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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on State response to pandemics

Pandemic response must include support for TRIPS waiver and C-TAP

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-seventh session
21 June – 15 July 2021

Madame President,

As the report indicates, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted inequalities and exposed the human rights implications of lack of equal access to health care and social protection, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized populations. The way in which Covid-19 vaccines have been manufactured and produced only magnifies this disparity.

According to the World Health Organization, wealthier countries – with just over half of the world's population - have received 83% of global COVID-19 vaccines supply so far, while less wealthy countries have only received 17% of supplies.¹

The People's Vaccine Alliance - a coalition of organizations including Amnesty International - has [calculated](#) that if current trends continue, it will take the world's poorest countries until 2078 to vaccinate their populations.

Madame President,

To reverse this trend, States must remove any potential barriers to boost global supply by agreeing to the proposed TRIPS Waiver at the World Trade Organization (WTO), supported by more than 100 countries – including the United States and France.

States also must work with COVAX to redistribute doses in a fair, timely and inclusive manner, rather than engaging in bilateral agreements.

States must push pharmaceutical companies - which play a crucial role in facilitating access to the right to health – to loosen their grip on intellectual property rights and share knowledge and technology to ensure more manufacturers can make Covid-19 vaccines, including by joining the WHO Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

We concur with the analysis of the impact of high levels of indebtedness on the ability of less wealthy countries to meet their human rights obligations. Comprehensive debt cancellation should be agreed for all states that need it.

Finally, we concur with the recommendations to strengthen social protection provisions. What are the key human rights principles that would need to be included should a global social protection fund be established?

Thank you.