

Permanent Mission

of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, WTO,

and Other International Organizations

in Geneva

**Statement by**

**The Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia**

**Intersessional Seminar on Access to Medicines and Vaccines in the Contect of the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health**

8 December 2021

**Thank you Mr. Moderator,**

**We would like to thank the panelists for their insights.**

The events over the past few weeks is a stark reminder that “No one is safe until everyone is” should be more than just a catchphrase.

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered tremendous solidarity for scientific advancement in our ability to come up with a safe vaccines to safeguard individuals and communities from the virus.

This also reflect a whole of government and whole of society efforts.

Yet, inequality persists and deepens.

Unequal access of vaccines and unequal capacity of member states on health services delivery are a stark reminded for the performance of the Human Rights Council.

Further, it has also shown the great challenge to ensure equitable access to those vaccines, as well as other countermeasures such as PPE, therapeutics and diagnostic tools, for all.

The principle for equity and anti-discrimination are fundamental principles of human rights, and the Human Rights council needs to continue advocating and strengthening them.

The current situation worldwide clearly shows the opposite.

Today’s intersessional seminar provides a great opportunity for us to evaluate these principles and how it is implemented in the Human Rights Council.

Just over a year since its establishment, the COVAX Facility has delivered more than 600 million doses worldwide, against all odds.

The last 100 million of which were delievered in just over two weeks.

While COVAX is not perfect, it remains the only means for some countries to gain access to vaccines.

With less than four weeks to the end of the year, a significant number of countries risk not to meet the WHO’s target of 40% vaccination of their population by the end of the year.

We cannot let the status quo to continue. We need to ensure that the international community is better equipped to face the next pandemic.

Equitable access to vaccines and medicines should be at the core of this effort.

As the Co-chairs of the WHO Working Group on Pandemic Preparedenss rightly highlighted at the Special Sesion of the WHA last week, equity, is critically important for global health, both as a principle and as an outcome.

As such, we need to improve, support and develop ways to ensure the diversivication of essential countermeasures, including vaccines, production and its availability for all.

This is part of the global effort to help all countries realise the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

This includes by promoting technology transfer and know how, enhancing local production networks, as well strengthening national and regional resilience.

We views that the Human Rights Council should also help strengthen other International Organization that is currently working on this principles, such as the WHO who is working towards an international instrument to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response.

Mr. Moderator,

Indonesia views equity as an integral part of our collective effort in prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies.

We believe, that this will be the best form of implementation of the right to development and the right to health and our resolve and capability to build back better after the pandemic.

Indonesia stands ready to continue to collaborate with colleagues in realising this common interests.

I thank you.

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