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The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights and with reference to the joint communication [OL CHN 11/ 2021] dated 14 October 2021, has the honour to transmit herewith the reply by the Chinese Government.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 20 December 2021



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

[Translated from Chinese]

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the letter dated 14 October 2021 addressed jointly by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the right to development; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (ref. OL CHN 11/2021). The Chinese Government wishes to make the following reply:

A. Combating the epidemic in China, and anti-epidemic cooperation

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic is the most serious infectious disease pandemic that has occurred worldwide in a century; it is also the major public health emergency with the fastest rate of spread, the widest range of infection and the greatest difficulty in prevention and control that China has encountered since New China was established. The Chinese Government, insisting on putting people first and life first, quickly launched a people's war, a general war and a war of interdiction aimed at preventing and controlling the epidemic. It took more than one month to initially contain the momentum of the spread of the epidemic, about two months to bring the daily number of new domestic cases down to single digits, and about three months to achieve decisive results in the defence of Wuhan and Hubei. Once prevention and control had become normalized, major strategic triumphs in combating the epidemic nationwide were achieved in the dozens of subsequent successive battles to wipe out local epidemic clusters associated with illness that had come in from abroad.

China has played an important role in and made important contributions to the global fight against the epidemic, and has led cooperation in combating it, promoting the building of a community of human and hygiene health through practical actions. After the outbreak of the epidemic, China took the initiative of alerting the World Health Organization (WHO) to it, along the countries and regional organizations concerned, and shared information on the entire genome sequence of the novel coronavirus as well as the nucleic-acid testing primer-probe sequence for it, and is keeping WHO and relevant countries regularly informed. International expert groups from WHO have made numerous visits to China to carry out research on virus tracing and epidemic prevention and control. We have also shared outbreak prevention and control programmes and practices through the World Health Assembly and its Executive Board, and meetings of the Group of 20, the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and other governing mechanisms.

China has held ministerial health dialogues with Russia, the United States, Indonesia, Germany, France, Singapore, Egypt and the European Union; has held expert seminars with the United States, Israel, Australia, the African Union and the Arab League; and has held more than 100 exchange meetings online with more than 180 countries and 10 international and regional organizations. It shares its experience, technology, practices and strategies for COVID-19 prevention and control, treatment and vaccination with the world on an ongoing basis through an online knowledge centre and an international cooperation expert pool,

China has done everything it can to provide assistance to other countries. It has furnished anti-epidemic assistance to more than 150 countries and 13 international organizations, and exported epidemic prevention materials to more than 200 countries and regions, including about 350 billion masks, more than 4 billion items of protective clothing and more than 6 billion personal testing kits. It has established 45 counterpart cooperation mechanisms with hospitals in 40 African countries; sent 37 medical expert teams to 34 countries; directed Chinese medical teams permanently stationed abroad to assist their host countries in epidemic prevention and control, and provided technical advice, health education and technical training to local people and Chinese nationals overseas.

B. Testing reagents, vaccine development and vaccination

Within two weeks of the outbreak, China took the lead in emergency development and approval of various diagnostic technologies such as reagents for COVID-19 nucleic-acid detection and antibody detection, thereby meeting the urgent need for testing and screening at different levels of the epidemic and its prevention and control, providing strong scientific and technological support to win the overall battle against and interdiction of the epidemic, enhancing public confidence, reducing social panic and stabilizing economic and social development. Its contribution to the global fight against the epidemic includes the emergency approval obtained for more than 20 COVID-19 nucleic-acid detection reagents and more than 20 antibody detection reagents, along with the continued enrichment of assay product categories to meet the needs of medical institutions and other

scenarios where testing personnel are concentrated and time requirements are not high, as well as those for a small number of rapid tests.

As of October 2021, China had granted emergency approval for clinical trials of 24 varieties of COVID-19 vaccines in five technical lines, approved four COVID-19 vaccines for marketing with conditions in accordance with the law, and organized and approved the emergency use of three COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with the proposal by health authorities under the State Council for emergency use of vaccines in accordance with the law. It is also carrying out cooperation in the review and approval, supervision and inspection, laboratory testing, batch issuance management and post-immunization adverse event monitoring around Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with a formal agreement between the National Medical Products Administration and the World Health Organization on cooperation with regard to procedures for vaccine prequalification and emergency-use assessment.

