UN secretary general praises China's coronavirus response as remarkable

Addis Ababa, February 10 (RHC)-- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has praised China's response to curb the novel coronavirus outbreak, calling it "remarkable." He also warned of stigmatization against China.

"It is clear that there is a massive effort that is made by China in order to contain the disease and avoid its propagation. I think that that effort is remarkable," Guterres told reporters on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

China's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Zhang Jun on Friday expressed his appreciation for U.N. support in China's fight against novel coronavirus. He said that under the oders of President Xi Jinping, China has managed a nationwide mobilization and deployment, quickly responding to the outbreak.

The U.N. also called for strong international cooperation and solidarity on fighting the virus, saying stigma against China due to the virus spread is inappropriate. "We need to avoid the stigmatization that can sometimes accompany a situation like this, in which all of a sudden, people who have nothing to do with it are stigmatized for any reason," he added.

As of Saturday, over a total of 37,198 cases of the virus were confirmed on the Chinese mainland, with 812 deaths across the globe, according to China's National Health Commission (NHC).

Meanwhile, the second prefab hospital, Wuhan Leishenshan Hospital, began admitting patients on Saturday. The hospital provides 1,600 beds for infected patients at the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. The construction of the hospital started on January 27th. The first of the two prefab hospitals, Wuhan Huoshenshan Hospital, completed construction on February 2nd and accommodates 1,000 beds.

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