



**GOVERNMENT OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS**  
**Ministry of Health, ICT, Entertainment, Entrepreneurship and Talent Development**

Lot 6B Bladen Commercial Development, Wellington Road, P.O. Box 186, BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS

TEL: (869) 467-1085/1090, (869) 465 0616

EMAIL: [ministerbyron-nisbett@gov.kn](mailto:ministerbyron-nisbett@gov.kn)

Statement by the Hon Akilah Byron Nisbett, Minister of Health et al., Federation  
of St Kitts and Nevis

**150<sup>th</sup> Session of EB, World Health Assembly, Geneva, January 2022**

**Madam President,**

**Director General**

St Kitts and Nevis presents its compliments to the WHO on hosting the 150<sup>th</sup> Session of its Executive Board and wishes to underscore the significant role the entity has been playing relative to providing assistance to Member States to mitigate and manage health emergencies. The agenda item, Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies- 15. Public health emergencies: preparedness and response is expedient, as globally, countries continue to combat the debilitating economic, social and psychological threats of the Coronavirus pandemic.

St Kitts and Nevis is grateful to be able to access COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility and my Government commends Director General Dr. Tedros and Dr Etienne of the WHO and Dr Gebre of PAHO for their efforts in ensuring countries have access to vaccine.

However, it is indeed disconcerting that the likelihood of more persons being protected may not be realized when there are countries with little or no access to safe and efficacious vaccines, particularly when it has been proven that the vaccine

is the solution to the safe arrest of the pandemic and the return of a near-normal environment.

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there must be a strong emphasis on “Public health emergencies: preparedness and response” while ensuring that no one is left behind, a principle firmly embraced by the WHO. From a small island developing state perspective, it is imperative that there is access to the requisite human, financial and material resources to offset the effects of health emergencies.

Madam President, the impact of COVID-19 has highlighted an urgent need to foster greater bilateral global cooperation through which St. Kitts and Nevis has been fortunate to access and procure COVID-19 vaccines and other health supplies.

To date, the Federation has inoculated approximately 57% of its eligible population with the Oxford AstraZeneca CoviShield and SK Bioscience and the Pfizer BioNTech vaccines.

St Kitts and Nevis could not have accomplished this commendable milestone without the generosity of its benefactors, the Government and people of Cuba, India and the USA for technical support and their donations of vaccines, ventilators, vehicles and a field hospital. In particular, St Kitts and Nevis is deeply indebted to the Republic of China, Taiwan, who continues to support us and has provided a significant amount of COVID-19 supplies and invested substantial financial resources to purchase vaccines and equipment for the field hospital. Taiwan’s contribution to the fight against COVID-19 is well documented and must be aptly recognized by the WHO. As a major stakeholder in global health measures, Taiwan has been espousing the WHO’s mandate for more persons, globally, to be better protected from health emergencies. Taiwan must be given the due recognition and St. Kitts and Nevis joins with the other countries and sounds

the the clarion call to include Taiwan as an observer in the World Health Organization.

As funding is crucial to the sustainability of the WHO for health emergencies, so is the imperative to strengthen global commitments and partnerships through the principle of inclusion and your demonstrative actions.