



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

Multilateralism after COVID-19:

What kind of United Nations do we need at the 75th Anniversary?

ECOSOC High-Level Debate

July 17th 2020, 9:45am

Thank you, Madame President,

Without a question, we are in a turning point for humanity. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the complexities of global interdependence and has changed the world as we know it. In this context, to rethink multilateralism is not optional, it is our obligation.

For El Salvador, as a founding member of the United Nations, its 75th anniversary represents a new start towards a renewed multilateral system. The UN embodies principles that remain unchangeable, such as common goals of peace and prosperity for all, the enjoyment of human rights without distinction of any kind, and international cooperation in solving international problems. Our challenge now is to promote these ideals through new courses of action, under renewed commitments beyond the conventional ways we have performed.

The COVID-19 has also highlighted the urgent need to improve protection for vulnerable persons or in situation of vulnerability. And as stated by our President Nayib Bukele: *“The world finds itself in a moment of great fragility but it is also an opportunity to prove what we are made of. Despite the distancing, our hearts should be closer to those who need it the most.”*

In this sense, we must take advantage of this moment to channel development and all UN actions towards a people-centered, humans rights-based, and gender-sensitive approach, as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The COVID-19 pandemic is immersing the world into a socio-economic and financial crisis of an unprecedented scale, in addition to the health emergency. As a middle-income country, we call international and regional financial institutions to provide concessional financing to enable us to effectively respond to the crisis.

Moreover, the recovery from the pandemic's effects will require more joint actions such as south-south and triangular cooperation, as well as innovative partnerships with different stakeholders such as private sector, the academia and civil society. Therefore, the UN must encourage and provide more spaces to hear their voices, being the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies the most appropriate platform.

Madame President, dear all,

El Salvador stands ready to join forces to promote concrete actions to achieve sustainable development, inclusive and equitable societies, and protect the environment for this and future generations.

I thank you.