



## COMMUNIQUÉ

In my capacity as the President in Office of the Summit of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and (OACPS), I have released a message to re-affirm the Group's solidarity and cooperation in tackling the effects of the Corona Virus Pandemic (COVID-19).

In my message, I have called upon all Member States to embrace a collective approach in order to defeat this unprecedented health pandemic, which has potential to roll back some of the gains made by the Group, including in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

The statement calls upon the international community to provide all forms of support to countries, especially developing countries and in particular the most vulnerable, to help mitigate the effects of the Pandemic. The Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) is mostly comprised of developing countries that have common challenges, including poverty, high indebtedness, vulnerability to natural calamities, among others.

The pandemic will obviously slow down the momentum required to achieve the OACPS' plans and strategies as contained in the organization's 9th Summit declaration themed; "Nguvu ya Pamoja", as well as sustainable development goals whose overarching theme is tackling all forms of poverty everywhere.

The message recognizes the great efforts being made by leaders to address the pandemic. It also gives recognition to the frontline staff especially the health officials, who are doing everything possible to contain the spread of COVID-19 and help those affected by this disease. Given the common characteristics of COVID-19 everywhere and the need for common and concerted efforts, it is imperative that we as OACPS members, work in collaborative efforts to control and manage the disease and its effects.

In line with the above, I have proposed convening of a special virtual Summit on the theme "Transcending the COVID-19 Pandemic: Building Resilience and Rebooting Stronger Economies', During the Summit we intend to make specific pronouncements on an intended collective and collaborative approaches that will ensure that the effects of the pandemic have minimal disruptions to our economic and social activities and especially our productive sectors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uhuru Kenyatta', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**UHURU KENYATTA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**AND**  
**PRESIDENT-IN-OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT OF THE OACPS**

7<sup>th</sup> May, 2020