



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain

26-30 November 2021



Harnessing global parliamentary support for vaccine equity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 143rd IPU Assembly
(Madrid, 29 November 2021)*

The 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Welcoming the UN Security Council Resolution 2565 (2021) adopted on 26 February 2021,

Recalling that the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and social health and well-being is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Sustainable Development Goal 3, the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the majority of national constitutions and other international treaties and agreements to which the IPU Members are signatories,

Also recalling that this right is accorded to all human beings regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status,

Cognizant that, on 23 September 2019, world leaders endorsed a comprehensive political declaration on health at the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage under the theme *Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World* in which they undertook to co-operate in strengthening health systems to ensure that they are equitable, resilient and capable of meeting everyone's needs as an essential priority for international development,

Mindful that, at the 141st IPU Assembly held in Belgrade, Serbia in October 2019, the IPU adopted a landmark resolution entitled *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health* calling for parliaments to take all legal and policy measures to achieve Universal Health Coverage and address barriers to access to health for all,

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing moment of reckoning for health systems and health security around the world, as well as to our commitment in both word and deed to achieving Universal Health Coverage and addressing barriers to access to health for all in such times of crisis,

Recognizing that vaccination is part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce transmission and save lives and is among the most important tools in the fight against the pandemic, and reaffirming that extensive COVID-19 immunization is a global public good,

#IPU143

Welcoming the fact that the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative has already delivered more than 550 million vaccine doses to low and lower-middle income countries, including substantial amounts of vaccine donations from high income countries, and has secured enough vaccines to cover 43 per cent of the populations concerned,

Concerned that prolonged delays in the recognition and registration of vaccines complicate the health and developmental crisis, economic downturn and suffering occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and other regions among those most affected, and that vaccine inequality translates into social and economic inequality resulting in more fatalities and increased poverty,

Therefore the 143rd Assembly:

1. *Calls upon* the international community and the WHO to further advance joint efforts to ensure timely, equitable and universal access to safe, affordable, quality and effective vaccines, with particular regard to the needs of low and middle income countries and the most affected regions;
2. *Calls upon* countries to recognize the importance of the principle of equity, meaning that each person must be vaccinated in accordance with their level of risk and needs, and to ensure that that principle be reflected at the national and global levels with respect to access to essential vaccines;
3. *Encourages* vaccine manufacturers to provide regular, clear supply forecasts as to how they will fulfil and prioritize their contracts with COVAX and other relevant regional initiatives;
4. *Also encourages* vaccine manufacturers to enhance the production of vaccines by using flexible cooperation models such as building up fill and finish production capacities, technology partnerships and licensing activities;
5. *Calls upon* governments to harmonize all regulatory requirements to accelerate the supply of vaccines, and provide the logistics and training for implementing large-scale vaccination programmes;
6. *Implores* parliamentarians to work with their national governments to exert a global and collective influence on the WTO to eliminate all export restrictions and any other trade barriers on COVID-19 vaccines and the inputs involved in their production;
7. *Insists* on the fact that both national and international efforts to raise awareness regarding the effectiveness of vaccines, to engage communities and to reduce vaccine hesitancy are indispensable to attain a sufficient degree of immunization around the world and that considerably more efforts in this field are required.