



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations  
GENEVA**

Ref: 0594/12/21/23

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's Note Verbale dated 7 October 2021, has the honor to transmit herewith the information by the Government of Azerbaijan for the report to be prepared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 46/14 on "Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 9 November 2021

Enclosure: 2 pages

**Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Geneva**

## Input to HRC resolution 46/14

In March 2020 coronavirus was characterized as a pandemic by WHO, both developed and developing countries suffered from the situation. The pandemic revealed the weaknesses and inequality of countries, deepened the poverty and hardened the position of vulnerable groups.

Considering the danger of COVID-19 to human health, the urgency of addressing vital issues facing the global health system, WHO has declared the need for highly effective vaccines in fighting the disease worldwide.

Azerbaijan was one the first countries joined the COVAX system from the very beginning and has started the process of getting vaccines in the middle of 2020. In this regard Azerbaijan negotiated with different platforms to get the vaccines and as the result 16 million dose vaccine imported to the country in 2021.

The vaccination started on 18 January of 2021 based on "Vaccination Strategy against COVID-19 in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2021-2022". According to the statistics of October 2021, half of the population of the Republic, approximately 50%, have been vaccinated with both doses (<https://nk.gov.az/az/article/1875/>).

For making the vaccination affordable for population all over the country mobile vaccination stations, as well as stationary points operates in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan stresses the importance of acceptable, unobstructed, and equal access of all countries to medicine, vaccine, and medical equipment. And the country made voluntary financial contributions to the World Health Organization in the amount of \$10 million, provided direct financial and humanitarian assistance to more than 30 countries, to support their fight against the coronavirus, more than 150 000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine donated to 4 countries free of charge: 40.000 dose of AstraZeneca to Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina to each and 50.000 dose to Uzbekistan.

WHO has set a global target of 70 per cent of the population of all countries to be vaccinated by mid-2022, but to reach this goal a more equitable access to vaccines is needed.

Azerbaijan has been vocal in expressing its discontent against the stockpiling of vaccines by some wealthy countries and the "vaccine nationalism". At High Level Commemorative meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, it was pointed that more than 82% of COVID-19 vaccines have been taken by the rich countries and in low-income countries could get just 0,9 % of the vaccine. This statistic gives information about prevention most of countries from protecting their population from COVID-19.

From starting of immunization in the country the government of Azerbaijan supported the vaccination of migrants living in Azerbaijan. All migrants having permanent or temporary living permit could and can be vaccinated at the expense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, without any discrimination. Thus, Azerbaijan shows its good intention towards nations and points the importance of equitable access of COVID-19 vaccines in terms of humanity.

Research reveals that African continent, Middle East and South-East Asia countries need vaccine more than the others. The main reason is related to delivering services and in some countries as Vietnam, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Haiti, Myanmar, conflicts, and natural disasters impede the delivering.

As vaccines are the most critical tool to end the pandemic and to save lives Africa must not be left behind. Half of the African countries have vaccinated less than 2% of their population. WHO aims for Africa to vaccinate at least 20% of the population by the end of 2021. Within the international cooperation frame, Azerbaijan is also planning to donate 50,000 doses "AstraZeneca" to African countries via Turkic Council.

Inequitable vaccine distribution is causes more deadly variants to emerge and spread across the globe. That's why the global vaccination should be everyone's best interest. As challenges related COVID-19 pandemic are on the rise, effective measures should be taken by international communities. The role of international cooperation and partnership is getting more important and at every opportunity Azerbaijan calling the developed countries and international organizations to assist on fight to developing and least developed countries. Azerbaijan fully supports the main role of WHO on giving instructions for fighting against COVID-19.

In Azerbaijan main challenge during pandemic was establishing the mandatory health insurance system and hospitals management. Mandatory health insurance has been implemented as a pilot scheme in some regions of the country and starting from 2020 it was planned to implement it throughout the country. But the pandemic, declared in March of 2020, made difficulties for achieving this goal. Only in 2021 it was possible to cover all country with mandatory health insurance. The other challenge that has been faced, was carrying out management and supervision of medical facilities due to implementation of mandatory health insurance. All health system in the country has focused on fight against coronavirus and treatment of infected people. The lack of medical staff and limited knowledge about the novel virus also made number of difficulties. But in cooperation with international organizations has been realized different training projects for medical staff about the treatment of infected patients and accurate use of vaccines as well.

As the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Azerbaijan put forward several initiatives to consolidate global efforts against the pandemic. In May 2020 it was held the NAM Online Summit at the level of Heads of State and Government. As a practical outcome of the Summit, a database encompassing the basic humanitarian and medical needs of NAM Member States was created, and the World Health Organization uses the database as a reference point for identifying the existing needs of NAM Member States in addressing the pandemic.

It has been suggested convening a high-level meeting of the NAM Member States to exchange views and formulate the position of the Movement concerning the post-COVID-19 period by Azerbaijan. It would be rational for the NAM to advocate for the creation of a UN High-Level Panel on Global Recovery from the COVID-19. The panel could prepare suggestions on global measures for better overcoming of pandemic in the world.