



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 June 2019

Excellency,

I have the honor to refer to your letter dated 8 May 2019 on the importance of raising awareness of neurological disorders, including spinal cord injuries.

First, I want to commend you and Iceland's Government for your unwavering commitment to improve scientific research on such an important matter which affects communities globally.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations General Assembly has been giving a determined focus on pressing global health issues with the aim to accelerate the implementation of SDG 3. Last September, for instance, at the very beginning of my mandate, I had the honor to chair the Third High-Level Meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which recognized that neurological conditions are an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global non-communicable disease burden.

Next September, when world leaders gather in New York to participate in the High-level Meeting to be held during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, under the theme "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World", we will have one more extraordinary opportunity to raise global consciousness about neurological disorders and the need of investing on research aiming to cure patients.

You can count on my full commitment and support in this regard.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**M. ESPINOSA**  
María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

His Excellency  
Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland  
Reykjavík