

Joint Statement

of the Special Video Conference of China and Latin American and Caribbean Countries' Foreign Ministers on COVID-19

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Latin American and Caribbean countries and China, held a Special Video Conference on 22 July 2020*, with the purpose of consolidating the international cooperation against COVID-19 and jointly confronting the challenges arising from the pandemic.

1. We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic is a common challenge to humanity, which has resulted in deleterious impacts on lives and livelihoods as well as social and economic development across the world.

2. We commend and welcome the UN General Assembly resolutions 74/270 Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the 74/274 International cooperation to ensure the global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19. We also recognize the leading role of the World Health Organization in coordinating global cooperation against COVID-19, and emphasize that global solidarity and assistance as well as multilateral cooperation are crucial to controlling and alleviating the outbreak of COVID-19.

3. We acknowledge the important role of global public health security in pursuing peace and development and the well-being of people across the world, as well as in ensuring access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable treatments and vaccines against COVID-19. We reaffirm the commitment to build a global community of health that includes China and LAC countries.

4. We attach great importance to addressing the enormous global impact of COVID-19, and agree to strengthen our cooperation to fight the epidemic and restore economic and social development. We reaffirm that eradicating poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and should be responded to with unity and solidarity.

5. Since the start of COVID-19, China and LAC countries have effectively worked together to contain COVID-19, guided by a deep friendship and spirit of cooperation in trying times. The Chinese side expresses appreciation for LAC countries' actively speaking up for China, and commends their open attitude on global cooperation against COVID-19. The LAC side acknowledges that China has acted decisively to contain COVID-19 and made positive progress, and appreciates China's cooperation and strong support.

6. We commit to further intensify efforts in order to deepen our comprehensive cooperation and partnership based on principles of equality and mutual respect, as well as our firm support to a multilateral approach and support to the resolution adopted by the 73rd World Health Assembly regarding COVID-19 and oppose discriminatory speeches or actions.

7. We call for maintaining security and stability of the global industrial and supply chains, and jointly supporting an universal, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and inclusive rules-based multilateral trading system. We agree to deepen post-pandemic cooperation between LAC countries and China, and encourage the extension of bilateral and multilateral practical cooperation to emerging areas such as public health, poverty eradication and disaster risk reduction and digital economy on the existing basis of existing international principles and agreements.

*The countries represented at the meeting were China, Mexico, Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.