

# Rotary Model UN 2021

## United Nations

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### General Assembly

27 March 2021

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#### Seventy-Fifth Session

#### Agenda item 75/53

Sponsor: United Kingdom

### Resolution #1

#### Coronavirus Pandemic: A Commitment to Action

*The General Assembly,*

*Emphasizing* that distribution of vaccines and other preventative and therapeutic technologies should be focused on benefiting people, limiting harm, prioritizing the disadvantaged and showing equal moral concern for all individuals,

*Underscoring* that each person's interest should count equally unless there are good reasons that justify the differential prioritization of resources,

*Understanding* that all countries have overriding interest in securing sufficient dosages of the vaccine to protect their citizens and reduce the chances of resurgence of the virus,

*Recognizing* that lower-income nations many times will be unable to afford these vaccines,

*Affirming* the need for higher-income countries to be actively engaged to provide a lifeline as the only viable way in which citizens in less developed countries will get access to COVID-19 vaccines,

*Appreciating* the desire of self-financing countries, some of which may also be negotiating bilateral deals with vaccine manufacturers, to serve as an invaluable insurance policy to protect their citizens, both directly and indirectly,

*Accentuating* that all nations need to protect their citizens by reducing the chances of resurgence by ensuring that the rest of the world gets access to doses,

*Underscoring* that irrelevant characteristics of individuals, such as race, ethnicity, creed, ability or gender, should not serve arbitrarily as the basis for the differential allocation of resources,

*Recognizing* that different approaches are needed for countries facing fragility taking into account political, economic, environmental and social instability, as well as public sector management and social inclusion,

*Highlighting* the need for countries to include displaced persons, both internally displaced and refugees, in planning for immunization services,

*Noting with dismay* that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects the poor and the most vulnerable people, with repercussions on health and development gains, in particular in low- and middle-income and developing countries,

*Expressing alarm* that the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, including hunger and malnutrition, increased violence against women, children, and frontline health workers, as well as disruptions in care of older persons and persons with disabilities,

*Deeply concerned* that the impact on families will extend far beyond the current COVID crisis,

1. *Reaffirms* the fundamental leadership role of the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and partnering organizations, in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of the coronavirus disease and address the horrific devastating economic and social consequences of the coronavirus pandemic upon the Member States and the peoples of the world <sup>1</sup>;
2. *Directs* the Secretary General to establish a task force (COVID-TF) comprised of accomplished and knowledgeable women and men in the international medical, business and financial communities, to work in close collaboration with COVAX and relevant agencies of the United Nations <sup>2</sup>, said task force to be comprised of the following: 5 representatives of the Western European and Others Group; 2 representatives of the Eastern Europe Group; 5 representatives of Asia and Pacific Group; 4 representatives from North America; 3 representatives of the South America and Caribbean Group; 3 representatives of the African Group; to address the following:
  - a) raising and administering monies and resources through a Global Fund sufficient to fund the anticipated astronomical future costs of developing, testing, manufacturing, and distributing an efficacious vaccine(s) for the Member States and peoples of the world;
  - b) providing a protocol for a fair, transparent, equitable and medically efficient distribution of efficacious vaccine(s), as they are developed, to the Member States and their peoples; given the likely limited supply of a vaccine(s) once they are developed and approved;

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<sup>1</sup> As of September 24, 2020, it is estimated that there have been 31,969,439 cases of the coronavirus globally and 978,284 deaths. See European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, An Agency of the European Union. In addition to the terrible loss of life and disruption of life for billions, Covid-19 is estimated to be causing global economic losses of over 375 billion USD each month and that poverty could rise by 420-580 million people. See UN Comprehensive Response to Covid-19, September 2020.

[https://www.un.org/other/afics/sites/www.un.org.other.afics/files/sg-pdf-20200916-un\\_comprehensive\\_response\\_to\\_covid-16\\_sep\\_2020\\_002\\_0.pdf](https://www.un.org/other/afics/sites/www.un.org.other.afics/files/sg-pdf-20200916-un_comprehensive_response_to_covid-16_sep_2020_002_0.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See global collaboration under the Covax Facility; Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (CEPI) and the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) <https://www.gavi.org/covax-facility>

- c) establishing programs, with appropriate guidelines, to address the particularized circumstances and needs of groups of the most vulnerable of the world's peoples such as women<sup>3</sup>, children,<sup>4</sup> elderly and disabled, as well as racial and ethnic minorities and refugees whose difficulties with regard to health, shelter and food had reached crisis levels pre-coronavirus only to be greatly exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic;
- d) funding global production and distribution of PPE and necessary medical equipment to treat pandemic patients.

