



Kampala-Declaration on COVID-19 Vaccine Equity

World Health Summit Regional Meeting
M8 Alliance

Kampala, Uganda, June 2021

No one is safe until all are safe!

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented public health, social, economic and security challenges, threatening the lives and livelihoods of billions of people. It has intensified inequalities worldwide, particularly regarding vaccine production and distribution. COVID-19 threatens the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of many health programmes worldwide.

Vaccine injustice is an existential challenge for global health today. It divides the world between those that have access to vaccines and those who do not.

In Kampala, Uganda, the World Health Summit 8th Regional Meeting under the auspices of the M8 Alliance, a global network of pioneer academic institutions from all six continents, convened leading actors in politics and experts from Africa and the World to fight for Vaccine Equity. We urge political leaders, international agencies and organizations, the civil society and industry, to strive for more equity in vaccine production and distribution.

Despite efforts to increase delivery and access to COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX mechanism, now focussed particularly on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), significant disparities are obvious. High-income countries, representing about 20 percent of the global adult population, hold over half of the doses globally available (almost five billion), enough to vaccinate twice their populations. In contrast, the LMICs are left behind, not allowing them to adequately protect their inhabitants – in many cases not even those groups that have especially high risk.

This runs counter to all recent political statements that position vaccines as a global public good and puts the life of many as well as the economy and security of the world seriously at stake. It also increases the risk for the development of more aggressive virus mutations and yet another pandemic wave. **There is no time to lose.** Fast and effective measures are needed to tackle the present situation and to increase preparedness for the future.

Fair and equitable access to vaccines is the key to ending the pandemic, restoring normal life and economy, and to preventing the unacceptable health gap to widen further.

At the historical World Health Regional Summit Meeting 2021 in the Pearl of Africa, Uganda, the signatories of the **Kampala-Declaration on COVID-19 Vaccine Equity** strongly advocate strategic partnership and effective cooperation at the regional, national, and global level for distributed production and access to vaccines according to medical need, with a focus on LMICs.

This crisis must remind us to foster the spirit of collaboration, solidarity and cooperation, instead of practicing vaccine egoism and nationalism. We need to transform Universal Health Coverage to also include universal health preparedness, prevention, and universal health solidarity.



We are all in this together

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