



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

“Reinforcing humanitarian assistance in the context of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations: taking action for people-centered solutions, strengthening effectiveness, respecting international humanitarian law and promoting the humanitarian principles”
New York, June 9th - 11th, 2020

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Dear Friends,

El Salvador would like to thank the Chair and other Bureau Members for their efforts in organizing the Humanitarian Segment virtually, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

El Salvador also takes this opportunity to thank the Chair, H.E. Omar Hilale, from Morocco, for the Call to Action in support of humanitarian response in fighting the COVID-19. El Salvador proudly joins this initiative and commend your leadership.

This year's theme is directly linked with the unprecedented challenges that the world is facing, not only to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic but also the adverse impacts of climate change, food insecurity, and conflict situations. All these difficulties remind us of the principles of which the UN was created and the relevance of global solidarity, cooperation, and the shared responsibility of every one of us, thus no one is left behind.

Mr. Chair,

El Salvador is nowadays facing a double emergency. The Salvadoran government has been tirelessly working to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have invested valuable resources to combat the effect of the virus. Amidst these measures, tropical storms Amanda and Cristobal struck our country, their impacts are more intense on the most vulnerable groups and disproportionately affect women and girls of all ages and have exacerbated the pre-existing humanitarian needs.

In this sense, the government of El Salvador is joining forces with the UN System and other organizations in implementing several actions to respond to the needs of our population during both emergencies, with particular focus on the most vulnerable.

Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, in coordination with our consular network throughout the world, is providing social and humanitarian assistance to Salvadoran citizens abroad in the following situations:

- Location of relatives outside the national territory.
- Attention to children and adolescents in repatriation processes.
- Orientation to relatives in repatriation efforts for the sick, wounded and deceased.
- In the formalities of legal actions concerning the payment of food allowances from Salvadorans abroad to their family members in the territory, as instructed by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of El Salvador
- Attention to compatriots deprived of liberty in another country.
- Attention to complaints of violation of human rights of compatriots.

Mr. Chair,

The magnitude and impact of the current pandemic have been classified by the Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, as the greatest global crisis since World War II. Its economic and social effects may be more devastating than those caused by the Great Depression of 1929. Therefore, one of the most successful decisions of the UN System has been to intensify the work of the UN country teams with Governments and partners to prevent and respond to COVID-19.

In our country, the United Nations System, through the Humanitarian Country Team -made up of some Agencies, Funds, and Programs, NGOs and other cooperation partners in the country- has assisted the government to meet various emerging such as the Great National Specialty Hospital and within the quarantine centers, providing medical supplies, protective equipment, tests and early detection equipment of the COVID-19, sanitation and hygiene kits, food baskets, water systems, among others.

At the same time, El Salvador recognizes the creation of new and specific funds for the attention of COVID-19 emergency, from which El Salvador has already benefited from, including the Comprehensive Plan for Response to Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19; the COVID-19 Response and Recovery; the Humanitarian Country Team's Humanitarian Emergency Response Plan COVID-19; the WHO/PAHO Strategic Plan for Health Preparedness and Response; as well as the Rapid Response Fund to COVID-19 established by UNDP.

In this regard, we call on all countries and other potential donors to support the scaling up of emergency efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue supporting initiatives aimed at sustaining the work of saving lives. We commend the work of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially in ensuring equal humanitarian assistance.

To conclude Mr. Chair,

For El Salvador as one of the original twenty-six signatories of the UN Declaration, the anniversary of the UN Charter represents a new start towards a renewed multilateral system, particularly at a time of a global health crisis with severe impacts on our people, which are the center of the UN Charter.

More than ever, it is evident that only collective actions, global solidarity, and cooperation will determine how fast the world recovers. Building a more inclusive organization that responds to the new challenges and demands of the modern world, focusing on those who have been excluded from the organization since their creation, must be our common goal.

I thank you,