3. *Mandates*, in furtherance of the objective of creating a Global Fund to address the pandemic and its consequences, that:

- a) each Member State shall contribute to the Global Fund 0.1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (determined as of year-end 2019) for the year 2020 and 0.15% of its GDP for the calendar year 2021;<sup>5</sup>
- b) additionally, all Member States shall dedicate and reallocate 1.0% of their respective military budgets (as calculated in 2019) to the Global Fund for two consecutive years commencing January 1, 2021;<sup>6</sup>
- c) the COVID-TF shall be authorized to enforce the required contributions above to the Global Fund, and shall also determine what sanctions, if any, should be imposed on Member States who do not so contribute to the Global Fund by no later than June 30, 2021 for the first year's contribution and June 30, 2022 for the second year's contribution, respectively, said possible sanctions to include but not be limited to reduced access to the funds and resources generated by the Global Fund, and other resources of the UN;

4. *Designates* that any rules and procedures to be promulgated by the COVID-TF shall ensure that coronavirus vaccines, when tested, manufactured and available to be distributed, are distributed in a fair, equitable and medically efficient way by and to the Member States as follows:

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<sup>3</sup> See Policy Brief: The Impact of Covid-19 on Women, United Nations, April 9, 2020 <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women> For example, by 2021, it is estimated the pandemic will push 96 million people into extreme poverty (living on 1.90 USD or less per day), 47 million of whom are women and girls increasing the total number of women and girls living in extreme poverty to 435 million. See UN Women Report 'From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of Covid-19' <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-covid-19>

<sup>4</sup> The number of children living in poverty has soared to 1.2 billion, a 15% increase since the pandemic hit. See UNICEF, Impact of COVID-19 on Multidimensional Child Poverty, September 2020, resulting in millions of children being denied a fair chance for no reason other than the country, gender or circumstances into which they were born. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/150-million-additional-children-plunged-poverty-due-covid-19-unicef-save-children>

<sup>5</sup> The world GDP for 2019 was 87.751 trillion USD and ranged from a low of 32 million USD to a high of 21.427 trillion USD among the Member States. See Macrotrends, World GDP, 1962 – 2020 <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/WLD/world/gdp-gross-domestic-product>

<sup>6</sup> The military budgets of Member States with the ten highest budgets totaled 1.43 trillion USD ranging from 43.9 billion USD to 732 billion USD in 2019. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). <https://www.sipri.org/research/armament-and-disarmament/arms-and-military-expenditure/military-expenditure>

- a) initially, as there will be a limited supply of any vaccine(s), doses of efficacious vaccines will be allocated based upon 3% (or less) of a Member State's population;
- b) continued allocations shall take into account the following factors: a Member State's number of infections and deaths per capita due to the coronavirus; a Member State's willingness and actual use of measures designed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, e.g., wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands, where possible; and whether a Member State fairly and without discrimination of any minority groups distributes the vaccine(s);
- c) within their own boundaries, Member States shall distribute doses of a vaccine in this priority: frontline COVID-19 healthcare providers in areas with high incidence of COVID-19 infections; other healthcare and essential workers of the Member State; vulnerable groups including the elderly, mothers and children; those with health risks; and then to the general population including refugees;

5. *Further instructs* the COVID-TF to establish a separate global sub-fund, with 10% of the Global Fund to be allocated to it, to be dedicated and administered primarily, but not exclusively, so as to address the particular plight of lower income countries and lower-middle income countries <sup>7</sup> and their most vulnerable populations, women, children, refugees, elderly and disabled and racial and ethnic minorities, many of whom are effectively stateless in the countries where they live, <sup>8</sup> but who nevertheless are entitled to basic human rights, as follows:

- a) shall, in coordination with UNICEF, establish protocols for and accept applications of Member States to dispense funds totaling up to 5 billion USD, with full and transparent accountability, for the purpose of:
  - (i) assisting in the safe reopening of schools across the globe;<sup>9</sup>
  - (ii) constructing new educational facilities where needed after existing schools reopen;
  - (iii) providing access to basic nutrition, health and hygiene and immunization services at each school facility by having an assigned doctor/nurse at the school;<sup>10</sup>
  - (iv) providing trained teachers at all educational facilities;
  - (v) investing in education by providing and expanding access to the internet and providing computers;
- b) with any receiving Member State pledging the use of funds as above will be without regard to gender, race or other discrimination or particular status within the Member State;<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> See UN Comprehensive Report on COVID-19 Pandemic, June, 2020, p. 23 [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un\\_comprehensive\\_response\\_to\\_covid-19\\_june\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_comprehensive_response_to_covid-19_june_2020.pdf) As of July 1, 2019 low-income economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita of 1025 USD or less; lower-middle income economies being those with a GNI per capita between 1026 USD and 3995 USD. See World Bank Atlas <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD>

