



General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 June 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 126

Global health and foreign policy**Letter dated 12 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative
of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to convey to you a statement of the Heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on combating the spread of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), adopted at the meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States held on 29 May 2020 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 126.

(Signed) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on combating the spread of novel coronavirus disease

We, the Heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Recognizing the serious threat to all humanity posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic,

Noting with deep concern the worldwide spread of the disease and the challenge it presents to the global health system and the world economic, financial and trading system,

Recognizing the undeniable priority of the life, safety and well-being of our citizens,

Expressing our deep condolences to the families, relatives and friends of all those whose lives have been affected by this pandemic,

Noting the ever-present worldwide threat of new epidemics of infectious diseases,

Commending the urgent measures taken by the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to combat the pandemic at national level, including the steps taken in the economic and social spheres, and stressing the importance of sharing experience in these areas,

Noting the important role of the World Health Organization in coordinating and strengthening international efforts to combat pandemics, and the assistance provided by the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the World Health Organization,

Recognizing the desirability of further improving the health and epidemiological emergency response system, including by supporting the full implementation of the 2005 World Health Organization International Health Regulations,

Stressing the importance of strong and comprehensive measures in the field of health protection of the territories of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to counteract COVID-19 as much as possible,

Calling upon all countries of the world to be open in sharing their experiences in developing biological security research activities,

Paying tribute to the courage and dedication of medical personnel and the community of experts from all over the world who are now at the forefront of the fight against a dangerous disease,

Make the following statement:

At the beginning of 2020, humankind faced the rapid spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. Despite the efforts of the international community and the strict measures taken, the situation remains tense. Combating the disease has become a major issue on the domestic, regional and global policy agenda.

The pandemic has shown that communicable diseases remain a serious threat to a modern world which displays a high degree of interdependence and interconnected processes. Its devastating effects have had a negative impact on all areas of society's life, causing damage to health, the economy, trade, business and social relations.

The States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States advocate the adoption of joint effective measures to eliminate the threat of COVID-19 infection, and welcome the establishment and development of multilateral and bilateral cooperation to that end.

Our cooperation in recent years in equipping laboratories, training personnel, establishing scientific links, as well as establishing an appropriate system for monitoring and rapid response to health and epidemiological emergencies in the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, has made an important contribution to ensuring the preparedness of those States for the COVID-19 pandemic. By working closely together and contributing to building joint capacity to prevent epidemics, we have been able to buy time by reducing the adverse impact of the pandemic on public health and well-being.

The competent authorities of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States regularly exchange operational information on the state of COVID-19 incidence among the population, the results of monitoring the circulation of the virus responsible, as well as new scientific data on that virus, and the associated methods of detection, medicines and means of prevention used.

We consider it a priority to develop a medium-term plan of joint action by the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to counter the spread of infectious diseases in their territories.

We advocate the strengthening of the health care system in the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, exchanges of national experience in the implementation of anti-epidemic measures and rapid exchange of epidemiological and clinical data necessary for practical purposes and for scientific research. In this context, we emphasize the importance of increasing professional contacts between scientists and health professionals and the use of various forms of scientific diplomacy.

We reaffirm the importance of our cooperation within the framework of the Health Cooperation Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its working bodies for the timely prevention of emergency situations and for providing a response to large-scale outbreaks of infectious diseases.

We reaffirm our readiness to continue working to further deepen economic and humanitarian cooperation between our countries, despite the challenges that we face.

We advocate the development of joint measures to limit and overcome negative consequences for the economic, financial, social and humanitarian spheres of life of our countries, to ensure uninterrupted operation of national payment systems and unhindered transit of cargo across the national borders of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States while still observing security measures, and to prevent interruption in mutual trade in goods and services, first and foremost for medical and food products. We reaffirm the importance of free, fair, transparent, predictable and stable conditions for trade and investment.

We call for joint efforts to maintain and expand mutually beneficial production cooperation between enterprises and technologically related industries, to preserve the dynamics of investment and scientific cooperation, and to ensure, taking into account the peculiarities of national economies, conditions for accelerated industrial recovery and development.

In the light of global challenges, the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States will intensify work on draft joint documents regarding health protection of their territories and public health measures, in order to improve the efficiency of infectious disease control and of the response to health and epidemiological emergencies.
