II-II-b

“ADVANCING ACCESS TO SAFE, EQUITABLE AND INFORMATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 VACCINES IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES”

Draft resolution presented by El Salvador (the Republic of), Haiti (the Republic of ), Mexico (the Republic of ) and Nicaragua (the Republic of).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance of vaccines as the primary means for safeguarding the individual against the Covid-19 pandemic, that the non-discriminatory distribution of the vaccines is essential to global health and that inequitable vaccine distribution remains a concern for many developing nations, in which many member states are included, and with the understanding that international cooperation and attempts to create innovative solutions for the overall betterment of member states, and the international community in keeping with national, regional and international responsibilities;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the constraints of vaccine production that contributed to the scarcity of supply in low-income countries, involve both insufficient capital to acquire and structural deficiencies of countries to adequately store vaccines as required;

REAFFIRMING the World Health Organization’s definition of Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) as the desired outcome whereby all people who need health services (promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) receive them, without undue ﬁnancial hardship, and the Protocol of San Salvador under the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the spirit in of our member states;

RECOGNIZING that for effective distribution of vaccines, there must be a high level of priority for member states to improve the efficacy of the parallel healthcare system and ensure that all vaccines, health goods and services are held to a high standard of availability, accessibility, quality, and the acceptance of choice as is with the right to health and that measures taken to increase citizen uptake of vaccination must be carried out with informed consent, and that attempts to withdraw this right or unjustly impose vaccination, gain access to sensitive health information, interfere with individual privacy outside of consent of individuals is not accepted and will be actively reviewed; that citizens have the right to refrain from taking the vaccine regardless of reasoning; and the prevalence of misinformation surrounding COVID-19 vaccination. In addition to the existence of vulnerable groups who are discriminated against and systematically declinedfrom gaining access to vaccines and associated health services; and that states ought to make develop innovative approaches to factors of discrimination such as age, gender, internal and international human mobility situations, statelessness and displacement, disability, cultural affiliation, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, mental state, and context of deprivation of liberty;

REAFFIRMING the Doha Declaration of the World Trade Organization on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and public health (2001), that states must uphold the intellectual property regime and apply it best to protect public health and that intellectual property is a social product with a social function, and that though there is recognition of intellectual property, patents, and trade secrets, this must not be at the detriment of the wide population, particularly in the context of a global pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To conclude that all people must have access to affordable healthcare;
2. To ensure safe and equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics in all member states with minimal barriers are structured by requesting :

1. The distribution of vaccines and their equitable and universal physical access for all persons through the development and implementation of national vaccination plans with the assistance of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development; and the consequent refraining from discriminatory treatment through the removal of all obstacles that could lead to this practice, as well as create conditions of real equality for historically disenfranchised groups or who are at greater risk of suffering discrimination, and guaranteeing the accessibility and affordability for all people by removing income as a barrier to becoming immunized;
2. The provision of financial support and technical expertise from the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), Permanent Observer countries and international investing organizations through the Secretariat for Administration and Finance and its relevant partners to create necessary medical facilities to store Covid-19 vaccines optimally;
3. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) facilitates the elimination of all elements of corruption that would grant favour to one class over another in the administration of vaccines, and ensure that every state of vaccine distribution is transparent and accountable;
4. The promotion of, under the General Secretariat, the exchange of information on the development of vaccines and ensure that economic value and regulations do not pose obstacles to the acquisition of supplies, technologies, and vaccinations.
5. A dialogue with the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, under the guidance of the IInter-American Juridical Committee with, and patent owners of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics to waive their patents to allow manufacturing and distribution that are affordable to all member states; a dialogue with the manufacturers of COVID-19 diagnostics to encourage increased production of test kits. In doing, the result of these dialogues must advance the best possible outcome for public health and human rights, and avoid competitive approaches that would negatively impact member states that are at an economic and financial disadvantage.

3. To ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate and sufficient information on the vaccines in member states, the implementation of a comprehensive information sensitization campaign on the importance of vaccines through the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to reduce misinformation and vaccine hesitancy among member states, especially as it relates to the side-effects and efficacy of vaccines, all while taking into consideration the socio-political situation of the different constituent groups in each state, in doing so urging:

1. The Inter-American Council for Integral Development to facilitate and strengthen the implementation of COVAX8, C-TAP9, and other regional and international apparatuses that have been developed to promote equitable access to vaccines and ensure the exchange of information and technologies.

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