China attaches great importance to vaccination against COVID-19 and has been promoting it in a steady and orderly manner in accordance with the principles that recipients be informed about, consent to and freely accept vaccination. Policies related to vaccination have been issued in a timely manner, along with a series of technical plans with regard to vaccination preparation, setting up new vaccination units, establishing and organizing temporary vaccination sites, registration and reporting of vaccine information, distribution and storage, monitoring and handling of suspected abnormal vaccination reactions, training, and medical treatment. Communication and information, mapping and statistics, and publicity and education are being handled positively in all regions, and the public is actively supporting and taking the initiative to get vaccinated. Vaccination work is now progressing smoothly, and a total of 2,661,838,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were reported to have been administered nationwide as of 17 December 2021.

C. Position on global vaccine equitable distribution and property right exemption

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has taken the lead in proposing that vaccines should be a global public good, and has always insisted on fair access to vaccines, publishing a list of vaccine products available for export that includes four vaccine products manufactured by Chinese companies. In October 2021, China proposed a global action initiative on vaccine cooperation, calling once again for joint efforts to promote the fair distribution of vaccines globally, and has continuously promoted international cooperation on COVID-19 vaccines. China is actively implementing President Xi Jinping's solemn commitment to make Chinese vaccines a global public good, guiding COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers to do everything possible to expand the supplies they send overseas, strongly supporting the equitable global distribution of vaccines and mass vaccination, and working to achieve vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

Speaking at the Global Health Summit on 21 May 2021, President Xi said that China had announced its support for a waiver of COVID-19 vaccine intellectual property rights and for an early decision by the WTO on this matter. On 4 November, in his keynote speech at the opening of the Fourth China International Import Expo, President Xi announced that he would actively promote international cooperation to combat the epidemic and support a waiver of intellectual property rights on vaccines for developing countries. China will do its utmost to promote substantive progress in the WTO consultations on epidemic response, harvest results at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference and continue to contribute its strength to the global response to the epidemic.

D. Participation in global vaccine cooperation

China has been at the forefront since the outbreak of COVID-19, being the first to launch an emergency humanitarian operation, the largest since the founding of New China. China has always approached global cooperation in vaccine supply with a positive attitude. On 8 October 2020, it signed an agreement with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to join the COVAX COVID-19 vaccine implementation programme, an important step in the commitment on the part of China to promote vaccines as a global public good, in line with the concept of a human hygiene and health community. China has also joined the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) global cooperation initiative to accelerate development, production and equitable access to new tools for COVID-19 prevention and control. On 7 May and 1 June 2021, WHO Director-General Tedros announced that the COVID-19 vaccine researched and developed by the Beijing Institute of Biological Products under the China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) and the COVID-19 vaccine researched and developed by the Beijing Sinovac Biotech Company would be included on the list of vaccines authorized for emergency use. This will expand the range of vaccines available for purchase under the COVAX vaccine implementation programme and give countries the confidence to speed up their approval processes in order to facilitate importing and administering the vaccines.

As of late November 2021, China had provided in excess of 1.8 billion doses of vaccines and stock solution to more than 110 countries and the COVAX vaccine implementation programme. This year, it will provide 2 billion doses to foreign countries and donate US \$100 million to the COVAX vaccine implementation programme'. Of these, Chinese vaccine companies have provided more than 90 million doses of vaccine to the COVAX vaccine implementation programme in response to demand from the programme. China has provided US\$50 million in cash assistance to the World Health Organisation and US\$50 million to United Nations agencies and other international organizations. In September 2021, President Xi announced that China would donate another 100 million doses of vaccines to developing countries, and at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) on 29 November, he announced that China would provide another 1 billion doses of vaccines to Africa, of which 600 million doses would be provided as non-reimbursable aid and 400 million doses would be provided via joint production by Chinese enterprises and the African countries concerned. These donations are currently being delivered in a gradual and orderly manner. China will also provide another US\$3 billion in international aid over the next three years to support developing countries in combating the epidemic and restoring economic and social development.

At present, nine vaccines have entered phase III clinical trials in China. China actively supports the promotion of international exchange and cooperation in the development, production and application of vaccines among vaccine research and development entities, and maintains close communication and cooperation with such international organizations as the World Health Organization; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation. China has joined 31 countries in launching and implementing the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation, promoting active participation by enterprises in international cooperation to combat epidemics, and is working with 18 developing countries to carry out joint production of vaccines and promote the sharing of new COVID-19 vaccine technologies, thereby helping developing countries to improve their vaccine industry production chains and enhance the ability of developing countries to combat the epidemic. Furthermore, the establishment of a China centre for vaccine research and development benefiting the BRICS countries and undertaken by the Beijing Sinovac Biotech Company Ltd., was announced in late May 2021. According to the construction plans for the centre, its overall objectives are to pool the advantages of vaccine research and development in the BRICS countries, promote scientific and technological cooperation among those countries, enhance their capacities to prevent and control infectious diseases, and build facilities in the five countries into centres for high-end vaccine technology innovation and transfer, international multi-facility clinical trial centres, industrial transformation demonstration centres and academic exchange centres, based in the BRICS countries and radiating globally, and at the same time establish a complete innovation system for vaccine research and development, clinical trials, mutual standards recognition and industrial transformation.

