



Youth Organisation for European and African Union  
36 rue Scheffer  
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France

HE. Mr. General Secretary of United Nations  
Mr. Antonio GUTERRES

30th March 2020 in Paris,

Object : Request in relation to the COVID-19 health crisis and a post-crisis suggestion COVID-19.

Mr. General Secretary,

I am writing this open letter on behalf of the Youth Organization for the European and African Union to express a grievance in relation to the COVID-19 health crisis and a post-crisis suggestion COVID-19.

For five months now, the world has been facing a health crisis that is far from over and is causing hundreds of deaths every day. Despite the many measures and actions taken by governments and the World Health Organization over the past five months, the virus continues to spread around the world.

Mr. General Secretary, for the world's population, millions of people from the medical and paramedical corps have mobilized. At the risk of their lives, they have not counted the hours of work, they have not allowed the limits of their human fragility to take over. The President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, in his speech on 16 March 2020, described this crisis as a «health war». So, as is customary during and after every war, we humbly come to ask you to express the universal gratitude of the United Nations to these millions of heroes and heroines by creating a special medal in their honour and award them as they deserve.

Mr. General Secretary, expressing universal recognition through medals to those who did not hesitate to put their lives at risk to save ours can be seen as an extraordinary, if not impossible, measure. But Sir, as Mrs Christine Lagarde, Director of the European Central Bank, said: «Extraordinary times require extraordinary actions». We use this quote to suggest you as you are the only one, with the authority to carry out this extraordinary action.

We would now like to share with you our post-crisis suggestion COVID-19.

Indeed, our organisation is straddling the continent most affected by this epidemic, Europe, and the continent with the least financial, health and human resources to deal with it, Africa. In the light of the above and the evolution of our technology and globalization, we can state that: «thanks to the new channels of communication, we now live in a single global society». The identity of this society was relatively formed by the similarity of our personal needs. It also includes the other deeper values: the value of life, the value of social interaction and the value of fundamental freedoms.

Actually, this health crisis reminds us how similar we are to one another because the virus has not and will not make any distinction between people of different social, gender, religious, racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Sir, since the problem is universal, it has exposed the health shortcomings of our countries. This is the reason why we suggest you to put the vote at the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, a resolution which obliges Member States to devote more financial resources to the development of health and hospital infrastructure in their countries, to develop and encourage scientific research and to ensure health coverage for the most vulnerable populations.

Mr. General Secretary, firstly our approach considers the value of humanity. Secondly, it is accessible because of urgent needs. Finally, it is consistent with the third point of the Sustainable Development Goals as initiated in 2015 by the United Nations. Like education, health is the pillar of the nation's development and only the United Nations can effectively remind how valuable they are.

Mr. General Secretary, our world is facing many challenges indeed: over-consumption of all our planet's resources, all struggles to achieve sustainable development goals of 2030 and now this unpredictable extent of health crisis. But as many former leaders in the world have faced different challenges like Robert Schuman, Thomas Sankara, Patrice Lumumba, Jan Christiaan Smuts, Anouar el-Sadate, Simone Veil, Nelson Mandela, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Wangari Maathai, Marie Curie and many others... we deeply trust on your contribution, positive and effective impact to serve as an example for your successors about managing the current situation.

Mr. General Secretary, as a conclusion of our letter by Vaclav Havel's quote, former President of the Czech Republic, who said on 15th March 1990: «Suffering creates the obligation to be just». Today, people and families are suffering, especially those who have lost their beloved ones in this health crisis. In such situations, the obligation of justice involves your authority to prevent disaster.

The situation post-crisis should be supported by the development of health infrastructures, the development of health services and scientific research to all member countries of the United Nations. In this regard, we ask you to consider the award of world healthcare workers.

We express our gratitude to the attention and consideration on this letter.

Please believe in our most cordial and respectful feelings.

Respectfully,

The president

G.M.S



ORGANISATION DES JEUNES  
POUR L'UNION EUROPÉENNE ET AFRICAINE

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