April 24, 2020

President Donald Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

During this unprecedented global crisis, it is imperative for the U.S. to demonstrate leadership by working with the global community not only to stop the spread of COVID-19, but also to help strengthen the global public health architecture to mitigate a crisis of this magnitude from happening again. Therefore, we, the undersigned organizations, urge the U.S. Administration to continue to fund the World Health Organization (WHO) to end this pandemic.

The United States cannot rid this insidious virus from the country, nor around the world, without WHO.

WHO is the only organization with the technical capacity and global mandate to support the public health response of all countries during this critical time. China first alerted WHO to the possibility of a novel type of coronavirus on December 31, 2019. WHO worked closely with U.S. public health institutions like the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as the global community, to collect, analyze, and disseminate public health information about COVID-19.

These actions equipped countries with advance warning and guided states' efforts to prepare for the spread of the virus. Just one day after receiving the alert from China, WHO alerted the CDC and by January 10, WHO issued guidance to countries on how to detect, test, and manage potential cases of the novel virus, and best practices to protect health workers delivering care on the frontlines of the response.

As the threat became more understood, WHO continued to engage with the Chinese government to ensure vital public health data from the Wuhan epicenter was conveyed to the global community at rapid pace – unlike during the 2002-2004 SARS epidemic. Through this engagement, China shared genetic sequencing of the novel virus, accelerating the development of vaccine candidates and therapeutics. While their transparency in many areas was still lacking, this paved the way for a WHO technical team to visit Wuhan in late January and again in February to study the disease, gaining knowledge that informed containment and response measures now being implemented by member states globally. The February visit also included scientists from NIH and CDC.

Led by WHO, work began immediately to design a global Research & Development Blueprint. Hundreds of researchers from dozens of countries participated; paving the way for more than 78 vaccine candidates being worked on in dozens of countries, with five in clinical trials. This pace is both essential and unprecedented and would not have been possible without rapid WHO engagement. At the same time, WHO began essential, rapid work – often done collaboratively with CDC technical experts – to design more than 50 pieces of technical guidance to help countries and communities prepare. These resources have been used by hospitals and frontline staff throughout various cities and states in the United States, as well as all over the world.

Given the lack of scientifically proven and effective treatments, by March 18, WHO launched a study called the "Solidarity Trial" to compare the effectiveness of four potential treatments for COVID-19 against one another. Over 90 countries are now participating in this trial.

During an unprecedented and hugely complex public health crisis like this, there are bound to be challenges. After WHO and the global community turn the tide against COVID-19, WHO has signaled an eagerness to assess where mistakes occurred and how best to strengthen the institution and global public health response capacities of all countries in the future.

It is without question, however, that WHO efforts have been vital to flattening the curve, slowing the virus' spread, and ultimately saving lives in the U.S. and around the world.

As the virus continues to spread into poorer countries ill equipped to combat the disease, WHO's role will become even more vital as it supports fragile health systems already struggling to provide basic health interventions to vulnerable populations. In this capacity, WHO's interventions will not only save lives but also ensure economic stability as the world recovers from this devastating disease.

With a COVID-19 vaccine still at least 12-18 months away, all countries must strengthen efforts to stop the spread of the virus, save lives, and restart the global economy. At a time of the worst public health disaster in the last 100 years, suspending funding to WHO would be like cutting the water supply to a firefighter in the middle of a fire. More than 1,000 organizations and individuals are joining to express their support. We believe it is critical to continue to support WHO's work, especially as they partner closely with leading U.S. agencies like CDC, NIH, USAID and the Department of State, to keep people safe around the world and here at home.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days Access Challenge Action Against Hunger Action on Smoking and Health Advancing Synergy Advocates for Youth Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence (ASAP) America's Voice American Academy of Pediatrics American College of Nurse-Midwives American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists American Jewish World Service AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS American Public Health Association American Society for Clinical Pathology American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Amref Health Africa Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Association of Public Health Laboratories Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health AVAC Better World Campaign **Big Cities Health Coalition** Bread for the World Breast Health Global Initiative Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids CARE USA Catholics for Choice Center for Biological Diversity Center for International Policy CEO/Disabled Children's Fund CHANGE (Center for Health and Gender Equity) Child Family Health International ChildFund International Children's HeartLink Children's Institute Christian Connections for International Health Church World Service Coalition for Adolescent Girls Coalition of communities of color (CCC) Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Consortium of Universities for Global Health **CORE** Group Dining for Women Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Endocrine Society **Engineering Ministries International** Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Faiths for Safe Water Food for the Hungry Francois- Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights Friends Committee on National Legislation Friends of Angola Friends of the Global Fight for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Friends of UNFPA **GBCHealth** General Federation of Women's Clubs Georgia Global Health Alliance **Global** Citizen

