

## The World Needs WHO, Now More Than Ever

15<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

President Donald Trump's announcement that the U.S.—the largest funder of World Health Organization—has decided to suspend funding to the body in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic is unjustifiable and dangerous.

Now is not the time to reduce WHO resources or any other global health organization in the fight against the virus. This is the time for the global community to work together. Tackling COVID-19 requires strong international leadership, guided by a sense of shared responsibility and solidarity. This virus knows no borders and is having a devastating impact on communities and health systems around the world, causing numerous deaths and untold disruption.

Now more than ever, the world needs the World Health Organisation.

To echo the words of Germany's foreign minister, Heiko Maas, the World Health Organization is one of the best investments. WHO is working round the clock to analyse data, provide advice, coordinate with partners, help countries respond, increase supplies and manage expert networks. The critical work of WHO in stopping this pandemic cannot be overemphasised. WHO is coordinating scientists, physicians, funders and manufacturers to help speed up the availability of a vaccine against COVID-19.

WHO is not only fighting COVID-19 but also working to address HIV, TB, malaria, malnutrition, mental health, polio, measles, Ebola, cancer, diabetes, and many other diseases and conditions.

All attacks on WHO and its Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus are dangerous and will cost lives.

Now is time for unity. Now is time to save lives.

Rosemary Mburu  
Executive Director  
WACI Health

Ndileka Mandela  
Founder and CEO  
Thembekile Mandela Foundation

For and on behalf of:



