

Secretary Azar, Chairman Moriarty,
Director Christensen, Vice President Chen,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
good afternoon. It is such a pleasure to
have friends coming from afar, especially
at the moment when the global community
is facing the challenges of COVID-19.

Secretary Azar has been a great friend to
Taiwan. I want to thank you for your
constant support in speaking out for
Taiwan's participation in the WHO,
including your statement during this year's
WHA and your letter urging Dr. Tedros to
invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA.
On behalf of President Tsai Ing-wen and
the people of Taiwan, I am truly honored
to welcome you and your colleagues to
Taiwan.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said, the United States has always hoped that Taiwan can participate in WHA discussions, but it has been suppressed by China. In Taiwan, it is democracy that has contributed to the containment of the outbreak. It includes transparent decision-making, government efforts, citizen participation, and dedication of medical staff, distrust and verify the message from China as well. These are important forces in Taiwan's pandemic prevention.

During the time that the world is combating the pandemic. It is important to see an MOU on health cooperation between Taiwan and the United States. It enables us to fight the pandemic hand in

hand including joint drug and vaccine development and future disease prevention.

Secretary Azar, you are the highest-ranking cabinet official to visit us since 1979. You took a great step. And indeed it is a big leap in our relations marking substantial progress between Taiwan and the U.S. We treasure this historic moment.

We admire the spirit the American people have shown in combating COVID-19 under President Trump's leadership. We are delighted to share our knowledge and experience with you. Together we will defeat this virus.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in raising a toast to welcome Secretary Azar and the delegation again and wish the US and Taiwan success and long lasting friendship.

Thank you!