

Compilation of Extracts from Selected Country Statements during 73rd World Health Assembly supporting Access to Health Products on COVID-19

The compilation below was done on the basis of published statements on the WHO website (<https://apps.who.int/gb/statements/WHA73/>) and the speeches delivered orally for those delegations which have not submitted their statements. This is a non-official document for information only.

Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), reiterated full support to the WHO and called for "affordability and fair access to diagnostics, tests and vaccines", being a "priority for developing countries". It also affirmed the need for new instruments to regulate R&D for pharmaceutical products. Finally, it also noted a commitment to UHC and health-related SDGs to ensure health security and long-term capacity for local production and affordable measures.

Cameroon, on behalf of the African Group of Ambassadors in Geneva, welcomed "the various initiatives aimed at ensuring equitable access to new COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines", and that it is "produced rapidly at scale and made available for all people, in all countries, at a cost that everyone can afford", drawing on the negative experiences of the past such as HIV and Ebola. It also urged "Member states and the private sector to work together to facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how for medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other commodities, that will allow us to meet global demand". It also noted that "where possible, Member States should fully utilise the flexibilities contained in the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha Declaration to safeguard Public Health".

The Republic of Congo, on behalf of the African Region, noted the particular impact for countries with a fragile health system. It stated that "health for all should be our focus" to continue the efforts to vaccinate and attain health goals. Importantly, it affirmed that "we hope that countries can make full use of flexibilities in the context of the IP system", calling for "all Member States [to] have equitable access to medicines and medical products".

Tunisia, on behalf of the Eastern and Mediterranean Region, noted the "commitment to accelerate the development and production of treatment and vaccines and ensure equitable access to all".

Costa Rica expressed the need to "concentrate all technology, all knowledge, all possible inputs in a universal patent pool so that all countries may make use of such knowledge". It further called for a global solidarity where all actors could contribute with innovation and research, voluntarily sharing experiences and scientific conclusions against COVID-19, and announced the upcoming launch, with the WHO Director-General, of the "Solidarity for a Call of Action" initiative. Chile, Ecuador supported the Costa Rica initiative on the pooling of patents and all other information.

Zambia stressed that the country, "like many other LMICs, struggle to secure even limited consignment of commodities due to the difference in price structures by manufacturers for different regions." It also called for shortages being countered "based on the provisions of the TRIPS agreement and flexibilities of the Doha Declaration coupled with expedited regional pooled resources and procurement to ensure equitable and affordable access to new technologies". It furthermore urged the WHO Secretariat "to accelerate the emerging pipeline of rapid tests and support the development of adapted, accurate diagnostic tests that can be used widely in LMICs including promotion of local manufacturing while assuring quality".

Argentina called for a "global solidarity pact", supporting "any regional and global initiative to allow access to the results of research in treatments, vaccines and medical products". It further noted that it is mandatory that "States [should] be able to take actions that guarantee access to knowledge of these global public goods through free or sufficiently accessible licenses to all societies around the world".

Kenya joined calls for "concerted efforts aimed at ensuring universal, timely and equitable access to COVID-19 tools, as global public goods for health". It also noted that "there is urgent need for the business community, including the pharmaceutical industry to weigh the profit motive and support for the response to this pandemic".

South Africa reiterated that a COVID-19 vaccine should be "available to everyone on the basis of need and not ability to pay or where the vaccine was produced".

Algeria asked for concentration of efforts on the "universal access to products and health technologies necessary to fight against COVID-19, and their equitable distribution, as well as their availability under affordable prices, on the basis, in particular, of existing international mechanisms in international trade".

Indonesia called for "ensuring the global supply chain for essential medicine and medical equipment for all countries and assuring mechanisms for equitable, accessible and affordable COVID-19 medicine and vaccines". It also stated the country is "ready to contribute to upscaling production of a new antiviral and vaccine COVID-19 for global needs".

India noted that "global collaboration is paramount", and that "governments, industry and philanthropy must pool resources to pay for the risk, the research, manufacturing and distribution, but with the condition that the rewards should be available to everyone, regardless of where they have been developed".

The Islamic Republic of Iran voiced the "criticality of global solidarity and international cooperation for timely and equitable and affordable availability of medicines and vaccines", and called for the end of unilateral sanctions against the country.

Mexico noted the resolution to the UN General Assembly (74/274) that calls for guaranteeing, through solidarity and international cooperation, "the just, transparent, efficient and opportune global access to preventive tools, health products, vaccines and other medical equipment to face the pandemic". In the same line, it seeks to collaborate with the WHO to ensure a "fair and equal access to the treatment".

