Mr President,

We would like to express our solidarity to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China for the losses suffered from the novel coronavirus (2019-n-CoV) outbreak. This is a severe public health challenge for China and the rest of the world, which will require coordinated action and determination in containing the spread of the virus at national, regional and global levels. We are impressed by the unprecedented efforts of relevant Chinese authorities and the resilience of the Chinese people in this regard.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Rome-based Food and Agriculture Agencies stand ready to support the Government’s efforts to alleviate the impact of the virus on the population and particularly in rural areas. Our teams in Beijing are discussing with relevant authorities, possible ways we might support China and its people.

Our immediate support could include assistance to agriculture based livelihood impact assessments, followed by recommendations on anticipatory action to safeguard the livelihoods of at-risk or affected rural communities.

Building on its global work in terms of zoonoses prevention, preparedness and outbreak response and its related partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), FAO would make its expertise available to further strengthen China’s capacity to prevent these zoonotic health emergencies, upstream of the human-animal interface under a “one health” conceptual framework.

Similarly, IFAD, building on the 40-year strategic partnership with your Government to reduce poverty and promote rural development, would continue to support China’s inclusive rural transformation as an integral part of its rural revitalization strategy.

Finally, at regional level, FAO is maintaining close contacts with laboratory networks in Asia, to support detection by providing reagents, protocol guidance and training. On confirmation of evidence of any 2019-nCoV infection in animals, FAO, in coordination with our partners, will be available to conduct rapid joint risk assessment to assess the involvement and impact of animals in the event.

His Excellency
XI Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Beijing
China
The UN Rome-based agencies stand together with the Government of the People's Republic of China and its people at this challenging time.

Accept, Mr President, the assurance of our highest consideration.

QU Dongyu  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Gilbert Houngbo  
President  
International Fund for Agricultural Development

David Beasley  
Executive Director  
World Food Programme

cc:  
His Excellency  
LI Keqiang  
Premier of the State Council  
Beijing  
China

His Excellency  
Wang Yi  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Beijing  
China

His Excellency  
Han Changfu  
Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
Beijing  
China

His Excellency  
Liu Kun  
Minister for Finance  
Ministry of Finance  
Beijing  
China