



142nd IPU Assembly | General Debate "*Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments.*"

Speech Ulrich Lechte on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 14:00 – 17:00

Honorable President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We can solve the Covid-19-pandemic only on a global level. However, to achieve this, we need more multilateral cooperation. We still face severe challenges even though we now have several vaccines against COVID-19 at our disposal. One of those challenges is the distribution of those existing vaccines legitimately, equitably and most important, globally.

We aimed to ensure that people in all parts of the world, regardless of their financial situation, have access to vaccines as soon as they become available. As a result, in July 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) established the COVAX initiative for a fair and equitable distribution of any licensed vaccine. Our goal was to ensure that each participating country receives a guaranteed share of doses to vaccinate the most vulnerable 20% of its population by the end of 2021. However, currently, we are far away from this goal. Therefore, in the coming months, it is crucial to accelerate this vaccination campaign by significantly strengthening the COVAX initiative.

To achieve our targets, first, we need to invigorate the financial base of the COVAX initiative. Second, we have to ramp up production, licensing and the distribution of those vaccines. Third, we must advocate that those states donate part of their COVID-19 vaccines quickly and unbureaucratically, that have ordered multiple times their required doses per capita. All three measures combined will bring us closer to an end of this global pandemic.

The light at the end of the tunnel is there, but let`s catch it all together, instead of one after another.

Thank you very much for your attention.