**FORUM:** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to attenuate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global and national economies

**SUBMITTED BY:** Russian Federation

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** European Union, Canada, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, UNDP, Nigeria, Chile, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, WHO, Central African Republic

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Expressing grave concern* of the serious risks and challenges facing all Member States regarding the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and its negative implications for both global and national economies, with a special emphasis on less economically developed countries (LEDCs) and developing Member States*,*

*Fully alarmed* by the crisis’ shocking consequences as reported in a 4.4% global economic shrink by the International Monetary Fund (IMF),

*Recalling* the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 8, aiming to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” and “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”,

*Reaffirming* the right of every human being, enforced through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 23, to employment in favorable conditions and the right to equal pay and work,

*Highlighting* the critical role of the IMF in their mission statement of “working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth”, particularly in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic downturn,

*Recognizing* that an insufficient global response to limiting the deterioration of international and national economies during a global pandemic will negatively impact global trade and economic relations as a whole to an unprecedented degree, in addition to intensifying unemployment, reducing standards of living and work conditions, and pushing millions of people into poverty,

*Further recognizing* the critical importance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in sustaining economic growth on both national and global levels,

1. Calls for Member Nations to introduce emergency government-backed fiscal economic measures targeted and unemployed and informal workers, entailing:
	1. Raising the standard unemployment benefit for individuals who lost their job after the outbreak of COVID-19 within the nation or its federal subdivisions to the same as the local/national minimum wage for a limited period of time, decided upon in context of:
		1. Stability and prosperity of the post-crisis regional and national economy,
		2. Percentage of workers in the labour force who are formally declared as unemployed,
		3. National debt and overall ability to expend money on fiscal policies,
	2. Increasing the notice period between the termination of employment and the last working day for workers in industries heavily affected by COVID-19, such that they are given more time and resources to seek other means of employment and induce further economic growth,
	3. Introducing temporary “tax holidays” exempting individuals without formal employment from taxes decided upon by the Member State for a limited period of time decided upon by the latter,
	4. Launching education programs in cooperation with the Member States’ Ministry of Education or other relevant government body, entailing the:
		1. Identification of unemployed workers lacking the skills and knowledge to seek formal employment,
		2. Provision of free pedagogical courses to equip unemployed workers with greater knowledge and skills in their respective fields,
		3. Collaboration with the Ministry of Employment or other government bodies to assist in finding new forms of formal, paid employment as quickly as possible once workers are finished with their studies;

1. UrgesMember States to develop further emergency fiscal measures to ensure the short-term survival and long-term economic prosperity of SMEs, particularly in sectors heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through means such as but not limited to:
	1. Issuing tax deferrals to relieve economic stress from said SMEs,
	2. Issuing government grants and/or stipends to SMEs, in quantities and frequency decided upon by the Member Nation, to cover expenses, such as but not limited to:
		1. Paying employees with salaries above the minimum wage,
		2. Lost profits and economic losses due to lockdown restrictions and/or other national guidelines due to COVID-19,
		3. Rent and/or property fees;

1. Endorses measures for the re-opening of global tourism industries as a means of creating job prospects and greater economic prosperity in a post-pandemic world, with a special emphasis on Member Nations reliant on tourism as a significant sector of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP), such as but not limited to:
	1. Relaxing travel bans and other immigration-related COVID-19 restrictions where deemed appropriate,
	2. Issuing government stipends for tourism and travel within a Member Nation,
	3. Ensuring that all travel and transportation performed during this period is in accordance with any and all applicable government guidelines and restrictions targeted at hindering the spread of COVID-19, potentially including policies such as:
		1. Requiring travelers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with the age restrictions, vaccine-related legislation, and resources of each Member State,
		2. Requiring travelers to wear masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), especially in heavily urbanized and densely populated areas where there is a high risk of viral transmission,
	4. Allowing the re-opening of other tourism-related facilities, if they are not already available, in context with the COVID-19 situation of the region, such as but not limited to:
		1. Hotels and accommodation,
		2. Restaurants and culinary establishments,
		3. Shopping districts and malls,
		4. Domestic and international flights;

