



**Equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines: The human rights case for vaccine
multilateralism**

**Statement
delivered by Ms. Narmin Huseynova,
Third Secretary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva**

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Thank you, Chairperson, for this important convening.

Azerbaijan is deeply concerned that exacerbated health inequalities remain the only barriers to ending the pandemic. Both in its national capacity and as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, Azerbaijan has advocated for unity, solidarity, political will, multilateralism and action-based advances.

As you might know, Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and together with Ecuador initiated a Human Rights Council resolution at the 46th session on *Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access to vaccines*. It was adopted by consensus and cosponsored by more than 130 countries.

In the resolution, these states call all relevant stakeholders to pool their capacity and resources to eliminate vaccine inequality. States are to remove undue stockpiling and restrictive export regulations and facilitate the market transparency, trade, acquisition, access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The scientific community is to engage in exchanges of knowledge and best practices and it is imperative that businesses and pharmaceutical companies uphold fair practices and delink the cost of research and development from the prices of medicines and vaccines. All together, we must ensure that lack of infrastructure does not translate to lack of vaccine delivery.

The resolution has as well requested that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights prepare a report about the status of global access to vaccines, to be presented to the HRC next year.

Distinguished delegates,

If we continue to tolerate vaccine inequality, the High Commissioner's upcoming report will be yet another grim account of our collective failure at safeguarding and advancing human rights.

We must reverse course from vaccine nationalism and once again turn to cooperation. In that regard, Azerbaijan is a willing partner, ready to engage closely in the international community, to share our lessons and experiences and to facilitate further dialogue and discussion.

I thank you.