Brazil expressed its commitment to "support and participate in international initiatives such as the Solidarity trials and to ensure universal access to diagnostics and vaccines and safely return to the normal, not leaving anyone behind".

Peru highlighted the "need to consider treatments, medical technologies and a possible vaccine against COVID-19 as global public goods, which should be accessible to all".

Ghana called for "scale-up of Research and Development for medicines, therapeutics, and vaccines to address supply constraints".

Bangladesh suggested, among others, that "assistance should be rendered to low- and middle-income countries in strengthening their health systems and addressing the negative consequences" and that the "WHO should advocate for ensuring equitable and affordable access to medicines and vaccines once those are available".

Mozambique referred to the WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPOA) and called for its due implementation. It also called for greater R&D to contribute to develop drugs and vaccines for COVID 19.

Morocco highlighted that "the pandemic can only be successful if there is universal access to detection and treatment methods and under affordable prices for all".

Antigua & Barbuda, on behalf of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados, made a call, among others, for "access to financing and debt forgiveness" and "access to currently needed supplies for COVID-19 response and *equal* access to emerging rapid tests, medicines, vaccines, and technologies".

Haiti stated that it fully supports an international platform to accelerate the sharing of equitable access to vaccines, and strengthening the health systems of the most vulnerable.

Ethiopia called for "universal, timely and equitable access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable essential health technologies and products including vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and Protective Equipment". Furthermore, the country called for "the removal of all kinds of legal, policy or technical barriers that impede access".

Guayana underscored "the need to speed up the development and production of treatments and vaccines and to ensure equitable access and distribution in a timely manner as these become available".

Namibia also called for COVID-19 technologies to be treated as global public goods.

Egypt recognized the international community's "efforts to produce and provide public health technologies, medicines and vaccines, and distribute them fairly". It further called for the "removal of any obstacles that may prevent this from being achieved".

Belize noted the need to maintain effective supply chains and to maintain equitable and affordable access to products including vaccines.

The Bahamas reminded the specific conditions of small island nations, and noted that accessibility is crucial, thus supporting the draft resolution.

Côte d'Ivoire requested countries and the WHO to "ensure availability and affordability, for all countries, of medicines, diagnostics and medical equipment necessary to combat the disease".

Mongolia requested the WHO and health partners to reaffirm commitments to R&D related to finding vaccines and make them accessible for the LMICs to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) expressed "full support for the resolution, submitted at the Assembly, on enhancing international cooperation to develop, test and produce safe, effective, quality diagnostics, medicines & vaccines for COVID-19 response, and to facilitate the equitable and affordable access of people to them under the leadership of WHO".

Timor Leste pledged "to work in solidarity with the international community and are encouraged by the intense collaboration to develop effective vaccines, medicines and technologies". It further appealed "other Member States to treat these as a 'public good' and ensure their equitable distribution.

Pakistan recalled the role of the WHO as the premium health parliament, and expressed the need for growing support to combat COVID-19, "including diagnostics, therapeutics that are affordable and accessible to all", mentioning the endorsement of the country to the notion of "People's vaccines".

Croatia, on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, voiced the need for emerging technologies related to COVID-19 to be treated as global public goods, and that should be available to everybody.

Estonia, on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic States, also noted the need for broad availability of new treatments, vaccines and treatments. It called for global solidarity and to ensure equitable and fair distribution once available.

The Netherlands, on behalf of the Global Health Agenda Group, called for equitable access and also welcomed the patent pool proposal of Costa Rica and WHO.

Slovakia expressed that "once the vaccine against COVID-19 is released for the treatment use, the international community should make sure it will not be commercialized in the first place, but rather it should represent an instrument for the general good".

Austria noted that "future COVID-19 medical treatments and vaccinations [should be treated] as a global public good, accessible to all member states at a reasonable prices. WHO, in this regard, has also to play an important role to facilitate solutions regarding intellectual property rights".

Poland expressed the need for a COVID-19 vaccines to be accessible and affordable.

Malta expressed that the big issue is the production and availability of the vaccines for us all, and that there is no part of our global society that should be excluded.

Canada noted the need for a collaborative R&D for future treatment and vaccines, which should be accessible and affordable.

Italy also affirmed that the development of vaccines as a global public good and as a right of everyone, and not a privilege of a few, is critical.

Romania, Ireland also called for equitable access to vaccines and treatments for Covid-19.

Finland noted that "vaccines are common goods for health".