**COMMITTEE:** UNGA

**AGENDA**: Examining the role of China in the COVID-19 Pandemic

**COUNTRY**: Spain

Good morning Delegates,

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The new coronavirus, first called 2019-nCoV and now officially renamed as SARS-CoV2 (the virus) and COVID-19 (the disease), belongs to the family of coronavirus, which owe the name to crown-like spikes on their surface. Most described coronavirus are found in birds or mammals, particularly bats. China alerted the WHO to cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan on December 31, 2019. COVID-19 is thought to have originated in a seafood market where wildlife was sold illegally. On February 7, 2020, Chinese researchers said the virus could have spread from an infected animal to humans through illegally trafficked pangolins, prized in Asia for food and medicine. The Chinese government consistently misinformed and misled the world. The most notorious example [came in the form](https://twitter.com/WHO/status/1217043229427761152?s=20) of a single tweet from the WHO account on January 14: “Preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel[coronavirus](https://twitter.com/hashtag/coronavirus?src=hashtag_click).” That same day, the Wuhan Health Commission’s [public bulletin](https://qz.com/1801985/the-changing-coronavirus-outbreak-narrative-pushed-by-china/) declared, “We have not found proof for human-to-human transmission.”

With more than 39 lakh people infected worldwide and 2.71 lakh dead as on 7 May 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shows no signs of abating. As vaccine is yet to be found, lockdowns remain the only way to slow its spread. However, the lockdowns are also pushing major economies to the brink.

United Nations recently uniting with many partners, launched the [**Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator**](https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/access-to-covid-19-tools-%28act%29-accelerator)(ACT Accelerator), a global collaboration to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to New COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. On 23 March 2020, the Secretary-General [**called for an immediate global ceasefire**](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059972) in all corners of the world. Following this on 25 March 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched the [**COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan**](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-response-plan-covid-19-april-december-2020).

Spain is a secular country which is among the immigration friendly countries in Europe. The Country has adopted Universal Declaration Of Human Rights (UDHR) in the constitution and various laws which has led to the establishment of a tolerant society. It is also one of the co-sponsors of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to manifest our commitment to maintaining an open and pluralistic society in Spain.

Some of the steps taken by Spain in addressing the Covid-19 Pandemic includes shutting down schools, suspending flights and advising against all non-essential travel, closing down land and sea borders. In addition, the Spanish government has presented a battery of measures aimed at reducing the impact of the crisis on households, workers and firms. The direct aids approved to date amount to 21 billion euros (1.7% of GDP). To protect households who find themselves in a particularly vulnerable situation as a result of this crisis, the Spanish government has established that essential supplies will be guaranteed (electricity, water, gas and telecommunications).

The set of measures adopted by the Government represents a robust response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic and lays the foundations for ensuring that the negative effects on employment and economic activity are temporary, and that activity bounces back once the epidemic has been controlled. Providing support for all affected sectors of society is necessary in order to prevent what is a temporary shock from leaving more permanent scars. The ultimate goal is to safeguard, insofar as possible, the population’s economic well-being and the country’s productive capacity.

The Government of Spain is endeavouring to create an economic recovery fund with up to €1.5 trillion. The delegate believes that the upcoming session would be the most productive if the member countries of the UN come to a conclusion regarding this pandemic including China’s involvement – all whilst demonstrating cohesion, cooperation and understanding between all members of this esteemed House.

In conclusion, the delegate of Spain calls upon the members in UN to unite for a joint UN effort that would help the world’s hardest-hit economies recover from the coronavirus crisis.