

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES

Our world faces an unprecedented crisis that is causing widespread human suffering, upending lives, devastating the global economy and risking reversals of hard-won progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In these trying times, I welcome the holding of your Model UN activity. Your unwavering commitment to international cooperation is essential for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic – the biggest test our world has faced since the Second World War.

We can only defeat the coronavirus if we do so globally. We must recognize that the poorest countries and most vulnerable will be the hardest hit, and that decades of development gains could be reversed. Countries already suffering armed conflict now face further upheaval. And the pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on the world's women.

The United Nations is undertaking a wide-ranging response – calling for a global ceasefire and working to control the pandemic, save lives, mitigate the socio-economic impacts, fight stigma and recover better.

We are strongly committed to providing full support to all, guided by our shared values. The world needs your energy, and I draw great hope from seeing your generation mobilize to address the challenges of our time and to build a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future for all.

In that spirit of common cause, I wish you a successful Model UN.