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Date and venue: Tuesday, 15 February 2022, 11:00-13:00,
Conference Room XIX/Hybrid, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Intersessional panel discussion on challenges and good practices in the prevention of corruption, and the impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Mandate: The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 47/7 of 12 July 2021, decided to convene before its fiftieth session an intersessional panel discussion on the challenges and good practices in the prevention of corruption, and the impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and also decided that the discussions would be fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

Statement by: Dr. Dominic F Dixon, Executive Director, UNADAP (2 minutes)

Greetings to Your Excellences,

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Chief, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, President of the Human Rights Council

I speak on the management of the COVID crisis in India, and the collective efforts from both the government and civil society.

The world as we know it, has been profoundly disrupted by the virus pandemic. Not just the threat to public health, even the economics and social strata, has adversely affected long-term livelihoods and security of tens of millions. India, with a population of almost 1.4 billion was caught unaware, and the government was left with the task of protecting the lives and livelihoods of its citizens – a catastrophe like never before. India has faired objectively well in tackling the vicissitudes of the affects of the virus.

We lost many loved ones during the second wave, but we as a nation, resilient, we bounced back.

India managed to maintain the lowest positivity and mortality rates coupled with one of the highest recovery rates globally during the pandemic. The country's public health efforts were strongly supported by its R&D capacity in developing vaccines against COVID-19. The planning of the vaccination drive started well in advance based on scientific evidence and global best practices.

In terms of best practices according to the (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) [1]

The Government has sanctioned 1563 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen generation plants of which 1463 have been commissioned. These include 1225 PSA plants which have been installed and commissioned under PM-CARES Fund in every district of the country.

Finally, in regards to the prevailing issues in the state Karnataka, the government is engaging with civil society and its representations for a solution, and the Chief Minister along with the Law and Home Ministers have issued assurances of upholding the letter of the law and called for unity in diversity. Such internal matters are internal and the international community must respect India's sovereignty.

JAI HIND!

SUPPORTING NOTES (Not part of the speech):

i.   The emergence of COVID-19 in the country in early 2020 called for immediate action. The Government adopted a pre-emptive, pro-active, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, built around a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize impact.

ii.   Focus was given on strengthening medical and healthcare infrastructure. Efforts were made to strengthen the core capacities in terms of laboratory,

        hospital infrastructure, R & D on diagnostics etc., along with the development of indigenous capacities in terms of essential logistics including personal protective equipment, diagnostics, ventilators and oxygen generation plants, among others.

iii.   The Government extended logistic and financial support to the States in order to enable them to effectively combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

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iv.   India launched the world's largest vaccination programme covering the entire length and breadth of the country. [2]

Location-enabled app Aarogya Setu was launched to help with monitoring of Covid19 cases, and contact tracing of people who had tested positive or had been in contact with a Covid-19 positive individual.

In order to ensure availability of Ventilators across the country for management of COVID19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ordered procurement of Ventilators centrally for supplying to the States/UTs based on the demand received from the States/UTs.

The States have been provided with extensive training on operation of these ventilators and more than 19,000 doctors and para-medical workers have been trained on them.

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A clinical Center of Excellence (CoE) initiative was also launched by the Ministry with All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi as apex nodal institution and State level CoEs to provide guidance on clinical management protocols. [3]

CITATIONS:
[1] Effective Response in the face of a Pandemic: Measures Adopted by the Government of India to Combat COVID-19 (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
[2] 1 https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1689021
[3] 6 https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1684546