

**World Leaders Summit - Dialogue I
Global vulnerabilities - Call from a
vulnerable place**

4 October 2021

**Statement by
Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica**

UNCTAD 15 Barbados

World Leaders Summit in the Dialogue: Call from a vulnerable place

President of Costa Rica - Carlos Alvarado Quesada

First question

Thank you, Peter, and thanks to all the other panelists. It's a real pleasure to have the chance to greet Ms. Amina Mohammed, also Rebeca Greenspan and my sister Mia Mottley. There in Barbados. I congratulate her on this meeting. Also Inger Andersen and Ms. Okonjo-Iweala and I also celebrate this female leadership, and we hope you will be part of how we were going to change this world.

And greetings also to the gentlemen who are in this meeting, Dr. Tedros, my brother, also to Gaston Brown, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and all the people that are part of this dialog. I do believe we are living in a time of, obviously we call pandemic, but if you really think about it, some specialists are talking about the syndemic.

That means when two or more phenomena occur and interact in a kind of synergy, in this case, one that's not really positive. We have the pandemic interacting with the climate crisis and we have the pandemic also interacting with the high levels of debt, particularly of the developing countries.

That to your question means that we do not all have the same margin economically to react to this pandemic. And if you think about it, obviously one of the most interlinked things throughout the world is trade. Current world is very dependent on production in many parts of the world.

One thing that was preoccupying was when the pandemic started. Some of the trade prohibitions that many countries raise in order to protect goods for the health systems. But that shows not to be positive in the aggregate, in the aggregate, that comes with trouble.

Similarly with vaccine distribution, we all know that the pandemic will only end when everyone in every part of the world, most people, if not all people, are vaccinated. But that's not actually happening. Vaccines distribution has been uneven depending on the relative income of each country.

And that inequality is going to harm how we end up the pandemic, but as it is a syndemic, that's going to affect all the rest. The solution in the other epidemic, that's climate change, has to be also a conjunct, a joint solution. And we're talking here about decreasing emissions and we're talking here about getting a commitment for all countries.

But it is true that 80 percent of the emissions come from 20 percent of the countries in the world which represent the higher GDP. Which also, by the way, are the ones that have the most vaccines. In a large part, not all the emissions, but of the natural based solutions of the crisis are on the emerging developing world.

So, what we made out of all of this in this syndemic? The only true solution comes from joint action. To any of the three mentioned, to carbon and to climate crisis, only a global joint solution will help us survive. To the pandemic, only a joint solution that provides access to vaccination and treatment to all of the world, and to hide debt problems in the emerging world, only the solidarity and the support from the developed world is going to reverse that situation.

And the three former are interlinked. And we can see how that was affecting credit, and how it's affecting the world. So that will be my point on this. I know there are people that will go into much detail, but my conclusion is the only response we can give for a peaceful and for a future in this world is a joint response. Thank you very much.

Closing speech

Muchísimas gracias and thank you very much. I would like to follow on what the other panelist has said. If there is not a global commitment in action, there will be a global failure, and Dr. Tedros pointed out how we have the solutions in terms of the pandemic, but not the required action from all and the commitment to end it. As Inger mentioned, it is similar with climate change, and I do believe it is similar with the debt crisis that countries face. There are the tools, they use the money, but not yet the commitment to make that available.

So, in face of this as a humanity, in face of this syndemic, I believe the only way is a global action and global solidarity to solve this. So what's the action required? Commitment from governments, transparency to say who's delivering results and who's not?

In which field? And we should raise our voices to ask for governments and for leaders to be accountable, not only for what's the impact in their own countries, but for their impact globally. And I believe that should start leveraging change in happening.

And we'll see in Glasgow very soon if that change is going to be real as well. And so thank you very much. And congratulations both to Rebeca and to Mia for this great dialog.