联合国人权理事会人权与跨国公司问题工作组、发展权问题特别报告员、健康权问题特别报告员、民主公平国际秩序问题独立专家、人权和国际团结问题独立专家、极端贫困与人权问题特别报告员 2021 年 10 月 14 日来函【OL CHN 11/2021】收悉。中国政府对来函答复如下：

一、中国抗疫斗争和抗疫合作

新冠肺炎疫情是百年来全球发生的最严重的传染病大流行,是新中国成立以来中国遭遇的传播速度最快、感染范围最广、防控难度最大的重大突发公共卫生事件。中国政府坚持人民至上、生命至上,迅速打响疫情防控的人民战争、总体战、阻击战,用 1 个多月的时间初步遏制疫情蔓延势头,用 2 个月左右的时间将本土每日新增病例控制在个位数以内,用 3 个月左右的时间取得武汉保卫战、湖北保卫战的决定性成果。进入常态化防控阶段后,又接连打了几十场与境外疫情输入有关的本土聚集性疫情歼灭战,夺取了全国抗疫斗争重大战略成果。

中国为全球抗击疫情、引领抗疫合作发挥重要作用、作出重要贡献,以实际行动推动构建人类卫生健康共同体。疫情发生后,中国第一时间向世界卫生组织、有关国家和地区组织主动通报疫情信息,分享新冠病毒全基因组序列信息和新冠病毒核酸检测引物探针序列信息,定期向世界卫生组织和有关国家通报疫情信息。多次接待世界卫生组织国际专家组来华开展疫情防控和病毒溯源研究考察。通过世界卫生大会、执委会,以及二十国集团、金砖国家、亚太经合组织等

理事机制会议,分享疫情防控方案和实践。

中国与俄罗斯、美国、印尼、德国、法国、新加坡、埃及以及欧盟等国家和地区举行部长级卫生对话,与美国、以色列、澳大利亚、非盟、阿盟等举行专家研讨会,共与 180 多个国家、10 多个国际和区域组织举办线上交流会议百余场,通过新冠肺炎疫情防控网上知识中心和国际合作专家库,持续向全球分享新冠肺炎防控、诊疗和疫苗接种方面的中国经验、技术、做法和策略。

中国向其他国家提供力所能及的帮助,已向 150 多个国家和 13 个国际组织提供抗疫援助,向 200 多个国家和地区出口防疫物资,包括约 3500 亿只口罩、超过 40 亿件防护服、超过 60 亿人份检测试剂盒等。同非洲 40 个国家建立了 45 对对口医院合作机制;向 34 个国家派出 37 支医疗专家组;指导长期派驻国外的中国医疗队协助驻在国开展疫情防控工作,向当地民众和华人华侨提供技术咨询、健康教育和技术培训。

二、检测试剂、疫苗研发和疫苗接种

在疫情发生两周内,中国率先应急研发出新冠病毒核酸检测试剂、抗体检测试剂等多种诊断技术并获批应用,满足了不同疫情流行和防控级别下的检测和筛查的迫切需求,为打赢疫情防控总体战、阻击战提供了强大的科技支撑,增强了民众信心,减少了社会恐慌,稳定了经济社会发展。目前已应急批准 20 余个新冠病毒核酸检测试剂和 20 余个抗体检测试剂。检测产品类别不断丰富,既能满足医疗机构等检测人员集中、对时间要求不高的场景,也能满足少量快速检测的需要,为全球抗疫作出中国贡献。

截至今年 10 月,中国已应急批准新冠疫苗 5 条技术路线 24 个疫苗品种开展临床试验,依法依规附条件批准 4 个新冠病毒疫苗上市,同时根据国务院卫生健康主管部门提出的紧急使用疫苗的建议,依法组织论证同意了 3 个新冠病毒疫苗的紧急使用。中国根据《国家药监局与世界卫生组织关于疫苗资格预认证和紧急使用评估程序的合作协议》,围绕中国产新冠病毒疫苗开展审评审批、监督检查、实验室检测、批签发管理和免疫接种后不良事件监测等领域的合作。

中国高度重视新冠病毒疫苗接种工作,按照知情、同意、自愿原则稳妥有序推进新冠病毒疫苗接种工作。及时出台接种相关政策,印发接种准备工作、新增接种单位设置、临时接种点设置和接种现场组织、信息登记报告、疫苗分配储运、疑似预防接种异常反应监测和处置、培训、医疗救治等系列技术方案。各地积极做好沟通告知、摸底统计、宣传教育等工作,群众积极支持、主动接种。目前接种工作进展顺利,截至 12 月 17 日,全国累计报告接种新冠病毒疫苗 26.61838 亿剂次。

