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Statement by
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MINISTER OF HEALTH

«General Statement»
Geneva, 18 May 2020

Check against delivery
Dear President,
Dear Director General,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,

Greece fully supports the statement made by Croatia, the EU Presidency, on behalf of the EU and its member states.

In the battle against the unprecedented pandemic of the coronavirus, we have joined forces with science, solidarity, philanthropy and patriotism being our weapons.
In order to protect our fellow citizens, but above all the vulnerable groups.

Our success is primarily attributed to the excellent healthcare professionals of the National Health System.
To those everyday heroes: doctors, nurses, administrative and paramedical staff, and the personnel of the National Center of Emergency Assistance.
The scientists and the staff of Hellenic National Public Health Organization, who successfully undertook the tracking of the first case.

- From the very beginning we have been in continuous contact with the WHO and the ECDC.
- We have designated 13 reference hospitals across the country.
- We have conducted more than 30 preparedness exercises under the coordination of the National Center of Emergency Assistance.
- We entrusted the experts and appointed a Scientific Committee of Experts.

The first case of coronavirus appeared in Greece on February 26th. On the same day, following an order from the Prime Minister, I announced the postponement of the carnival events and on March 10th the suspension of the operation of all educational facilities. On March 22th, the Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis proceeded to a general lockdown.
Our plan started from the Intensive Care Units.

**Intensive Care Units**
- We increased the Intensive care beds from 565 to 1017.

**Hirings**
- We have strengthened the NHS with more than 4,000 healthcare professionals.

**PPEs**
We have organized an unprecedented supply bridge, amidst global dispute regarding medical material.

**Donations**
We have received donations of 865 organizations amounting to 89 million.
As the pandemic is not over, I strongly believe that we have to act all together with solidarity.
Solidarity is not just a word.
It is a Value, it is a Principle that must govern the world, especially in times of unprecedented crisis.
Under this light, Greece fully supports the resolution proposed by the EU on the COVID-19 response.
Hoping in a prompt, positive perspective concerning medicines and vaccines I urge to support the “Health in all policies” strategy, in order to ensure that no one is left behind.
Thank you for your attention.