WHEREAS, On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and on 11 March 2020 the WHO described the COVID-19 situation as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the WHO confirmed that “COVID-19 is a new disease that is distinct from other SARS, MERS and influenza. Although coronavirus and influenza infections may present with similar symptoms, the virus responsible for COVID-19 is different with respect to community spread and severity”; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has issued the Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), Guidance on Implementation of Global Surveillance of COVID-19 and The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID19 for all the Member States; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has stated that carrying out early investigations are critical in an outbreak of a new virus, CDC's initial testing criteria didn’t allow early investigations of patients. Only patients with severe symptoms were allowed to test for COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, the WHO reported that it was shipping about 250,000 test kits to 159 laboratories around the world, the United States opted to develop its own test kits; and

WHEREAS, the delay in developing the testing kits, faulty test kits developed initially by CDC, shortage of testing kits, insufficient testing facilities, and inadequate testing criteria have caused a severe community outbreak in the United States, putting the whole country to unprecedented healthcare, economic and social crisis; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has directed all Member Countries to increase their level of preparedness, alert and responses to identify, manage and care for new cases of COVID-19, more widespread testing and following the WHO's guidance could alter the fatality rate and disease outbreak in the United States; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the United Nations Association of USA, San Francisco Chapter urges that the United States Government should urgently take all necessary measures outlined by the the WHO to slow further spread and to avoid the health systems becoming overwhelmed due to seriously ill patients with COVID-19;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the United Nations Association of USA, San Francisco Chapter urges the United States to assess its risks and rapidly implement the necessary measures at the appropriate scale to reduce both COVID-19 transmission and economic, public and social impacts in compliance with the WHO Protocols.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the United Nations Association of the USA, San Francisco Chapter and signed by the President, Mary Steiner, on March 21, 2020, via video conference

Mary Steiner, UNA-SF President

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