



**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**CLOSING REMARKS TO THE  
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT  
ON DEBT AND LIQUIDITY**

**New York/Online**

**29 March 2021, 12:15 pm**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

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However, even those vaccines are not getting to everyone who needs them.

I will be frank.

From the production and distribution of vaccines, to support for developing economies, no element of the global pandemic response is going as it should.

Only through bold, ambitious action will we put an end to this era of terrible loss — loss for millions of individuals, for communities, and for economies.

The current crisis requires us to

It also means creating new funds, facilities, instruments and mechanisms to provide liquidity and debt relief.

And these facilities and instruments, including the Common Framework on Debt Treatment, cannot penalize those they are intended to help.

We need solutions that work not only on paper, but in real life.

Debt swaps can be used to enable countries to invest in sustainable development and climate action. Buy-backs and cancellations also have an important role.

We need to help governments to invest in a strong recovery that puts us back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda and fulfil the Paris Agreement.

There have been three previous waves of debt accumulation in the past 50 years. Each ended with a debt crisis.

The current wave, the fourth, must be different.

We must also tackle the systemic causes of debt crises, and create an international financial system that is fit for the challenges of the twenty-first Century.

We will take the work on debt architecture forward with Ministers of Finance, to report back to the Heads of State later in the year.

All the objectives I referred to  
require important conversations  
with ~~Govt~~ Governments,



Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, our goal was to turn a shared sense of urgency into a set of concrete actions.

I thank you all for rising to the challenge.

This must be a turning point.

We must apply the lessons of the pandemic to the new and emerging challenges before us, from the climate crisis to the governance of cyberspace.

The pandemic has demonstrated that we are not prepared for the future. We face unacceptable risks and are vulnerable to all kinds of threats.

We will continue to pay a high price until we prioritize global safety, solidarity and resilience.

with a strong global, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, starting here,