FORUM: World Health Organization

QUESTION OF: Ensuring the Fair Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines Across Nations

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: Sweden

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Switzerland, Iran, Argentina

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION,

*Noting with concern* the threat to human health, safety, and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which has spread all around the globe, as well as the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies, economies, global trade, and travel and the devastating impact on the livelihoods of people,

*Applauding* the competence, generosity, and personal sacrifice of health-care professionals, services, and institutions such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for stimulating efforts to ensure the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across all states,

*Reaffirming* the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and regretting the inhumanity of withholding vaccines from a country most in need of them in order to further their political agenda,

*Deeply concerned* about the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) and developing countries who tend to have lower quality healthcare and are not receiving an adequate amount of vaccines, and are therefore incapable to offer the entire public vaccine injections,

*Underscoring* that equitable access to health products is a global priority and that the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of health products of assured quality are fundamental to tackling the pandemic, which doesn’t allow citizens who are unable to have access to a hospital aid and have no way of mobility,

*Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all states have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines andvaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected states and to avoid relapses of the pandemic,

*Alarmed by* the devastating impacts the COVID-19 virus had on the world by putting approximately 2.45 million people to death, infecting nearly 112 million people worldwide, and challenging development gains of LEDCs,

*Realizing* that vaccine nationalism is no longer an option, as many nations are experiencing a drastic Gross Domestic Product (GDP) loss of 1.2 trillion dollars annually worldwide due to purchasing vaccines, and that all nations should be receiving a sufficient amount of vaccines for their population,

*Acknowledging* the turmoil caused by any sanctions in place that prevent member states from obtaining the vaccines they need,

*Convinced* that solid, effective, and long-lasting actions must be carried to establish that all nations worldwide are receiving an adequate amount of vaccines for their full population,

1. Reaffirmsthe fundamental role of the United Nations system in coordinating the global response to contain the spread of COVID-19 and in supporting member states, and in this regard acknowledges the crucial leading role played by the World Health Organization to equitably distribute vaccines;
2. Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies of the United Nations System, including COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) and international financial institutions, to identify and recommend solutions for mitigating the pandemic with approaches such as but not limited to:
   1. rapidly strengthening supply chains that promote and ensure fair, efficient and timely access to vaccines,
   2. rapidly distributing preventive tools, laboratory testing, reagents and supporting materials, essential medical supplies, new diagnostics, drugs and future COVID-19 vaccines, with a view to making them available to all those in need, in particular in developing countries,
   3. taking the necessary steps to effectively coordinate and follow up on the efforts of the United Nations system to promote and ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment needed to face COVID-19, and, in this regard, to consider establishing, within existing resources, an inter-agency task force, and to brief the General Assembly on such efforts, as appropriate;
3. Encouragesmember states to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation necessary to combat COVID-19 and to bolster coordination with means such as but not limited to:
   1. private sector, moving towards rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, antiviral medicines, personal protective equipment and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility, and affordability,
   2. collaborate to promote both private sector and government-funded research and development, including open innovation, across all relevant domains on measures necessary to contain and end the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular on vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics and share relevant information with WHO,
   3. share COVID-19 related knowledge, lessons learned, experiences, best practices, data, materials and commodities needed in the response with WHO and other countries, as appropriate,
      1. collecting data of the number of injections and comparing them to other nations’ data, and observing if the entire population is receiving ample doses of the vaccine,
      2. sharing this collected data of vaccine injections from each nation by reporting these results to the government, so that the government can publicly announce this data to all states;
4. Address, and where relevant in coordination with member states, the proliferation of disinformation and misinformation, particularly in the digital sphere, as well as the proliferation of malicious cyber-activities that undermine the public health response, and support the timely provision of clear, objective and science-based data and information to the public;
5. Requests nations to yield specific types of vaccine and medical equipment to specific nations, where it’s more effective to variants, also to nations which are encountering a variant breakout, where deaths and cases are imminent:
   1. the Oxford-AstraZeneca is more effective toward the British “B117 Kent” variant,
   2. the Johnsons & Johnson’s vaccine is more effective toward the South African “B1.351” variant,
   3. such as the thermostable vaccine, to be developed by the International Vaccine Institute and Novavax, which is resilient;
6. Supports the removal of any unfair sanctions in place that prevent member states from obtaining vaccines and other supplies they require through:
   1. sanctions placed by rival countries that directly or indirectly lead to shortages of surgical masks, hand sanitizer, and other medical supplies,
   2. the prevention of certain Member States to purchase vaccines, causing their access to vaccines to come far too late, despite willingness to pay for them;
7. Requests that the World Health Organization reevaluate the distribution of vaccines and prioritize at risk patients worldwide instead of at the national level, with special attention to the threat COVID-19 poses to those with underlying health issues, such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, down syndrome, and heart condition;
8. Requests governments and relevant parties to assist institutions such as the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX) and UNICEF who confront the issue of vaccine distribution and ensures that developing countries and LEDCs are receiving vaccines with means such as but not limited to:
   1. providing subsidies for LEDCs,
   2. requesting organizations to encourage citizens to support front line workers with various method such as but not limited to:
      1. write supportive and heartfelt letters to the front-line workers;
      2. post encouraging messages and words of appreciation for front line workers on social media platforms.