

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

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**Our Reference**

**Annexes**

Date 17 April 2020  
Re Urgent request for advice on Dutch efforts to tackle the coronavirus crisis  
in developing countries

Dear Professor De Hoop Scheffer,

I am writing to request a brief report from the AIV, to be submitted as a matter of urgency, on the role the Netherlands could play in fighting COVID-19 and mitigating the impact of the crisis in developing countries.

Please find the complete request for advice in the annexe.

Yours sincerely,



Sigrid A.M. Kaag  
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

### **Request for advice from the AIV**

With reference to the debate of 16 April 2020 in the House of Representatives on developments surrounding coronavirus and to recent reports on the global impact of the crisis on developing countries, the government has undertaken to request an urgent advisory report from the AIV on how the Netherlands could contribute effectively and at the appropriate level to global efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. I hereby kindly request the AIV's advice on this matter.

The House is right to call attention to the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable countries, especially in Africa. Many of these countries already have fragile healthcare systems and lack socioeconomic resilience. Capital flight, falling raw-material prices and lockdown-induced unemployment have hit societies' most vulnerable populations hard, including displaced persons and refugees. Added to this is the impact of a looming global economic recession. Decades of socioeconomic progress in developing countries could be undone, and that would indirectly have negative repercussions for Europe and the Netherlands.

With reference to recent publications by the World Bank, the IMF and the UN on the impact of COVID-19 on developing countries, to recent appeals from Dutch society, and to the motion submitted by MP Kees van der Staaij et al. (25 295 no. 192), I ask that your advisory report address the following questions:

1. What can the international community do to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on vulnerable countries in the short and medium terms?
2. Considering the scope and impact of the crisis, what package of measures would be appropriate within the framework of the large-scale emergency measures taken at national and international level?
3. What role should the Netherlands and the European Union play in tackling this crisis and supporting socioeconomic recovery in developing countries? What financial and technical assistance is appropriate considering the scope of the crisis and its impact on vulnerable countries and groups, especially in Africa?