

# **Victoria Shanghai Academy Model United Nations XI**

Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC)

Topic: Mobilizing Financial Resources for Developing Nations to fight against Covid 19

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### **Introducing ECOSOC and the topic at hand**

The Economic and Social Council is the key acting organ of the United Nations for the discussion of the most prevalent economic, environmental and social issues around the world. It's one of the many platforms of the UN for fostering cooperation amongst member states under the universal respect of fundamental human equalities. The topic to be discussed in this form for this conference will be the mobilization of financial resources to developing nations to combat the fallout of Covid-19. SARS-CoV-2 has devastated the world, destroying existing support structures, locking down swathes of communities and has caused immense economic and human loss. Although developed countries have gradually begun to cope with the disease with widespread implementations of vaccines, less developed countries have had near to nonexistent accessible healthcare support, even before Covid-19. Developing Nations have been hit hard from both the increasing spread of variants and the unavailability of vaccines and other essential healthcare supplies. With the pandemic still raging two years after it broke out, this council has found it imperative to address this issue in order to get our world back into working order, limiting the suffering caused by this pandemic and preventing issues like these from repeating in the future.

### **Key terms and bodies:**

#### COVAX

COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, also known as COVAX, is an initiative created in order to supply low to middle income countries with resources for fighting the pandemic, mainly in the form of Covid vaccines and Covid tests. The initiative is made up of 3 main groups, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Starting in February of 2021, COVAX has already distributed over 200 million covid vaccines in countries such as India, Nigeria, and Brazil, with some of the largest donors being the US, Germany, and Japan.

#### Herd Immunity

Herd immunity is the lower rate of transmission of a virus afforded to a group when enough of the population is immune to the virus. It is possible as when enough of the population can not spread the virus amongst themselves, it naturally dies out. Herd immunity is essential to assist with people who are not able to receive the vaccine such as people who are immunocompromised as it drastically lowers the chances of the virus spreading from person to person. Currently, the best way to speed up the process of achieving herd immunity is by distributing the vaccine to a wide enough population that the chance of transmission is diminished.



### Sustainability

Although the objective of this committee should first and foremost be to help developing nations fight Covid-19, the sustainability and environmental impact of the ideas implemented should be strongly considered. Not only the production of the billions of vaccines needed, but the transportation of vaccines across continents can cause a huge strain on the environment through CO2 emissions and plastic waste.

### Health and Vaccine equity

Health equity is the idea that everyone gets equal access to easily available and adequate health services. Currently, the main issue facing health equity is the poor allocation of covid vaccines. Many LEDCs are not receiving vaccines at high enough rates, while MEDCs have had the vast majority of vaccine administrations so far. The problem has much less to do with supply than allocation, as the current output of vaccines is 1.5 billion per month globally, however, the administration of vaccines in Africa is still critically low. Current attempts to mitigate the issues related to vaccine allocation, such as the creation of the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT), are currently either not well funded enough, or do not have enough international participation to work as planned.

### **Summary of financial circumstances of developing nations during the Covid-19 pandemic**

In June of 2020, the world bank estimated that the global economy will shrink by 5.2% for every year that the pandemic progresses, with the average income decreasing by 3.6% as well. This change will put millions of people below the poverty line and only exacerbate the problems facing already fragile markets in less economically developed countries or countries with emerging economies. In terms of GDP, the regions experiencing the worst hits to their economy have been in Africa (both north and sub-Saharan Africa), south-east Asia, and the middle east.

### **Potential points of discussion**

- Access to vaccines
  - The effectiveness of the COVAX initiative
    - How do we ensure that the initiative works?
  - The presence of vaccine diplomacy; establishing an agreement to not politicise vaccine donations, so donations will primarily be done through COVAX



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- Ensuring speed and execution with the campaign; it's been regarded as slow
- Berlin airlift 2.0 for MEDCs with hard to access populations (Africa and south America especially)
- Financial support to other patients who aren't suffering from Covid-19 in developing countries?
  - Should we set up UN-funded external treatment centres for Covid-19 patients, locating them to be as accessible as possible?
  - Or should we dedicate specific hospitals to centralise resources from the UN?
- Trust in vaccines; vaccine pills?
- Setting up a framework for sustainable healthcare institutions for developing countries
  - Ensuring they're able to withstand future pandemics or epidemics, particularly with concerns to their geographical location
  - Should production be decentralized in order to reduce the time needed to transport the vaccine as well as cut down on carbon emissions?