



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: TESPRDD/DESIB/ESCR/KH

Subject: Call for Contributions - OHCHR comprehensive report on access to medicines, vaccines and other health products (HRC resolution 50/13)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-governmental organizations and has the honour to inform of the following:

At its fiftieth session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 50/13 on access to medicines, vaccines and other health products in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The resolution requests the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a comprehensive report, including new developments, on ensuring access to medicines, vaccines and other health products to be presented to the Human Rights Council at the fifty-ninth session in June 2025.

In this regard, OHCHR is seeking inputs on the following areas, in particular:

- (a) What recent (i.e. in the past 2 years) legal, policy, or regulatory changes did you implement to improve access to medicines, vaccines, and other health products, particularly from a human rights perspective?
- (b) Please describe any specific measures taken to ensure equitable access to these products among persons in situations of vulnerability or marginalization (e.g. women, adolescents and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, persons belonging to minorities, persons living in poverty, rural persons, persons living on the streets, migrants and refugees, among other groups)?



- (c) What measures are being implemented to ensure access to essential medicines and health products for the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially for persons in situations of vulnerability or marginalization?
- (d) How do you address the unique challenges in accessing treatments and health products for rare diseases, and what policies or innovations are in place to support equitable access for affected individuals?
- (e) What challenges or barriers have emerged or intensified in your efforts to ensure access to essential health products over the past two year, and what human rights implications do these pose?
- (f) Have there been any collaborative efforts, partnerships, or innovations that have significantly impacted access to medicines, vaccines, or health products in your region or area? Please provide details on their outcomes.
- (g) What role do innovation and technology play in improving access to diagnostic tools, medical devices, or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and what human rights considerations are involved in these advancements? Please provide concrete examples.
- (h) How are digitalization, automation and artificial intelligence (AI) influencing the development, accessibility, and affordability of assistive technologies, and what steps did you take to ensure these advancements align with human rights principles, including privacy, equity, and non-discrimination?
- (i) How is the “One Health” approach being integrated into your efforts to improve access to essential health products (e.g., medicines, vaccines, diagnostics), and what challenges have you encountered in implementing this approach across human, animal, and environmental health sectors?
- (j) What steps have you taken to strengthen pandemic preparedness and how are human rights principles incorporated into these strategies?
- (k) What recommendations or priorities would you suggest to further advance universal and equitable access to medicines, vaccines, and other health



products, taking into account both current and anticipated future requirements?

Submissions should be submitted in an accessible format (Microsoft Word). The Office would be grateful for any inputs to be submitted by 20 January 2025, addressed to the Registry of OHCHR, indicating in the subject matter 'Input to HRC resolution 50/13 – comprehensive report. Your contribution will be made public on the OHCHR website, unless otherwise requested. For any follow-up queries, kindly contact Mr. Khaled HASSINE (khaled.hassine@un.org).



P. Wagle

7 November 2024