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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 January 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Let traditional medicine play a greater role in promoting health for all

The World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies (WFAS) is an international organization uniting more than 400,000 acupuncture-moxibustion professionals in 246 member societies from 60 countries/regions. Since its inception, WFAS has committed itself to improving health of all people by acupuncture-moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine, the most widely recognized traditional medicine in the world. After the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, WFAS made immediate response by offering information, technical and physical supports to medical workers as well as the general public.

We supported and worked with the Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Unit of the World Health Organization (WHO) to organize an online sharing of knowledge and experience of traditional medicine in COVID-19 prevention and control, attracting medical workers, scholars, professors, policy-makers, etc. from 11 countries.

We raised donations of funds, masks, acupuncture equipment, Chinese herbal medicine and other supplies from our member societies and individuals/enterprises of Chinese medicine profession worth roughly 600,000 United States of America dollars to aid anti COVID-19 actions in China, Thailand, Egypt, Mauritius, Germany, Ecuador, Mali, etc.

We facilitated a non-contact patient-doctor interactive network connecting approximately 11,000 patients with no or mild symptoms and 680 volunteered health professionals. The health professionals offered medical consultation, medication instruction, psychological counseling and other remote medical services to those patients, saving the frontline doctors from excessive workload.

We issued the Guidelines on Acupuncture and Moxibustion Intervention for COVID-19 in 7 languages, and translated the part of traditional Chinese medicine therapy in China's Diagnosis and Treatment Protocol for COVID-19 Patients into English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German. We distributed videos of a series of exercises for people to practice at home, helping people maintain both physical and mental health during the pandemic. The exercises are designed on basis of Wu Qin Xi (five animal exercise), Ba Duan Jin (eight sectioned brocade exercise) and other ancient exercises developed according to acupuncture-moxibustion theory.

We initiated the multilingual International Lectures on COVID-19. Frontline doctors, academicians and experts were invited to share their experience, views and research findings. The whole series consisting of 29 lectures attracted millions of views and comments from more than 70 countries.

We organized online consultations with experts on traditional Chinese medicine providing solutions to difficult cases in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Tajikistan, Armenia, Turkey, Italy and many other countries.

We either hosted or supported other organizations to organize more than 20 dialogues, symposiums or academic exchanges on dealing with COVID-19 by traditional medicine and integrative medicine.

WFAS 2020 International Symposium on Acupuncture-Moxibustion, with the theme "Inherit and innovate TCM Acupuncture; combat the pandemic for a shared future", was joined by more than 700 onsite delegates and gained more than 10 million online views.

From our experience in the past year, we note that there is great potential for traditional medicine to play a larger role in global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Many traditional medicines have made notable contributions, among which acupuncture-moxibustion, originated in China and spread to 183 countries/regions, is one of the most prominent. It has shown effectiveness in relieving symptoms and resuming lung functions in COVID-19 cases.

Health is the basic condition for human survival and social development. The right to health is a basic human right. What the COVID-19 pandemic teaches us is that health is a necessity, a basic guarantee for human beings to live with dignity. We agree with what

WHO Director-General said – the pandemic illustrates why investing in health must be at the center of development.

To have everyone enjoy health, effective medical service must be made available in a convenient and fair manner. Convenient, economical and effective acupuncture-moxibustion is very helpful in primary health care. This has been recognized and proven by practices in various countries, the most representative example being China, where Chinese medicine and modern medicine are put equal emphasis to and are often used in a combined way. Acupuncture-moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine also advocates prevention and daily health preservation, which is very important for people to maintain health, for countries to reduce financial pressure.

Therefore, we strongly recommend to enhance the role of traditional medicine including acupuncture-moxibustion in global efforts in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, by integrating traditional medicine into national health care systems as well as by offering approaches for staying healthy to the general public. WFAS is willing to help those countries, doctors and individuals in need of acupuncture knowledge, experience and solutions.