三、在全球疫苗公平分配和产权豁免问题上的立场

新冠肺炎疫情发生以来,中国率先提出疫苗应作为全球公共产品,始终坚持疫苗公平可及,公布可供对外出口的疫苗产品清单,将 4 款中国企业生产的疫苗产品列入清单,并在今年 10 月提出全球疫苗合作行动倡议,再次呼吁各方共同努力推动疫苗在全球的公平分配,持续推进新冠疫苗国际合作工作。中国积极落实习近平主席将中国疫苗作为全球公共产品的庄重承诺,指导新冠病毒疫苗生产企业千方百计扩大对外供应,为疫苗在全球的公平分配和大规模免疫接种提供有

力支撑,致力于实现疫苗在发展中国家的可及性和可负担性。

今年5月21日,习近平主席在全球健康峰会上发言表示,中国已宣布支持新冠肺炎疫苗知识产权豁免,也支持世贸组织早日就此作出决定。11月4日,习近平主席在第四届中国国际进口博览会开幕式的主旨演讲中宣布,积极推动国际抗疫合作,支持向发展中国家豁免疫苗知识产权。中国将尽全力推动世贸组织疫情应对磋商取得实质进展,在第12届部长级会议上收获成果,为全球疫情应对继续贡献中国力量。

四、参与全球疫苗合作情况

自新冠肺炎疫情发生以来,中国第一时间启动了新中国成立后规模最大的紧急人道主义行动。中国一直对疫苗供应的全球合作持积极态度。2020年10月8日,中国与全球疫苗免疫联盟(GAVI)签署协议,加入“新冠肺炎疫苗实施计划”(COVAX),这是中国秉持人类卫生健康共同体理念、履行自身承诺推动疫苗成为全球公共产品的一个重要举措。另外中国还加入了世卫组织发起的“全球合作加速开发、生产、公平获取新冠肺炎防控新工具”这一倡议。2021年5月7日和6月1日,世卫组织总干事谭德塞分别宣布,将中国国药集团中国生物北京生物制品研究所研发的新冠疫苗、北京科兴中维公司研发的新冠疫苗列入“紧急使用清单”。这将扩大新冠肺炎疫苗实施计划”可以购买的疫苗范围,同时让各国有信心加速其批准过程,以便进口该疫苗并进行接种。

截至11月下旬,中国已向110多个国家和“新冠疫苗实施计划”提供超过18亿剂疫苗和原液,今年全年将对外提供20亿剂,向“新冠疫苗实施计划”捐赠1亿美元。其中,中国疫苗企业已根据“新冠疫苗实施计划”提出的需求,向其提

供超过 9000 万剂疫苗。中国向世界卫生组织提供了 5000 万美元的现汇援助,向联合国机构和其他相关国际组织提供了 5000 万美元的援款。习近平主席于今年 9 月宣布中方将再向发展中国家捐赠 1 亿剂疫苗,在 11 月 29 日中非合作论坛第八届部长级会议开幕式上宣布中方将再向非方提供 10 亿剂疫苗,其中 6 亿剂为无偿援助,4 亿剂以中方企业与有关非洲国家联合生产等方式提供。上述捐赠正在逐步有序交付。中国未来 3 年还将再提供 30 亿美元国际援助,支持发展中国家抗疫和恢复经济社会发展。

目前中国已有 9 款疫苗进入 III 期临床试验,中国积极支持推动各疫苗研发单位加强在疫苗研发、生产、使用方面的国际交流合作,并同世界卫生组织、全球疫苗免疫联盟、流行病防范创新联盟等国际组织保持密切沟通与合作。中国同 31 个国家一道发起和落实“一带一路”疫苗合作伙伴关系倡议,推动企业积极参与国际抗疫合作,正与 18 个发展中国家开展疫苗联合生产,促进新冠疫苗技术实现共建共享共惠,这将助力发展中国家完善疫苗产业链,提升发展中国家抗击疫情的能力。2021 年 5 月下旬,由北京科兴中维生物技术有限公司承担的金砖国家疫苗研发中国中心宣布成立。根据该中心建设方案,其总体目标是汇集金砖国家疫苗研发优势,促进金砖国家之间科技合作,提升金砖国家传染病防控能力,将五国中心建设成为立足金砖国家、辐射全球的疫苗高端技术创新和转移中心、国际多中心临床试验中心、产业转化示范中心和学术交流中心,同时建立完整的疫苗研发、临床试验、标准互认、产业转化创新体系。