



REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND

Somaliland Special Envoy

Hargeisa, April 2nd, 2021

The Protection of the Academic and Intellectual Treasures In Developing Countries

Your Excellencies,

I send my greetings and best wishes to the esteemed leaders of our common world.

Although all lives are precious, what follows is an appeal to protect the professors of our universities, and the teachers in our schools, who are the intellectual backbone and the academic treasures of developing countries. I hereby solicit your support in what I sincerely hope will become a global movement.

My vision is nothing less than to rescue the vanishing intellectual treasures of the developing world and save them from this cruel global **Covid-19** pandemic.

As the case is in my country Somaliland, I know that most developing nations have far too few academically accomplished pillars of society on which rest our hopes of peace and economic development. We rely on them for the advancement of education, research, governance, health care, leadership, mentorship, peacemaking, and inspiration itself. Already, far too many have been lost to **Covid-19** during the past 12 months, and this is after our intellectuals and the custodians of our cultural heritage had already suffered because of conflict, famine, drought, war, and terrorism over the last 40 years.

Now **Cruel-Covid** threatens to snatch from us those that remain. SARS-CoV-2 virus preys on our human treasures due to their advanced age as well as through their unrelenting commitment to education and the mentorship of the next generation of scholars.

The Preamble to the noble Constitution of UNESCO declares that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and women that the defenses of peace must be constructed".

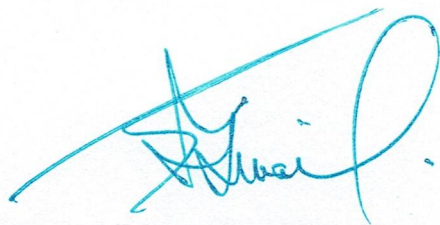
In order that a unanimous, lasting and genuine peace may be secured, the Preamble declares that the States Party to the Constitution believed "in full and equal opportunities for education for all, in the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth and in the free exchange of ideas and knowledge". The purpose of the UNESCO Constitution is: "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations".

In view of the above, I am appealing to the global community to do their best to help us safeguard those who, against all odds, have achieved academic excellence in our countries, and who embody the link between our heritage and our best hopes for the future. As an urgent priority, I implore you to organize and undertake an immediate campaign to vaccinate these men and women (and yes, we do have intellectual women !) who are the intellectual treasures and the reservoirs of knowledge in the developing world.

All it would take to protect the 5000 professors who teach in the 49 universities of Somaliland, and the other 45,000 school teachers and mentors, would be 50,000 first dose and another 50,000 for the second dose of a **Covid-19 vaccine**. This worthwhile investment would ensure the survival of our invisible inheritance—an inheritance that will contribute towards the noble aspiration of humanity which is to strive for peace, health, and prosperity.

Your Excellencies, it is my sincere hope that my non-partisan, non-political, non-tribal humanitarian appeal will receive the universal support that it deserves. Please join me in facilitating a movement to see that **all the world's intellectual treasures** get vaccinated, especially in those nations like mine where they are far too few and where our meagre resources makes them most vulnerable.

Thank you all for facilitating and contributing towards this worthwhile global cause.



Mrs. Edna Adan Ismail
Somaliland Special Envoy