**REV1**

**50/XX. 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 Human Rights Council,

PP1. Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

PP2. Reaffirming also that the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a human right as reflected in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and, with respect to non-discrimination, in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and that the Constitution of the World Health Organization also recognizes the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition,

PP3. Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 41/10 of 11 July 2019 and all relevant previous resolutions and decisions on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health adopted by the Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions 44/2 of 16 July 2020, 46/14 of 23 March 2021, 49/25 of 1 April 2022 and 49/19 of 1 April 2022, which highlight the need of ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and of promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,

PP4. Recalling also General Assembly Resolution 74/306 of 11 September 2020, which recognizes that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations and noting with deep concern its negative impacts on the enjoyment of human rights and the exacerbation of poverty and hunger as well the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which have reversed hard-won development gains and hampered progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets,

PP5. Deeply concerned at the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic in the realization of the human right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including the marked increase of cases of several known and treatable diseases due to disruptions in treatment, vaccination and diagnosis, and thereby stressing the urgent need to reinforce actions and initiatives to tackle known health challenges and lingering health emergencies, such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, non-communicable and neglected tropical diseases, that disproportionately affect developing countries,

PP6. Extremely concerned that, worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, tuberculosis is the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading cause of death from infectious diseases after COVID-19; HIV/AIDS remains one of the world's most significant public health challenges, particularly in developing countries; tropical diseases impose a devastating human, social and economic burden on more than one billion people, predominantly in tropical and subtropical areas and among those in the most vulnerable, marginalized situations; noncommunicable diseases kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally, mostly in developing countries; and that people living with NCDs are at a higher risk of severe illness and death due to COVID-19,

PP7. Stressing that the full enjoyment of the human right to the highest standard of physical and mental health implies sustained efforts to solve current health challenges, particularly affecting those in the most vulnerable and marginalized situations, as well as better prevention, preparedness and response to future health emergencies, including pandemics,

PP8 . Recalling the Declaration on the Right to Development, which, inter alia, establishes that States should take, at the national level, all measures necessary for the realization of the right to development and should ensure, inter alia, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, such as health care services,

PP9. Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 27 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is among the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and envisaging a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity that includes equitable and universal access to health care and social protection, and where physical, mental and social well-being are assured,PP10 . Recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, including, inter alia, Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, as well as its specific and interlinked targets, such as target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, other health-related Goals and targets, as well as Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, as well as its specific and interlinked targets particularly targets 17.2 which states that developed countries should implement fully their official development assistance commitments, in addition to the guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind,

PP11. Welcoming report 47/23 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-seventh session, which highlights the central role of the State in reponding to pandemics and other health emergencies, and the socioeconomic consequences thereof, in advancing sustainable development and the realization of all human rights, particularly its recommendation to redouble efforts to meet the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national income and 0.15 and 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and least developed countries, as well as report 49/35 of the High Commissioner, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-ninth session, on the human rights implications of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the deepening inequalities within and among States,

PP12. Welcoming also the full-day intersessional seminar convened by the Human Rights Council on 8 December 2021, pursuant to resolution 41/10, which focused on good practices, key challenges and new developments in the area of access to medicines and vaccines as one of the fundamental dimensions of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the one-day High-level Thematic Debate on Galvanising Momentum for Universal Vaccination convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 February 2022,

PP13. Taking note of the report of the report of the High-level Panel on Access to Medicines, convened by the Secretary-General, which made proposals on how to address policy incoherence in public health, trade, the justifiable rights of inventors, and human rights,

PP14. Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/3 of 5 October 2016, in which the Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance, wherein Heads of State and Government and other representatives underlined that affordability and access to existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics should be a global priority and should take into account the needs of all countries,

PP15. Recalling General Assembly resolution 74/2 of 18 October 2019, in which the Assembly adopted the Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, wherein Heads of State and Government and other representatives underlined that affordability of and access to existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics should be addressed through cooperation at the national, regional and global levels,

PP16. Recalling also General Assembly resolution 73/2 of 10 October 2018, in which the Assembly adopted the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, wherein Heads of State and Government and other representatives committed to promoting increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and diagnostics and other technologies,

PP17. Recalling further General Assembly resolution 73/3 of 10 October 2018, in which the Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, wherein Heads of State and Government and other representatives committed to promoting access to affordable medicines, including generics, for scaling up access to affordable tuberculosis treatment, and noting with concern the rising number of cases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,

