



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-seventh Session**

Agenda Item 2

Interactive dialogue on High Commissioner's report on State response to pandemics

Statement

**delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 21 June 2021

Madame President,

My delegation thanks the High Commissioner for presenting her report on state response to pandemics.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted life around the world and revealed structural inequalities and obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights.

From the outset of the pandemic, Azerbaijan has established a human-centered approach to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic to the society. The socio-economic stimulus package worth almost 2 billion USD has been released to support COVID-affected people and business. More than 20% of total population of Azerbaijan has already been vaccinated and the vaccination campaign is well underway.

Azerbaijan has always advocated for a committed global solidarity to overcome the pandemic. In its capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, Azerbaijan has initiated a number of global initiatives such as the holding of the NAM Summit in May 2020 and convening the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to COVID-19 last December.

Azerbaijan made voluntary financial contributions to the World Health Organization in the amount of 10 million USD and provided humanitarian and financial assistance to more than 30 countries to cope with the detrimental consequences of the pandemic.

We also reiterate Azerbaijan's serious concern over the persisting vaccine nationalism and deepening inequality in access to vaccines between developing and developed countries. More than 82% of the world's vaccine doses have been administered in the developed countries so far while only 0.3% have gone to the low-income countries.

To address this challenge, Azerbaijan on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement initiated a resolution on ensuring equitable, universal access for all countries to vaccines in the Human Rights Council which was unanimously adopted this March. We strongly encourage the international community to support developing, particular least developed countries to this end. This is not only a global responsibility, but also a moral responsibility for the vaccines to be shared in order to leave no one behind and the protect the most vulnerable.

As for the non-sense statement made by Armenia this morning, we consider it as another outburst of hysteria on the part of Armenian side to their crushing defeat in the military hostilities last year which resulted in effective restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized territories.

I thank you.

