

**"Financing for Development in the Age of COVID-19 and Beyond"  
Message from Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic  
Thursday 28 May 2020**

*Translation from French*

Mr. Secretary-General,  
Prime Ministers,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

As you said a few weeks ago, Mr. Secretary-General, dear Antonio, achieving the goals of sustainable development has never been as difficult and as imperative as it is today. This is demonstrated by the COVID-19 crisis.

Difficult because the crisis, over and above its health consequences, considerably



equality between women and men must be at the heart of our response. That is why I want to say here very clearly that we will hold the Generation Equality Forum in the summer of 2021 with a special focus on the education of young girls and the role of women in development.

These are the few priorities, the few reminders that I wanted to make. They are not simply reminders, basically, they are re-commitments. We do indeed need to work on these priorities, and indeed to give this multilateral agenda, around the United Nations, even more strength and vigour, by recommitting ourselves financially, which is what we have done in recent weeks, and also by recommitting ourselves by inventing other forms of cooperation. Between ourselves, Heads of State and Government, between our collective actions, between our civil societies as well, be it non-governmental organizations, our businesses, our investors. We must continue to innovate, again and again.

To do this, the working groups to be launched during this session will be essential. It is a willingness to act, to reinvent. The period demands it and we will be there. I thank you.