1. Greetings your excellences, allow me to speak on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Moussa Faki Muhammad and to extend his greetings to WHO and the Director General of WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom.

2. Your excellences, the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic has reignited the need for global health solidarity and partnerships in order to arrive at collective and decisive solutions that will advance global public health security and safety.

3. African Heads of state and government have endorsed the joint continental strategy on COVID19 and have instructed the chairperson of the African Union Commission to establish the Anti COVID 19 response fund. African Heads of state and government also decided to establish 3 coordinating committees inclusive of ministers of health, ministers of finance and ministers of transport.

4. We must work hard to avoid our response to COVID 19 from halting progress towards ending the endemics of HIV, TB and Malaria as well as maternal, new born and child health and reversing hard won gains in mortality and infection rates.

5. The African Union Commission would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to all health workers and aligned personnel and we give condolences to the families of those who lost their lives on the frontlines combating COVID-19

6. Your excellences thank you very much for listening.