Distinguished President, Director General,

The IAEA is an important partner for countries battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have focussed on providing practical guidance and equipment for detecting the virus. We are supplying nuclear-derived diagnostic kits and accessories to 242 laboratories in some 120 countries. We produced webinars and videos for health care and laboratory professionals, including on sample collection and processing.

We have received generous contributions from Member States. The relevant technical cooperation project is now the biggest in the history of the IAEA.

Our longstanding partnerships with WHO and FAO have proved immensely valuable. We are actively participating in the COVID-19 Crisis Management Team.

At the next IAEA Board of Governors meeting in June, I will set out my ideas on how the Agency can best support Member States in responding comprehensively to future pandemics.

More generally, let me note that the IAEA is very active in the human health field, helping Member States to address challenges such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and malnutrition. Our particular focus is on radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. We greatly value our cooperation with the WHO in all these areas.

Thank you.