Draft Resolution

Agenda item 123, “Strengthening of the United Nations System”

“International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”

The General Assembly,

PP1 Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020 and 74/2 of 10 October 2019;

PP2 Noting with concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that has spread all around the globe as well as the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of the pandemic, including severe disruption to societies, economies, global trade and travel, and the devastating impact on the livelihoods of people;

PP3 Recognizing the competence, generosity and personal sacrifice of health professionals and services in the exercise of their duties to contain the spread of the pandemic;

PP4 Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

PP5 Recognizing that the poor and most vulnerable people are the most affected and that the impact of the pandemic will have repercussions on development gains, hampering progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 3.8;

PP6 Underscoring that equitable access to health products is a global priority and that the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of health products of assured quality are fundamental to tackling the pandemic;

PP7 Recognizing the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism to help ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to, and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all States affected and to avoid relapses of the pandemic;

PP8 Recognizing also that the COVID-19 global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation;

OP1 Reaffirms the fundamental role of the United Nations system in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and supporting Member States, and in this regard, acknowledges the crucial leading role played by the World Health Organization (WHO);

OP2 Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies of the United Nations System, including international financial institutions, to identify and recommend options, including approaches to rapidly scaling manufacturing and strengthening supply chains, that
promote and ensure fair, transparent, equitable, efficient and timely access to and distribution of preventive tools, laboratory testing, reagents and supporting materials, essential medical supplies, new diagnostics, drugs and future COVID-19 vaccines, with a view to making them available to all those in need, in particular in developing countries;

**OP3 Encourages** Member States to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation necessary to combat COVID-19 and to bolster coordination, including with the private sector, towards rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, antiviral medicines, personal protective equipment and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility, and affordability;

**OP4 Calls upon** Member States and other relevant stakeholders to immediately take steps to prevent, within their respective legal frameworks, speculation and undue stockpiling that may hinder access to safe, effective and affordable essential medicines, vaccines, personal protective equipment and medical equipment as may be required to effectively address COVID-19;

**OP5 Requests** the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, to take the necessary steps to effectively coordinate and follow up on the efforts of the United Nations system to promote and ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment needed to face COVID-19, and, in this regard, to consider establishing, within existing resources, an Inter-Agency Task Force, and to brief the General Assembly on such efforts, as appropriate;