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Ahead of Riyadh Summit, Indian G20 Sherpa Suresh Prabhu Commits to Fighting for the World’s Most Vulnerable Populations

Supports global campaign to ensure clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene, and essential pandemic protection for all by 2030

New York - As COVID-19 wreaks havoc across the globe, the world’s most vulnerable populations are suffering – three billion people lack access to basic hand-washing facilities and unprepared public health systems are overburdened. In the run-up to the G20 Summit in Riyadh, the global social movement OneShared.World hosted “[Water and Sanitation for All: The Fight Against Pandemics](#),” a virtual event shining a light on the urgent need to guarantee safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene, and essential protection from deadly pandemics — aka “WASHPOP.” The event was viewed by over 700,000 people around the world.

Addressing a global online audience of over half a million people, Suresh Prabhu – former Union Minister of India and Sherpa to the G20 and G7 – reaffirmed the leadership of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a champion of the water and sanitation agenda and committed his nation’s support to the WASHPOP initiative. G20 leaders will be meeting this weekend for the annual leaders’ summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia. Highlights from his remarks include:

- “Let me unequivocally state that we’ll support a possibility for the whole world to get access to clean drinking water.”
- “Poor people have no voice and so they can't be heard... Let's fight for water and sanitation for all on behalf of those people, for those people, and in the interest of all of us.”
- “I hope the goal [of WASHPOP for all] will not remain a goal.... I look forward to the world community playing a key role.”

- “If we aren’t one world, how can we be suffering from the same disease?”

"If the virus has taught us anything," said OneShared.World founder Jamie Metzl, "it is that we are all connected and only as safe as the most vulnerable among us. G20 Sherpa Prabhu's commitment of leadership by the Indian Government, in support of the world's poor is very much a step in the right direction. Now we need bold leadership by G20 governments to help turn this essential aspiration into reach change on the ground guaranteeing safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene, and pandemic protection to everyone on earth as the smartest possible response to COVID-19."

Additional event participants included Shah Chowdhury, Co-Founder and President of Footsteps Bangladesh and winner of the 2020 AFS Prize for Young Global Citizens, and Jack Sim, Founder of the World Toilet Organization and the World Toilet Day initiative.

The event coincided with OneShared.World’s roadmap for WASH PAP, [A Challenge to G20 Leaders: Building a Safer World for All by Ensuring Universal Access to Safe Water, Basic Sanitation and Hygiene, and Essential Pandemic Protection by 2030](#). More information about the campaign can be found [here](#). OneShared.World encourages all to sign its petition to help persuade Saudi Arabia to reflect this WASH PAP-for-all commitment in the G20 leaders’ official Summit Communiqué, due to be released on November 22.

About OneShared.World:

[OneShared.World](#) is a broad and inclusive movement of people in 115 countries on five continents working collaboratively across diverse cultures, communities, ethnicities, generations, and nations to ensure a better future for humankind and the sustainability of our common home. We are building a third pillar of the global power structure beyond sovereign states and the essential international institutions our governments have created. This third pillar is a fully inclusive, global social movement and political force representing the democratic expression of our common humanity. We seek to give our common needs as humans a voice that is relevant in all major decision-making.

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