**Ministry for Development of Economy,**

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**Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN Office**

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*With regard to providing information*

In response to the Letter of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva dated 17 August 2020 #4133/413-194/062-1118 regarding NV of The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning existing problems which states face in ensuring the effective implementation of human rights, Ministry of Economy informs of the following.

 *Regarding employment rights and social protection in the case of unemployment*

Currently, the labor market in Ukraine, as in many countries around the world, faces serious challenges caused by the spread of COVID-19, including social and economic ones.

 The spread of COVID-19 has led to a decrease of business and economic activity, curtailment of the production and inhibition of economic processes, which negatively affects the development of the economy and leads to its decline.

In such circumstances, employers are forced to either dismiss their employees or send them on unpaid leave, which will place an additional financial burden on the social protection system against unemployment.

The Ministry, the Government and the Parliament of Ukraine are taking measures to prevent the dismissal of workers and increase unemployment:

- Employers and individuals - entrepreneurs of small and medium-sized businesses, who have stopped or reduced their activities during quarantine, can receive partial unemployment benefits to cover the cost of wages to workers whose working hours have been reduced, or compensation for loss of income for individuals - entrepreneurs; 2.72 billion UAH was allocated from the State Budget to finance this assistance (resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 22.04.2020 # 306 and dated 27.04.2020 # 308);

- the opportunity of submitting applications for unemployment status and unemployment benefits remotely is provided. Also, recently it became possible for a person to register as unemployed and apply for assistance through the online portal of public services “Diya” (resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 29.03.2020 # 244 and dated 24.04.2020 # 307);

- the amount of unemployment benefits for uninsured persons for the period of quarantine and within 30 days after its completion was increased from 650 to 1000 UAH (resolution of the Board of the Fund of Compulsory State Social Insurance of Ukraine in case of unemployment dated 08.04.2020 # 217);

- for the period of quarantine, the need for a personal visit to the employment center to receive unemployment benefits was abolished (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 29.03.2020 # 244);

- an additional 4.25 billion UAH was allocated from the State Budget to finance assistance in case of unemployment (resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 27.04.2020 # 308 and dated 10.06.2020 # 472).

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