1. Recommendsthe initiation of government-backed infrastructure construction projects in collaboration and/or guidance with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), International Finance Corporation (IFC), IMF, World Bank, and other relevant UN organs and NGOs, to:
	1. Further attenuate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the employment sector, particularly in industries linked heavily with construction and manufacturing, and create new possibilities for employment,
	2. Simultaneously allow for the re-construction, repair, or renovation of facilities and buildings heavily affected and/or damaged by the COVID-19 crisis by overload or disuse, for example:
		1. medical facilities suffering from lack of space and resources,
		2. educational institutions unable to fully support regular in-person education due a lack of infrastructure and facilities to tackle post-pandemic health and safety regulations,
		3. aviation-related infrastructure in need for repair and maintenance after a sharp decline in passenger and cargo traffic caused by the pandemic, with special concern for rural and less urbanized areas relying on aerial supplies;

1. Requests that the Security Council temporarily relieve economic sanctions imposed on other nations for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis’ heavy socio-economic impact, in order to:
	1. Alleviate economic stress and stagnation on Member States targeted by said sanctions,
	2. Encourage freer economic trade and activity between Nations, increasing the value of global markets and creating a sustainable long-term recovery plan for the post-COVID-19 world economy,
	3. Improve international relations in a time where global cooperation and understanding is of the utmost importance;

1. Strongly encouragesMember States to work in close collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), IMF, and other relevant bodies if needed on creating a systematic framework to control the size and influence of the nation’s informal economy and workforce, entailing the:
	1. Identification and data collection of large companies and organizations within the Member State informally employing a significant number of workers, including the gathering of information on:
		1. Estimated number of workers informally employed,
		2. Working and living conditions present,
		3. Minimum pay given to workers,
		4. Impact on the local economic situation,
		5. Possible operation of illegal activities or human rights violations,
		6. etc.
	2. Fair and just evaluation of the identified informal employment organizations to determine whether their overall impact is harmful to the regional and national economy based on the factors and data collected in subclause (a),
	3. Issuing of an official government decision regarding the status of the informal employment organization, either:
		1. A complete termination of the organization if evaluated by the terms in subclause (b) to be harmful to the regional/national economy
		2. An official permit allowing the organization to continue operation for clear reasons deeming it necessary to stay as an informal form of employment
	4. Creation and/or allocation of new forms of formal, registered employment in similar industries or economic areas for the displaced workers if the organization is deemed necessary to be terminated, and ensuring that these new jobs have equal or better pay, working conditions, etc.;

1. EncouragesMember States to launch expansionary monetary policies in cooperation with the respective Central Bank to further stimulate the post-COVID economy and boost Aggregate Demand (AD), through means such as but not limited to:
	1. Lowering national interest rates to allow for easier borrowing of money and more investment into the economy, in addition to working with other large regional banks to make overall money lending easier for borrowers,
	2. Setting realistic and determined goals for the control of core inflation rate, unemployment rate, and other relevant economic factors needing to be closely controlled and monitored for effective response post-crisis,
	3. Seeking aid to organize and introduce any such measures if needed through international bodies such as the IMF and World Bank;

1. Further callsupon LEDCs unable to launch the fiscal and monetary policies mentioned in the above clauses to seek suitable alternatives through means such as but not limited to:
	1. Working in close coordination with both relevant NGOs and UN organs such as the World Bank, IMF, ILO, to:
		1. Acquire funds and resources to launch fiscal and monetary policies to attenuate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy,
		2. Develop a systematic approach for the immediate distribution and introduction of said policies, such as to limit corruption and unjust use of resources allocated,
		3. Find temporary emergency alternatives to these measures while the transfer and negotiation of funds and resources is in place, to avoid a complete economic collapse,
	2. Seeking loans or other forms of temporary economic assistance from other Member States capable of delivering such aid;
2. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.