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HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2020

Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?

Good morning your Excellencies and colleagues, all protocols observed because of the time limits.

On behalf of the Honduras Government, I would like to express my deep gratitude towards the United Nations for its commitment and contributions to our country in order to face the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed the weaknesses in our response system and also how much we have to work on implementing the 2030 Agenda. Along the years, Honduras has been strengthening its partnership with the United Nations, we have built a solid relationship with the office of the Resident Coordinator and the representatives of the agencies. I take this opportunity to give a warm welcome to the new Resident Coordinator, Ms. Alice Shackelford, who took on her duties this July 13th.

In this challenging and unprecedented time, multilateral cooperation is more crucial than ever before in terms of recovery and development. Since March 12th, when a state of sanitary emergency was declared in Honduras, we have been working along with the United Nations to achieve the three top priorities defined by the Honduras COVID-19 Response Plan: saving lives, protecting health workers and slowing down the spread of COVID-19.

Honduras presented its Voluntary National Review for the second time in this same Forum last week, showing our commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Before the pandemic we were achieving significant progress on meeting the SDG's, however we cannot deny that its repercussions will slow us down.

We stress the fact that the pandemic plans and responses should take into account the special needs of middle-income countries like Honduras. Countries that already had a weak health care system like ours will certainly be further challenged in the context of COVID-19, which

shows us now more than ever that multilateralism is vital and the United Nations plays a fundamental role to reinforce it by its dynamic action which must be oriented to the specific needs of countries in order to recover from this unprecedented situation. That is the only way we will truly live up to the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, we would like to quote our Secretary General that in his policy brief “Shared, Responsibility, Global Solidarity -Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID 19” stated: “*More than ever before, we need solidarity, hope and the political will to see this through together*”.

Thank you very Madame Chair.