General Statement
Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the Economic and Social Council

H.E Dr. Abdulaziz Alwasil
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations – Geneva
23 June 2021
Firstly, I would like to thank H.E Ambassador, Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC, for organizing the Human Affairs segment for 2021 under the current unprecedented circumstances. Saudi Arabia welcomes the opportunity to participate in this year’s events and to join in the efforts United Nation’s, its partners, other international organizations and member states, in support of collective action to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, assist fragile economies and save lives by overcoming the challenges in a spirit of solidarity and in a coordinated manner.

In order to diligently promote sustainable community development and help to bolster the global response, Saudi Arabia has provided considerable amount of humanitarian aid and pledged up to $500 million to support international relief efforts. The aim is to combat Covid-19 and implement urgent measures to minimize the spread of the virus, in addition to supporting countries with vulnerable health infrastructures. Saudi Arabia has so far contributed $150 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and $200 million for international and regional health organizations and programmes.

Saudi Arabia is committed to playing a participatory role and encouraging the international community to take stock of new approaches and work in a spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and multilateralism to address international issues and ensure that our assistance reaches the most marginalized and vulnerable people, including women, the elderly, children, refugees and internally displaced persons.

Saudi Arabia is working with international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration to strengthen the resilience of affected communities, and especially vulnerable groups, through economic empowerment. This includes our partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality & Empowerment of Women, to implement projects designed to reduce violence against women. We are also working effectively to deliver medical aid to a number of needy countries around the world in order to help them to combat Covid-19.

Saudi Arabia is acting in solidarity with people around the world who are affected by the humanitarian crisis. We are committed to playing our part
and ensuring that our assistance is based on purely humanitarian principles, regardless of any other considerations.

Vulnerable communities are already experiencing the impact of climate change on food, water, land and other ecosystem services. These services are vital for good health, livelihoods and the survival of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and indigenous people who are disproportionately affected.

Saudi Arabia has made numerous commitments under its Vision 2030, and has demonstrated its determination to significantly reduce CO2 emissions, and to address environmental issues by implementing sustainable solutions. We also announced a Circular Carbon Economic initiative during the G20 summit, held in Riyadh under our Presidency last year; and earlier this year two other initiatives, “The Saudi Green” and “The Middle East Green” were announced. These initiatives make provision for the planting of 50 billion trees in the Middle East, thereby reducing carbon emissions.

Through these initiatives, Saudi Arabia is seeking to assume its role and responsibilities with the international community in response to the significant dangers and challenges that are threatening humanity.

These and other initiatives illustrate the Kingdom’s pioneering role in tackling common international issues, actively contributing to preserving the planet and protecting the environment, reducing the scale of potential disasters and climate change and helping to prevent humanitarian emergencies.

Saudi Arabia is aware of the importance of innovation and our essential role in creating ways to make humanitarian aid faster, more accessible and more effective.

We have invested heavily in data and artificial intelligence to maximize the impact of development and humanitarian projects in order to attain the highest standard of transparency and governance. We have developed advanced technological solutions and effective tools to improve the efficiency of the Saudi donor institutions and to support their humanitarian efforts worldwide.
We encourage all members of the international community to work in partnership with each another so that successful outcomes can be achieved and our most vulnerable categories protected from humanitarian crises.

Thank you.