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Salutations

I congratulate my sister, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa, Ms Cristina Duarte for the very successful and substantive 2022 ADS. I also thank Valerie Guarneri, Assistant Executive Director of the WFP for co-leading with the ILO, the successful events under the sub-theme of social protection, resilience and nutrition. This High-Level Dialogue reiterates the importance of social protection systems in enhancing food security and nutrition for greater resilience in Africa.

Our strategic conversation is timely. The impact of COVID-19 on the world of work has been both devastating and far-reaching. According to the most recent ILO Monitor, hours worked declined in Africa by 4.1% from fourth quarter of 2019 to the first quarter of 2022, translating into 16 million equivalent number of full-time jobs. Thereby exacerbating poverty as well as gender, economic and social inequalities.

Recent FAO estimations show that the pandemic pushed 47 million Africans into extreme poverty, increased new po872.025 490y(i)-755TJETQ.00000887 0 595.25 842 1



This huge coverage gap is associated with a significant underinvestment in

