President, Director General Dr. Tedros, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates.

Iceland would like to thank WHO for its guidance and leadership in combating COVID-19.

The pandemic concerns us all. A Global platform like WHO is important when fighting a common threat.

In Iceland, we have followed WHO guidelines and leadership. We have been able to delay and prevent the spread of the virus, safeguard our health care system and protect our population. The Icelandic health care system has endured the pressure of the pandemic. We have managed to build a strong and resilient public health system that is both flexible and adaptive. The lessons we have learned will be useful when planning for the future.

The outbreak is causing unprecedented crisis, with increased unemployment and insecurity, affecting people all around the world. We need to monitor the impact on people’s mental health and well-being, protect our social infrastructure and ensure that no one is left behind. Attention must be made to vulnerable groups, like women and children, as well as the populations of the developing countries.

We are still in the middle of the pandemic. Continued global solidarity is essential. This includes collaboration in research and in the development of a vaccine against the virus.

We live in a community of nations where we share common goals – which we recognize as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Let’s make these goals guide us on our way forward building on the principle of leaving no one behind.