<sup>8</sup> See statement by Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, dated June 30, 2020 where it was stated that the “pandemic should spur us to adopt strong transformative measures to heighten the powerful protections that human rights-based policies can provide.” <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/44th-session-human-rights-council-global-update-human-rights-and-impact-covid-19>

<sup>9</sup> Nationwide closure of schools have disrupted the learning of 1.57 billion students, 91% of schoolchildren worldwide. See UNICEF, Press Release, April 9, 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/dont-let-children-be-hidden-victims-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>10</sup> More than 300 million children in 117 countries receive meals. With schools closed, hundreds of millions of children are not receiving school meals. See Center and Global Development, March 24, 2020 [https://www.cgdev.org/section/press\\_releases?page=1](https://www.cgdev.org/section/press_releases?page=1)

<sup>11</sup> See Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues->

c) shall invest 100 million USD of this sub-fund in a further series of Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLB) <sup>12</sup> through and in coordination with the Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) <sup>13</sup> as follows:

- (i) 50 million USD for WLB-3 to provide capital and loans to micro financial and impact enterprises to lend to and provide financial and other support to women/women owned businesses in countries in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa; <sup>14</sup>
- (ii) 30 million USD for WLB-4 to provide capital and loans to micro financial and impact enterprises to lend to and provide financial and other support to women/women owned businesses in countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region; <sup>15</sup>
- (iii) 20 million USD for WLB-5 to provide capital and loans to micro financial and impact enterprises to lend to and provide financial and other support to women/women owned businesses in countries in the Middle East and North Africa regions; <sup>16</sup>

6. *Calls upon* the COVID-TF to closely monitor, audit and report the use of the monies disbursed from the Global Fund including in particular the global sub-fund to ensure that said monies are being disbursed in furtherance of their objectives as set forth above, with transparency and accountability, and shall report the progress of the use of the funds to the Secretary-General of the UN on a quarterly basis;

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<sup>12</sup> The first and second WLBs have been successful in mobilizing capital for women to establish businesses and enhance their local and underserved economies in South and Southeast Asia - see United Nations - News, February 26, 2020 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1058121> and IIX Global, January 15, 2020 <https://iixglobal.com/iix-womens-livelihood-bond-2-successfully-closes-part-of-asia-pacifics-first-ever-multi-country-listed-gender-bond-series/>

Women, because of gender inequality and discrimination in education, employment, and compensation, have long been an underutilized resource and are key to a long-term successful recovery from the pandemic throughout the world. See Remarks of UN Secretary General at Town Hall, August 31, 2020 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-08-31/secretary-generals-remarks-town-hall-young-women-civil-society-organizations-delivered>

<sup>13</sup> IIX is a woman led inclusive agency having worked with agencies of the UN and which has a successful track record of supporting women-focused bonds and providing loans to micro financial institutions and impact enterprises which, in turn, lend to and provide support to women owned businesses in the area they serve. See UN News Women, February 26, 2020

<sup>14</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the greatest share of the world's extreme poor with about 2/3 of its families below the poverty line and the highest rate of children living in extreme poverty. World Bank, Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/356-million-children-live-extreme-poverty>

<sup>15</sup> As a result of COVID-19, the total number of people living in poverty in this region is 214 million or 34% of the entire population with women and girls being disproportionately impacted - See UN Women, Latin America and the Caribbean Rapid Gender Analysis for COVID-19, May 31, 2020 [https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response?gclid=Cj0KCQjwxNT8BRD9ARIsAJ8S5xai7pHScBVntM8aj3baDzI3dDsMI\\_SjOoq894W57FU-IDID2-fsLEwaAhhVEALw\\_wcB](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response?gclid=Cj0KCQjwxNT8BRD9ARIsAJ8S5xai7pHScBVntM8aj3baDzI3dDsMI_SjOoq894W57FU-IDID2-fsLEwaAhhVEALw_wcB)

<sup>16</sup> The ranks of the poor have risen to more than 114 million overall, a quarter of the total population, with women in this region suffering the most significant consequences because of pre-existing gender disparity. UN - Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID - 19 on the Arab Region, An Opportunity to Build Back Better, July, 2020 <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/policy-brief-impact-covid-19-arab-region-opportunity-build-back-better>

7. *Strongly exhorts* all Member States, through the United Nations and its relevant agencies, to come together in every way possible to fight the common enemy of the world, the coronavirus, and in so doing see such fight as an opportunity to make the world a better place for all peoples.

8. *Resolves* to remain actively seized of the matter.