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President
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Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear President Michel,

Allow me to congratulate you, on behalf of the members of the World Leadership Alliance- Club de Madrid (WLA-Club de Madrid), for the principled stance that you took at the G7 Leaders' videoconference called by the United States on 16 April.

It seems most sensible to premise efforts to help Europe's societies and economies return to a sustainable growth path post-COVID 19 on the Green Transition and Digital Transformation. Likewise, restoring global trade is essential for a robust recovery.

We applaud your call to the G7 to lead global endeavours to construct the "post-COVID-19 crisis" world, decidedly based on strengthened multilateral cooperation and engagement with international organisations.

We celebrate the solidarity you have expressed with the most vulnerable countries and communities and applaud your call on G7 partners to join you in these efforts. After the initial debt standstill, debt restructuring will surely be necessary for the most-vulnerable economies, and perhaps others, and it will be necessary for the IMF to issue additional Special Drawing Rights to meet needs that one can already foresee. The social impact of debt relief and development finance will also be increasingly important in decisions on financial support. Social sustainability and inclusion are now vital in preventing social disintegration and conflict in the most vulnerable countries, many of which are close to Europe.

Mindful of national responses to the COVID-19 health crisis and of its human and economic consequences, we reached out to the G20 leaders and the IMF and World Bank Group prior to their respective virtual meetings, encouraging them to adopt bold and decisive measures and offering our support in actions to both mitigate the immediate effects of the pandemic and address the enormous social and economic challenges that it will present to our societies. Over sixty of our members also signed the call to action on global health and economic measures set out in the letter initiated by Erik Berglöf, Gordon Brown, and Jeremy Farrar, and sent to the G20 Governments on 6 April.

We thus warmly congratulate you for your commitment to host an international online pledging event on 4 May, to enhance global preparedness and ensure funding for the development and deployment of a vaccine against COVID-19.

We look forward to learning of the scope of the pledges that you will be seeking, given the need for greater financial support for the World Health Organisation in its efforts to assist states with vulnerable health systems and for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations in

coordinating global research for an effective COVID-19 vaccine. As manufacturing and delivery of a vaccine, and extensive vaccination programmes around the world, will be essential, we shall also need to provide financial support for these activities.

Forty-three of the more than 100 WLA-Club de Madrid Members are former heads of European Union states and governments. We will be following the development of the *Conference on the Future of Europe* and stand ready to assist as you may deem appropriate and meaningful in pursuit of a truly open, inclusive, transparent and structured instrument that will shape and strengthen future EU action, regionally and globally, all the more so now, in the face of the COVID – 19 crisis and its consequences.

Yours sincerely,



Danilo Turk
President of the World Leadership Alliance – Club de Madrid
Former President of Slovenia (2007-2012)

Cc: David Maria Sassoli, President of the European Parliament