

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**VIDEO MESSAGE TO STAFF**

**23 April 2020**

Dear colleagues,

Let me begin by extending my warmest wishes at this trying time.

I know that for so many, this tragedy has hit home. Please know my thoughts are with you.

We are together facing the biggest global crisis since the Second World War.

I thank all of you for your role in keeping the United Nations open for business.

You have been admirably flexible as we find new ways to carry out our work, which is more vital than ever.

Thanks to you, our peacekeeping operations, political missions, humanitarian pipelines and country teams are continuing to support countries through this emergency.

I want to thank you for stepping up with creativity, commitment and compassion.

You are showing the world what solidarity looks like.

Now, more than ever, your well-being is at the forefront of my concerns.

I receive daily reports regarding the number of UN personnel who have been infected with coronavirus. And yet, we know that these numbers are not complete.

Today we are launching a new health tool.

It's called the EarthMed portal and you can find it on iSeek.

This secure and confidential portal will enable you to provide information on coronavirus symptoms directly into your own medical record.

It will register you in a special coronavirus programme, and our medical staff will then be able to reach out to you personally with tailored care and advice no matter where you are in the world.

The portal will help us make sure that we have the right resources in the right place at the right time to support you.

I would also underscore the importance of mental health.

Fear, loneliness and grief are also rising exponentially — and our entire healthcare team is there for support and guidance.

Dear colleagues,

The United Nations is at the heart of the global response. I feel there is a growing recognition of the relevance of our work, and I believe the world is seeing the value of international cooperation in this, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of our Organization.

We must continue helping to save lives and easing the economic and social devastation. We must also think about recovery, and addressing the inequalities and fragilities the virus has so painfully exposed.

Our blueprint remains the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our compass is the United Nations Charter.

And our fuel is the human spirit.

In days darkened by disease, we can see beacons of hope for today and the seeds of future unity of purpose.

Our role is to nurture those seeds – and I have no doubt that your work will continue to serve and inspire the world — just as you inspire me every day.

Thank you again. Stay safe. Good health to you and your families. Let's all take care of each other.