PP18. Reaffirming the importance of the full implementation of the Global Strategy and the Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, in World Health Assembly resolutions WHA61.21 and WHA62.16 and decision WHA71(9) of 25 May 2018, which aims to promote new thinking on innovation and access to medicines and to secure an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs-driven essential health research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries, and welcoming its extension, by Decision WHA75(XX), until 2030,

PP19. Welcoming the WHO Road Map for Access to Medicines, Vaccines and other Related Health Products 2019–2023 presented at the seventy-second session of the World Health Assembly, which recognizes that improving equitable access to health products is a multidimensional challenge that requires comprehensive national policies and strategies aligning public health needs with economic and social development objectives, and promoting collaboration with other sectors, partners and stakeholders, and looking forward to further discussions on a possible extension of the Roadmap, considering the delays and challenges faced in its implementation,

PP20. Reaffirming the importance of improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines and other health products across the whole value chain, and taking into consideration resolution WHA72.8 adopted by the World Health Assembly at its seventy-second session,

PP21. Welcoming decision WHA73(9) of the World Health Assembly at its seventy-third session to endorse the Immunization Agenda 2030 which envisions a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines to improve health and well-being,

PP22. Seriously concerned about the high prices of some health products and the inequitable access within and among Member States, as well as the financial hardships associated with high prices, which continue to impede progress towards achieving universal health coverage for all,

PP23. Also seriously concerned that the supply of health products and technologies is dependent on manufacturing facilities concentrated in few countries and that the lack of adequate infrastructure and logistics expertise to store, distribute and deliver diagnostics, medicines, vaccines and other health products, particularly in developing countries, hampers efforts to achieve diagnosis, treatment and vaccination targets for several diseases, at the right time, safely and efficiently, especially in the context of health emergencies,

PP24. Recalling the Declaration on Primary Health Care, adopted in October 2018 in Astana, which recognizes the need to address the inefficiencies and inequities that expose people to financial hardship resulting from their use of health-care services by ensuring better allocation of resources for health, adequate financing of primary health care, and to work towards the financial sustainability, efficiency and resilience of national health systems, appropriately allocating resources to primary health care based on the national context,

PP25. Noting with extreme concern that, for millions of people throughout the world, the full, equal and equitable enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health still remains a distant goal,

PP26. Concerned at the exacerbation of poverty in developing countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and at the interrelatedness between poverty and other social and economic determinants of health and the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, in particular the fact that ill health can be both a cause and a consequence of poverty,

PP27. Recognizing that universal health coverage implies that all people, everywhere, have access without discrimination to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative essential health-care services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship, with special emphasis on those in vulnerable and marginalized situations,

PP28. Recognizing the need for States, in cooperation with regional and international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, academic and research institutions and the private sector, involved at all stages of the pharmaceuticals value chain, including research and development, manufacture, distribution and supply of pharmaceutical products, to create favourable conditions at the national, regional and international levels to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

PP29 Deeply concerned about the loss of lives and livelihoods and the disruption to economies and societies by the Covid-19 pandemic, and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, and recognizing further that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need to prevent and prepare for potential disruptions of the supply chain for essential medicines and other health technologies, including through the strengthening of local production, and therefore welcoming resolution WHA74.6 adopted by the World Health Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access,

PP30. Recalling that the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and Public Health confirms that the Agreement does not and should not prevent members of the World Trade Organization from taking measures to protect public health, and that the Declaration, accordingly, while reiterating the commitment to the Agreement, affirms that it can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the rights of members of the Organization to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and further recognizes, in this connection, the right of members of the Organization to use to the full the provisions of the above-mentioned Agreement, which provide flexibility for this purpose, including the World Trade Organization Ministerial Decision WT/MIN(22)/W/15/Rev.2 on the TRIPS Agreement, of 17 June 2022,

PP31. Acknowledging the entry into force of the protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement, which adapts the rules of the global trading system to the public health needs of people in poor countries, thus contributing to the realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, particularly regarding poorer populations,

PP32. Regretting the high number of people still without access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, and underscoring that improving such access could save millions of lives every year, and noting with deep concern that, globally, two billion people have no access to the medicines they need, while recognizing that the lack of access to medicines, vaccines and other health products, as well as securing immunization as a global public good is a challenge that affects people not only in developing countries but also in developed countries, even though the disease burden is disproportionately high in developing countries,

