

## **The Virtual briefing on COVID19 and Universal Health Coverage**

**The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations**

**Friday 15 May 2020 (9am-11am)**

**Hosted by the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage and Global Health:**

H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN

H.E. Mr. Ishikane Kimihiro, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN

**Supported by the World Health Organization with:**

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly

Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF

Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, WHO Office at the UN

Mr. Stewart Simonson, Assistant Director-General, WHO Office at the UN

**Intervention by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:**

Thank you for organizing this event and thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in fighting COVID19, nationally, regionally, and internationally.

For the prevention and control of COVID-19 Saudi Arabia is adopting a “Whole of Government” approach, taking all precautionary measures including preparedness, detecting, testing, tracing and isolation.



**At the national level**, some of these health-related measures involved:

Quarantine and lockdown measures within and between cities, suspension of Umra (minor pilgrimage) and suspension of mass prayers in mosques even during this holy month of Ramadan.

Covering medical expenses of citizens and residents — including expats and those in violation of residency laws — who tested positive.

Raising public awareness and providing essential information and updates on the situation of COVID19 through all available outlets such as press, social media, informative brochures on COVID-19 facts and precautionary messages in 12 languages.

**Regionally**: in response to an urgent WHO appeal, Saudi Arabia is donating \$10 million USD to support all countries of the Region in their national COVID-19 response to combat the spread of the disease, in addition to \$25 million USD to provide Yemen with essential equipment and supplies as part of Yemen's national readiness and response plan.

**At the international level**, in its capacity as G20 President for 2020, Saudi Arabia chaired the Extraordinary Virtual G20 Leaders Summit in March called on countries, organizations and private sector to help raise \$8 billion to fill the funding gap in the fight against COVID-19.

Saudi Arabia has pledged \$500 million to "relevant international organizations to support global efforts in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic". The funds are expected to pay for emergency and preparedness response, developing and



deploying new diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. This donation will be divided into:

- \$150 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).
- \$150 million to the Global Alliance for vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI).
- \$200 million to other international regional health organizations and programs.

This is just a brief summary of Saudi Arabia's national, regional, and international efforts in the fight against COVID19. Thank you.

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