcomes the G20's commitments espoused in the Rome Declaration during the Global Health Summit in May 2021, including recognising the role of extensive COVID-19 immunisation as a global public good, reaffirming its support for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility, even as steps need to be taken towards closing the gap in the global immunization efforts, and supporting the diversification of global vaccine manufacturing capacity. The 3G notes the ongoing work of the ACT-A review as mandated by the Rome Declaration and the Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique, with the review report due to be presented at the G20 Leaders' Summit in October 2021.

Global Pandemic Preparedness and Response

3. The existing global health architecture needs to be strengthened to address COVID-19 and future pandemics. In this regard, the 3G looks forward to further discussions on the recommendations by the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), as well as the G20 High Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (HLIP) established by the Italian G20 Presidency. The 3G further notes the World Health Organisation (WHO) Member States Working Group established in Geneva to consider the recommendations of the various relevant panels and committees.¹

4. The 3G welcomes the G20's commitment to address the need for financing long-term pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response. This is a global public good that we should collectively invest in nationally and globally, as it would benefit all countries. The 3G calls on the G20 to lead multilateral efforts to meet the financing needs of low and middle-income countries, as well as consider proposals to mobilise additional multilateral funding to plug existing financing gaps for global pandemic preparedness and response.

¹ As adopted by the 74th World Health Assembly in May 2021, Resolution WHA74.7 Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies has tasked the Working Group to, inter alia, "consider the findings and recommendations of the various committees for improving pandemic preparedness and response".

Global Financial Recovery

5. The 3G welcomes the G20's reaffirmation of the key role of international cooperation in steering the global economy toward strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, as well as their continued support for all vulnerable countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the call for contributions from G20 countries to reach an ambitious target in support of vulnerable countries. In that regard, it strongly supports the actions endorsed by the G20 Finance Ministers, including the IMF's general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in an amount equivalent to USD 650 billion and the progress by the IMF on providing actionable options for members with strong external positions to voluntarily channel a share of their allocated SDRs to help vulnerable countries, in accordance with national laws and regulations. These include IMF's scaling up of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust's lending capacity, and the G20's call on the IMF to establish a new Resilience and Sustainability Trust, in line with its mandate, to provide affordable long-term financing to help vulnerable countries reduce risks to prospective balance of payment stability, including those stemming from pandemics and climate change.

Advancing Global Climate Action

6. Even as we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, we must not lose sight of the other global challenges, in particular climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I's recent contribution to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report underscored that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C would be beyond reach.

7. Given the urgency to reduce emissions, the 3G welcomed the convening of the inaugural G20 Energy-Climate Ministerial this year, and in particular the intent of the G20 to update or communicate ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), formulate long-term strategies no later than COP-26, accelerate efforts and investments to reduce emissions and to scale up finance and support to developing countries, particularly to the most vulnerable. As the group of major economies representing around 80% of global emissions, the G20 must lead in advancing global climate action.

8. The 3G reiterates the importance for COP-26 to issue a strong call for ambitious global climate action and to complete the Paris Agreement Work Programme by COP-26. This must include a credible and balanced package, including in particular the operationalisation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the conclusion of the work programme under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and agreement on the issue of common time frames for NDCs.

9. The 3G calls on the G20, the current and incoming COP Presidencies, and the High-Level Climate Champions to facilitate alliances that drive transformations and systemic breakthroughs in all major sectors.

10. On climate finance, the 3G calls on developed countries to fulfil their collective commitment to mobilise US\$100 billion per year until 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency for the support of climate action in developing countries. The 3G also calls on all countries in the G20 as part of a global effort, with developed countries taking the lead, to increase the mobilization of climate finance from a variety of sources, and to increase their support for adaptation action in developing countries to address the imbalance between mitigation and adaptation financing. The most vulnerable developing countries should be prioritised to access such support as they are most affected by the impact of climate change.

11. The 3G reiterates the important role of the G20 in supporting the alignment of global financial flows in line with sustainable development including global climate and biodiversity objectives, and welcomes the work of G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group in developing an evidence-based and climate-focused G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap that focuses on improving sustainability reporting, identifying sustainable investments and aligning International Financial Institutions' efforts with the Paris Agreement.

12. International climate finance is critical for supporting developing countries' climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and as such, the 3G looks forward to advancing a common understanding on the comprehensive strategies needed to support the transition to low-greenhouse gas emission economies and societies.

Multilateralism and the UN System

13. An increasingly interdependent and connected world necessitates multilateralism underpinned by the UN system. The 3G supports the critical role of the WHO and the governing bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement as the responsible bodies mandated to coordinate multilateral cooperation in the field of international health and climate change cooperation respectively.

Conclusion

14. The 3G calls on the G20 to continue engaging the UN to ensure that G20 initiatives complement and strengthen the work of the international community and the UN, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 3G will continue to work closely with the incoming Indonesian G20 Presidency to foster stronger international collaboration to strengthen global preparedness and response for health emergencies, and to accelerate global climate action towards achieving a sustainable and resilient global recovery.