PP33. Concerned at the lack of access to quality, safe, effective and affordable medicines for children in appropriate dosage forms, and at problems in the rational use of children’s medicines in many countries, and that, globally, children aged under 5 years still do not have secure access to medicines for the treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including rare diseases,

PP34. Concerned also that the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases constitutes a heavy burden on societies, with serious health, social and economic consequences, which represent a leading threat to human health and development, and recognizing the urgent need to improve accessibility to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and technologies to diagnose, treat and control non-communicable diseases, to strengthen viable financing options and to promote the use of affordable medicines, including generics, as well as improved access to preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services, particularly at the community level,

PP35. Recognizing the need to appropriately address challenges, gaps, market failures and opportunities regarding the research and development of health technologies, availability and affordability to treat, inter alia, rare and neglected diseases, as well as infectious diseases, and to respond to the growth of emerging challenges, such as antimicrobial resistance and pathogens with pandemic potential, among others, with a view to addressing adequately public health needs and protecting, respecting and fulfilling human rights, and taking into account the necessity to promote frameworks that meet public health needs, while adequately rewarding innovation,

PP36. Considering the report by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on cancer medicines, which, pursuant to resolution WHA70.12, examined the impact of pricing approaches, including transparency, on the availability and affordability of medicines for the prevention and treatment of cancer, and looking forward to a possible update and expansion of this study, which could shed light in raising prices of medicines in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,

PP37. Recognizing with appreciation the introduction of new pharmaceutical products made possible through investment in innovation for cancer treatment in recent years, while noting with great concern the increasing cost to health systems and patients, and emphasizing the importance of addressing barriers in access to safe, quality, effective and affordable medicines, medical products and appropriate technology for cancer prevention, detection, screening diagnosis and treatment, including surgery, and also the necessity to further analyze the therapeutic benefits of these new products,

PP38. Expressing deep concern at outbreaks of highly infectious pathogens with pandemic potential, which demonstrate the potential vulnerability of populations to them, and in this context reaffirming and underscoring the importance of research into and development of new and innovative medicines, vaccines and other health products, and of ensuring access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines,vaccines and all other health products to all, including new and innovative medicines, as well as of securing immunization as a global public good, and of building and/or strengthening health system capacities, including primary health care, for preventing, preparing for, detecting, and responding in a timely manner to outbreaks, epidemics, pandemics and other health emergencies,

PP39. Recalling the decision of States to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a new international instrument for pandemic prevention, preparadness and response, prioritizing the need for equity, while stressing that States should guide their efforts to develop such an instrument by the principle of solidarity with all people and countries, (Decision SSA2(5) adopted by the World Health Assembly at its second special session on 1 December 2021)

PP40. Reaffirming that States should undertake to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights, including the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (based on articles 2.1 and 15(b) of ICESCR),

PP41. Stressing that the universal realization of the human right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health should be guided by a strong spirit of international solidarity and in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all persons.

1. Recognizes that timely, equitable and unhindered access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines,vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, and other health products and technologies is one of the fundamental elements for the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the correspondent objectives of universal health coverage and health for all, without discrimination, with special attention to reaching those furthest behind first,

2. Stresses the responsibility of States to ensure timely, equitable and unhindered access for all, without discrimination, to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, and other health products and technologies, as well as securing immunization as a global public good,

3. Calls upon States to promote timely, equitable and unhindered access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, and other health products and technologies, for all, including through the use to the full of the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), which provide flexibility for that purpose, while recognizing that the protection of intellectual property is important for the development of new and innovative medicines and vaccines, and the concerns about its effects on prices and public health,

4. Also calls upon States to take steps to implement policies and plans to promote access to comprehensive and cost-effective prevention, treatment and care for the integrated management of non-communicable diseases, including, inter alia, increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines, vaccines and diagnostics and other health products, including through the full use of TRIPS Agreement provisions and flexibilities,

5. Reiterates the call upon States to continue to collaborate, as appropriate, on models and approaches that support the delinkage of the cost of new research and development from the prices of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics for diseases that predominantly affect developing countries, including emerging and neglected tropical diseases, so as to ensure their sustained accessibility, affordability and availability and to ensure access to treatment for all those in need,

6. In order to ensure timely, equitable and unhindered access for all persons to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, and other health products and technologies towards advancing the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (based on OP9 res. 46/14), urges States and all relevant stakeholders to:

