

OCR 100-2020
December 14, 2020

Your Excellency:

The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica and has the honor to refer to the letters previously exchanged between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the United Nations, as well as to the working-level discussions, regarding the arrangements for the evacuation and treatment of United Nations and related personnel, including their dependents, who have contracted the COVID-19 disease and need medical treatment at suitable treatment facilities in Costa Rica.

In particular, reference is made to the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, dated 5 June 2020, informing the Secretary-General of the United Nations of Costa Rica's efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and indicating Costa Rica's willingness to support the Organization's efforts in arranging medical evacuations and securing suitable treatment facilities for patients.

The United Nations is deeply grateful to your Government for its willingness to allow the entry of such patients to Costa Rica so that they can be treated at suitable medical facilities.

To this end, the United Nations hereby proposes to enter into a formal agreement with the Government with regard to such arrangements. Accordingly, the United Nations would be grateful if the Government would kindly confirm its agreement with the following:

- (a) The Government will allow entry into Costa Rica, upon request made by the United Nations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, for persons that the United Nations deems eligible to receive medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) services under the United Nations COVID-19 MEDEVAC Framework (hereinafter "patients"), which covers UN system organizations as provided for in the indicative list contained in Annex A, as well as affiliated entities and persons eligible to receive MEDEVAC services.
- (b) The United Nations will have the responsibility for arranging for the transportation to private medical facilities and medical treatment of patients who are evacuated to Costa Rica.

**The Honorable
Mr. Rodolfo Solano Quirós
Chancellor
Republic of Costa Rica**



- (c) The Government will facilitate the effective and efficient entry into Costa Rica, departure from Costa Rica and transit through Costa Rica of aircraft crew carrying out medical evacuations of patients, and any supporting personnel as determined by the United Nations, including by the expeditious issuance of any necessary visas, entry permits and exit permits for applicable foreign nationals, free of charge.
- (d) Patients evacuated to Costa Rica will, upon arrival, present either an UN-issued travel document (UN laissez-passer or UN Certificate) or national passport, and be granted entry to Costa Rica for medical treatment, without payment of any associated taxes, fees or charges, provided that these exceptions shall be limited to the international obligations under the terms of the relevant treaties. In case of patients who are employed by contractors of the UN or UN system organizations, or by international non-governmental organizations engaged by the UN or UN system organizations in the implementation of their respective mandates, or their eligible dependents, such individuals will be accompanied by a letter issued by the appropriate official of the UN or the relevant UN system organization certifying that (i) the individual concerned has been diagnosed by a qualified medical practitioner as having contracted COVID-19 and is needing medical treatment that cannot be provided in the country where the individual is located, (ii) his/her entry to Costa Rica is sought for the purpose of receiving medical treatment for COVID-19 at a specified medical facility in Costa Rica; (iii) the UN has made the necessary arrangements for their receiving of treatment, including for their transportation from their airfield of arrival to the medical facility concerned; and (iv) the UN will monitor the patient throughout his/her stay in Costa Rica and that the UN organization and the patient's employer have agreed that the patient's stay in Costa Rica will not result in any costs whatsoever to Costa Rica or the medical facility.
- (e) For the purpose of their onward travel from Costa Rica following medical treatment, patients will need, on their departure from Costa Rica, to present a valid travel document, allowing for their entry to the country of their destination and a medical discharge document or a medical clearance document to travel.
- (f) The Government will facilitate access by patients to the private medical facilities engaged in the provision of treatment to patients.
- (g) The Government, through national civil aviation authorities, will facilitate the effective and efficient entry, departure and transit of UN aircraft and third-party air operators engaged in transportation of patients, including by the expeditious issuance of overflight, landing and other relevant permits and documentation, and such aircraft shall be exempt from overflight fees, landing fees, parking fees, airport taxes and all similar fees, taxes or charges.
- (h) The Government will continue to extend the applicable privileges and immunities to UN entities and personnel involved in the provision of support to the patients. Subject and without prejudice to the privileges and immunities referred to herein, as well as to other provisions of the present agreement, relevant customs and immigration laws and procedures will apply, as may be appropriate.



- (i) In the unfortunate event that a patient dies while in flight to Costa Rica or in Costa Rica, the Government will take the necessary steps to facilitate any related arrangements as may be necessary with respect to the remains, including with regard to their repatriation, at no cost to the Government.
- (j) The Government affirms that, while present in Costa Rica under this agreement, personnel of the United Nations will be accorded privileges and immunities under Article V of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations to which Costa Rica is a party.
- (k) The Government agrees that any disputes arising between the United Nations and Costa Rica in connection with the arrangements set out herein shall be resolved through consultations, and that nothing in or relating to this agreement or the terms stipulated herein shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs. This agreement does not establish further privileges or immunities beyond those already granted in the relevant international treaties in force on this matter.

Upon receipt of your response indicating the Government's agreement to the proposed terms, this letter and your response shall constitute an agreement between the United Nations and the Government regarding the arrangements set out herein.

The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica the assurances of its highest consideration.

Yours sincerely;



Allegra Baiocchi
UN Resident Coordinator

