



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

1 April 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to invite your Government to participate in the ECOSOC Special Ministerial Meeting on “*A Vaccine for All*”. The meeting, which was originally scheduled on 4 March, will now take place on 16 April 2021 from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 (NY time) through a virtual platform.

Immense progress has been made with the launch of the first vaccines against COVID-19. The race to develop and deploy safe and effective vaccines everywhere is a top priority for the international community, especially with new highly contagious COVID-19 strains. But inequality in access to the vaccine is threatening to deepen further the divide between the poor and the rich countries.

The complexity and the urgency of issues around vaccine equity require cooperation at the global level. The Economic and Social Council, through this Special Ministerial Meeting, aims to address and complement the ongoing efforts to mobilize a coordinated and coherent global response to the pandemic and its adverse socio-economic impacts on people.

The Economic and Social Council will bring together Member States, UN system and other international and regional entities, the private sector, scientists and civil society representatives. The Council will address the issues of vaccine equity, including production, financing, access, infrastructure and country-preparedness, supply and distribution.

It is anticipated that a limited number of statements at a ministerial or higher level may be delivered during the dialogues of the meeting, including pre-recorded statements. Given the limited time available, a time limit of three minutes will be observed. The list of expressions of interest to intervene in the dialogue, which was opened in February for the meeting originally scheduled on 4 March, will reopen through the e-speakers module in the e-deleGATE portal at 10 a.m. on Monday, 5 April. Delegations that already inscribed do not need to reinscribe. The Secretariat will provide further details in an announcement on ECOSOC Place.

Attached is the concept note for the meeting. A detailed programme will be shared in the coming days. The outcome of this ministerial-level Special Meeting will be a Presidential Statement. Further information on the meeting will be available in the Journal of the United Nations (<https://journal.un.org>) as well as the ECOSOC meeting webpage at <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2021/vaccine-all>.

I look forward to your Government’s engagement in the meeting at ministerial level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Munir Akram
President of ECOSOC

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations New York