

49th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Oral Statement: Covid19 Panel Discussion
07 March 2022
Speaker: Rev Dr Sivin Kit



Mr President

The Lutheran World Federation thanks madam high commissioner for her comprehensive report on “the Human rights implications of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines and the deepening inequalities between States.”¹

This report affirms many of our experiences in the communities and countries where our member churches and country programs are working.

We would like to once again remind member states that Covid 19 continues to be a pandemic and a crisis in many countries where vaccines are still not available to the majority of people. The lack of equitable access to vaccines is one of the main reasons why Covid-19 is still a crisis and a global pandemic. As has been said over and over again, until all are safe, no one is safe.

We reiterate that without equitable and universal access of Covid-19 vaccines, the impact of the pandemic on human rights will not only continue, but might worsen. Unless urgently addressed, vaccine inequity will continue to have significant negative impact on girls’ right to education, protection of refugees and displaced persons, gender-based violence, poverty and a range of other economic, social and cultural rights than it is now.

Moreover, prevalence of vaccine inequity also hinders economic recovery from the pandemic and our collective efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As such we call on the member states, the human rights council and the international community to take every necessary step to ensure an equitable and universal access to Covid-19 vaccines.

Thank you

¹ The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, human rights, ecological justice, humanitarian assistance, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.