Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the OIC launched awareness campaigns and took a series of initiatives to ensure the coordination of its Member States in their fight against the disease.

The OIC Secretary General, Dr. Yousef A. Al Othaimeen, stated that the whole world is in the same boat in the fight against Covid-19, a pandemic with far-reaching implications on a national, regional and global scale. He pointed out that it has huge socio-economic impacts and has also affected the way people practice their acts of worship.

The subsidiary and specialized OIC institutions have rapidly taken action to help Member States confront the impacts of the disease. An OIC-Islamic Solidarity Fund account has been established to assist Member States, especially the LDC’s to strengthen their capabilities in response to the pandemic.

The Islamic Development Bank launched a USD 2,2 billion Strategic Preparedness and Response Program to counter the coronavirus disease through supporting the most vulnerable Member States in mitigating the negative health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

On 9 April 2020, the OIC Steering Committee on Health held a video conference where the need to tackle the virus and its implications for health, humanitarian, social and economic systems has been stressed.

The meeting reviewed the level of preparedness of Member States in addressing the pandemic and underscored the need for them to put in place national Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to strengthen prevention, impact mitigation, and other interventions.

The Meeting encouraged Member States to scale up timely and transparent sharing of information on issues of global public health concern on the prevention, detection, and the treatment of the cases of the Covid-19, epidemiological and clinic research data exchange, and materials necessary for research and development of medical treatment for the virus.

The meeting acknowledged the important role of religious and community leaders and Muslim scholars in raising public awareness about safe practices and appropriate behavior as important tools to stop the spread of the Covid-19.
The meeting called upon the international community, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and other relevant organizations to help accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of vaccines against COVID-19.

On 22 April 2020, the OIC held an Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers via video conference.

The meeting asserted that contributing to efforts to address the pandemic and its intertwined health, humanitarian, social and economic impacts is an absolute priority for the OIC.

The meeting noted the status of preparedness of Member States in addressing the coronavirus pandemic and urges them to solidify their respective National Preparedness and Response Plans to strengthen prevention, impact mitigation, and other interventions.

The meeting recognized that managing the crisis and mitigating its impact requires an emphasis on supporting the most vulnerable ones and retaining jobs.

The meeting noted the need to pay a special attention to the situation in Palestine and calls upon the international community to put pressure on the occupying power to lift any restrictions on the entry of medical and food items to enable the Palestinians to face the pandemic.

The meeting expressed its full support to the WHO and acknowledged the need for urgent short-term actions to step up the global efforts to fight the crisis caused by the Covid-19.

The meeting made an urgent appeal to the international financial institutions and the bilateral, regional and international partners to consider intensifying their efforts in easing debt burden of LDC's.

While acknowledging the important central role the United Nations plays in strengthening international cooperation and coordination in fighting against the global pandemic, the meeting called upon the UN to convene an extraordinary session during the 75th UN General Assembly to examine and determine appropriate actions to improve combating pandemics similar to the Covid-19.

I thank you for your kind attention.