Global Health Council **Global Health Technologies Coalition Global Health Visions** Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ Global Network of Black People working in HIV Global Water 2020 GlobalPartnersUnited LLC Good Shepherd Services GreeneWorks Guttmacher Institute Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation, Inc. Health Alliance International Heartland Alliance International Helen Keller International Hesperian Health Guides HIAS HIV Medicine Association House of Blahnik, Inc. Housing Works, Inc. Humanity & Inclusion IMANI HOUSE, INC. Infectious Diseases Society of America InterAction International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke International Cancer Expert Corps International Health Section, American Public Health Association (APHA) International Women's Health Coalition International Youth Alliance for Family Planning IntraHealth International John Snow, Inc. (JSI) Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities Kaiser Permanente Last Mile Health Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility, Emory University Living Goods Management Sciences for Health Medical Teams International Medicines for Humanity Mercy Corps Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

Milwaukee Global Health Consortium MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and and Rights National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners National Birth Equity Collaborative National League for Nursing National Partnership for Women & Families NC Relief Collective Newborn Foundation Nothing But Nets NTI | bio Nurses Who Vaccinate Oxfam America PAI PAI Life Sciences. Inc. Partners in Health Partners Worldwide PATH Pathfinder International Physicians for Human Rights Physicians for Peace Plan International USA Planet Aid. Inc. Planned Parenthood Federation of America Population Connection Action Fund **Population Council Population Institute** Population Services International (PSI) Presbyterian Church USA **Project HOPE Refugees International** RESULTS **RESULTS** Oak Ridge **RESULTS-Asheville**, NC **ReSurge International SANIPLAN** Seed Global Health **SHARE** Foundation Shot@Life Sister of the Good Shepherd Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur USA

International Organizations:

Arbutus Medical, Canada AIHMS-Global, India

SNPhA – Student National Pharmaceutical Association Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America Sojourners Student National Pharmaceutical Association Sustainable Sciences Institute Sustainable Sciences Institute **Tacoma RESULTS** TB Alliance The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation The Episcopal Church The G4 Alliance The Gerontological Society of America The Grandmother Project The Hunger Project The Mauricio Aquino Foundation Corporation The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society TogetHER for Health Triangle Global Health Consortium Trust for America's Health U.S. People Living With HIV Caucus Union for Reform Judaism Unitarian Universalist Association United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries United Nations Association of the USA EngenderHealth United Nations Foundation United States People living with HIV Caucus University of Washington Department of Global Health Washington Global Health Alliance Weaving Earth West Central Initiative What to Expect Project White Ribbon Alliance Women Deliver Women in Global Health WomenStrong International World Education, Inc. World Medical Healthcare Project World Vision US

Karika Ageing and HIV/AIDS Programme, Kenya Israeli Association of Public Health, Israel Ageing Nepal, Nepal The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS, Canada International Pediatric Association, Switzerland Medical IMPACT, Mexico London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom Oxford University Clinical Research Unit-Nepal, Nepal Institute of Research and Actions in Africa, Cote d'Ivoire Grandmother Project - Change through Culture, Senegal Action for Global Health Network, United Kingdom, Policy Cures Research, Australia, International Society for Infectious Diseases, South Africa Health Poverty Action, United Kingdom International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR), Switzerland Primary Trauma Care Foundation, United Kingdom TINADA YOUTH ORGANIZATION (TiYO), Kenya Centre for Human Rights & Governance, Democratic Republic of the Congo Local Initiatives Development Agency (LIDA), Kenya Rural Infrastructure and Human Resource Development Organization (RIHRDO), Pakistan Carbone Guinee, Guinea Women Volunteers for Peace, Kenya Zero Poor Africa (ZPA), Guinea Centre for Family Health Initiative (CFHI), Nigeria Lake Region Public Benefit Organizations Network (LPN), Kenya YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF GOOD LEADERSHIP IN NIGERIA, Nigeria Youth and Environment Vision, Tanzania Emonyo Yefwe International, Kenya

MeTA Kenya CSOs Alliance for SRHR, Kenya Public Health International Consulting Center (PHICC), Cameroon Nigeria Universal Health Coverage Actions Network (NUHCAN), Nigeria Association for Promotion Sustainable Development, India ASSOCIATION D'ASSISTANCE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT (ASAD), Cameroon Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy, Uganda International Planned Parenthood Federation, United Kingdom ENHANCE CHILDREN AND WOMEN OF TANZANIA, Tanzania Advocacy Network Africa (AdNetA), Kenya Meera Foundation, India Community Initiative Action Group Kenya (CIAG-K), Kenya Golden change for concerned youth forum, Nigeria ASPAT PERU, Peru Civil Society Support and Support Network for Vaccination and strengthening of the health system in Mauritania "Vacnet-Mauritanie", Mauritania MUMBO INTERNATIONAL, Kenya The LAC Key Correspondent Team, Argentina The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada World Merit Burundi, Burundi Aidsfonds, Netherlands Imani House, Inc., Liberia Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association, Nigeria Fundacion Octaedro, Ecuador Albino Trust of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Fundacion Huesped, Argentina Human rights n Health Institute, Peru People's Health Movement Tanzania, Tanzania Strategic Poverty Alleviation Systems-SPAS, Kenya **ASPAT** International, Peru

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