Chair, Honourable Delegates, Director-General,

The World Food Programme (WFP) should like to applaud the World Health Organization (WHO) for tirelessly working to support vulnerable communities and developing countries respond to the pandemic.

WFP is deeply concerned that this health crisis threatens to become a global humanitarian catastrophe and that a silent hunger pandemic is poised to sweep across the world. WFP analysis shows that more than a quarter of a billion people could face severe hunger and malnutrition in 2020 due to the fallout from COVID-19.

This unprecedented crisis requires extraordinary solutions and today WFP is working with WHO and other partners to establish a global hub-and-spokes system of air bridges to dispatch medical cargo, providing passenger air services and MedEvac capacity for responders. Since late January, WFP has dispatched more than 137 consignments of humanitarian and medical cargo to 94 countries to support governments and health partners.

WFP is also working to further augment cooperation with WHO via our newly signed bilateral corporate MoU and via our commitment to The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (GAP).

Thank you.