(a) promote research and capacity-building initiatives, and to enhance international cooperation on and access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing, including through pooling initiatives, while appreciating the substantive efforts many states have already made,

(b) take all necessary measures to strengthen regional and local production, by promoting innovative modalities of global partnerships and technology transfers, on mutually agreed terms, and facilitate the trade in medicines, vaccines and other health products,

(c) share pathogens, samples, and genetic sequencing data, as well as the benefits derived thereof, (d) promote transfer of technology and know-how on mutually agreed terms,and encourage research, innovation and commitment to voluntary licensing in all agreements in which public funding has been invested in research and development,

(e) assist in efforts to build capacity through training and financial support to developing countries to produce health technologies, including the mRNA vaccine technology,

(f) explore approaches with the view to establishing a global end-to-end platform to promote equitable access and fair distribution of health products, and

(g) advance the health and care workforce investment agenda, with a special focus on the primary health care workforce and employment of women at all levels, 7. Calls upon the international community to continue to assist developing countries in promoting the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including through access to medicines, in particular essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, medical devices and other health products that are affordable, safe, effective and of quality, and through financial and technical support, training of personnel and other capacity-building measures, while recognizing that the primary responsibility for respecting, protecting and fulfilling all human rights rests with States, while recognizing also the fundamental importance of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed,

8. Recognizes the innovative funding mechanisms that contribute to the availability of vaccines and medicines in developing countries, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Gavi Alliance, UNITAID and the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and calls upon all States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the World Health Organization, and relevant intergovernmental organizations, within their respective mandates, and encourages relevant stakeholders, including companies involved in the research and development, manufacture, importing, distribution and supply of pharmaceuticals, while safeguarding public health from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflict of interest, to further collaborate to enable equitable access to quality, safe and effective medicines and vaccines that are affordable to all, including those living in poverty, children and other persons in vulnerable situations,

9. Encourages engagement among Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, philanthropic foundations and the private sector and greater policy coherence and coordinated actions through whole-of-government,whole-of-society and Health in All Policies approaches to find solutions to health challenges, such as the need for public health-driven research and development, improved existing and alternative frameworks to adequately reward innovation, pricing and affordability of health products, and leveraging innovative technologies, including digital technologies, and solutions for health,

10. Encourages States, in cooperation with other stakeholders, to redouble efforts to achieve a continuous supply of quality, safe, effective and affordable health products through research and development that meets public health needs, for the efficient application and management of intellectual property standards, to carry out evidence-based selection of health products and to seek fair and affordable pricing, to adopt good procurement and supply chain management and to promote appropriate prescribing, dispensing and rational use of health products,

11. Recognizes the importance of adequately training the health workforce, including community health workers, and of improving health literacy in order to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and strengthen equitable and universal health coverage,

12. Urges all States, United Nations agencies and programmes and relevant intergovernmental organizations, especially the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, and encourages non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders, including pharmaceutical companies, to promote innovative research and development to address health needs in developing countries, including access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines, in particular with regard to diseases disproportionately affecting developing countries, and the challenges arising from the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, while taking into account the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property of the World Health Organization,

13. Requests the Office of the High Commissioner to enhance its work, within its mandate, in the field of the human rights dimension of access to medicines and vaccines, in the context of the right of everyone to the highest standards of physical and mental health guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

14 . Invites the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, while considering the many ways towards the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to continue to focus on the human rights dimension of access to medicines and vaccines when discharging his or her duties, in accordance with the mandate,

15. Invites Member States and all stakeholders, including relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, national human rights institutions, civil society and the private sector, to promote policy coherence in the areas of human rights, public health, intellectual property and international trade and investment when considering access to medicines and vaccines,

16. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance its work, within its mandate, including with the support for dedicated capacity to continue to carry out research and provide technical assistance to member states throughout the next three years on the human rights dimension of access to medicines and vaccines in the context of the right of everyone to the highest standard of physical and mental health, including good practices, key challenges and new developments, and to provide a compendium of good practices to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-third session and an analytical study on key challenges at its fifty-sixth sessions with a view to presenting a comprehensive report, including new developments, at its fifty-ninth session,

17. Calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to continue its work and set its priorities on economic, social and cultural rights, taking into consideration relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council, with due regard to the fulfilment of the obligations of international cooperation, as essential requirements for the realization of rights.