

FORUM: Human Rights Council (HRC)

QUESTION OF: Inequities Induced by COVID-19 Vaccination

MAIN-SUBMITTER: Canada

CO-SUBMITTERS: Ethiopia, Turkey, Morocco, South Africa

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Noting that low-income countries have only 5-20 percent of their population vaccinated due to the high cost of vaccinations that they cannot afford,

Acknowledging that Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC) have less opportunity to get vaccinated with fewer than 3.07% of people being able to access at least the first-dose and being able to receive only 500 million doses, while More Economically Developed Countries (MEDC) have a higher opportunity to get vaccinated with more than 82% of people attended to first-dose and being able to receive 513 million doses,

Conscious that unvaccinated people have mobility restrictions that will prohibit them from services such as traveling, going to grocery stores, and other public services,

Deeply concerned that discrimination which was brought by COVID-19 and as a result of historic abuse and mistreatment from medical systems throughout low or middle incomes countries may lead to mistrust towards health industries,

Believing that vaccine inequality will have a lasting impact on socio-economic recovery in low and lower-middle income countries and set back progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Concerned that the World Health Organization's (WHO) global target of 70 percent of the world's population being vaccinated by mid-2022 is unreachable without a more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in all countries,

Noting with approval of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for establishing and managing the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility,

Bearing in mind that more than one million of the vaccines donated by high-income countries to low and lower-middle income countries failed to meet the basic criteria for use, such as donations having to have at least 10 weeks of shelf life and come with ancillaries,

Approving the Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) creating a more efficient and equitable system that maximizes the number of lives saved and ensures that all individuals have equal access to the COVID-19 vaccine,

Believing that global collaboration for the support of the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines will lower the emergence of viral variants such as the Omicron variant,

Appreciating the National Academies of Medicine (NAM) for forming a committee specially for creating a framework for equal allocation for the COVID-19 vaccine,

Keeping in mind that vaccine inequity has the ability to create a new colonial hierarchy between nations with access and nations without access to the vaccine,

1. Strongly encourages governmental and non-government organizations (NGOs), that hold high influence in the world in any way to spread the importance of COVID-19 vaccination globally in the following ways but not limited to:

- a. establishing fundraising events at schools, universities, and workplaces,
- b. encouraging citizens to support countries that lack COVID-19 vaccines by:
 - i. promoting the problem of vaccine inequities on social media,
 - ii. opening an online donation fund for citizens who want to support the countries that lack COVID-19 vaccines financially,
 - iii. releasing documentaries showing the current conditions of such countries;
- c. suggesting all political workers from the following organizations to be vaccinated before the citizens as an example to persuade citizens to be vaccinated as well:
 - i. United Nations (UN),
 - ii. World Health Organization (WHO),
 - iii. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);
- d. requesting the healthcare staff to raise public awareness of the advantages of getting vaccinated in the following ways but not limited to:
 - i. explaining the safeness and effectiveness of the vaccine,
 - ii. informing the public of the inconveniences that will be avoided if they are vaccinated, such as restricted mobility;

2. Further recommends governments to prioritize the process of vaccine production in medical factories throughout the countries to guarantee that the percentage of citizens vaccinated are at maximum number by:

- a. producing more vaccines to fit the global need of vaccines and solve the problem shortages of vaccines,
- b. donating money to provide needed resources for hospitals such as:
 - i. hiring more employees to produce and distribute vaccines
 - ii. opening hospitals in places that lack medical services to give vaccines to people who live in these areas;

3. Encourages the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) to make and join a United Nations (UN) Temporary Commission, which will be supervised by the World Health Organization (WHO), in order to distribute COVID-19 vaccines more effectively and evenly in such ways but not limited to:

- a. adjusting the main conflict, even distribution of COVID-19 vaccine, between More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs),
- b. converting the amount of COVID-19 vaccines to a specific data set and the nations, joined in the UN temporary commission decides which country to support, where it needs more vaccines;

4. Establishes stricter regulations regarding vaccine donations such as the following but not limited to:

- a. all vaccine donations must be checked by donation collectors before being sent to ensure that all vaccines being donated meet the criteria for use,
- b. a fixed penalty for donors of vaccines that do not meet the criteria for use;

5. Advises vaccine producers to support the low to lower-middle income countries in the following ways but not limited to:

- a. donating at least 30 percent of the vaccines produced per month to the healthcare systems such as Oxfam,

b. establishing vaccine producing facilities in low to lower-middle income countries;

6. Recommends governmental and non-government organizations (NGOs), that hold high influence in the world of all kinds to spread the importance of COVID-19 vaccination globally to allow both higher classes and lower classes to understand the importance of vaccination in ways such as but not limited to:

- a. providing examples of cases where patients recovered faster than most others after being vaccinated,
- b. suggesting all political workers be vaccinated before the citizens as an example,
- c. organizations such as but not limited to:
 - i. United Nations (UN),
 - ii. World Health Organization (WHO),
 - iii. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

7. Suggests member nations to decide to the sequence of distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in order to prevent monopolization of Covid-19 from upper-income counties in the following examples but not limited to:

- a. the United Nations (UN) regulating laws that ensure that vaccine manufacturers set aside an amount of COVID-19 vaccines for low to lower-middle income countries depending on the population before releasing the leftover vaccines to the higher-income countries,
- b. requesting all nations to delay the manufacturing of the second dose of the vaccine in order to provide more of the initial dose, which will prevent a shortage of the initial dose of the vaccine and ensure that more citizens have at least been vaccinated with the initial dose of the vaccine by:
 - i. sending an email, letter, or any other kind of notice to vaccine manufacturers informing them to manufacture more of the initial COVID-19 vaccine doses than the doses subsequent to the initial dose,
 - ii. starting to manufacture the second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine nine weeks before it is presented to the public after the majority of people of all nations are vaccinated with the initial dose, which will ensure that a sufficient amount of unexpired second doses of the vaccine will be available when needed
- c. prioritizing low to lower-middle income countries before high-income countries when distributing the vaccine, as citizens from high-income countries have a higher capacity to stay safe from the virus than low to lower-middle income countries.