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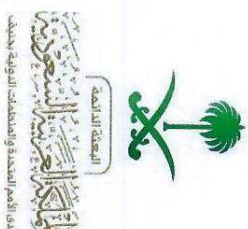
The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business 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, and would like to refer to the latter's joint communication ref: **OL SAU 11/2021** dated **14 October 2021**. The Permanent Mission has the honor to attach herewith the reply of the Saudi Government on the aforementioned communication.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the 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 the assurance of its highest consecration.

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Regarding what is mentioned by a number of the holders of thematic mandates on the procedures of Human Rights Council concerning the fears about the failure of equitable access to COVID-19 Vaccine

The Kingdom took many measures contributed to combating the Corona Pandemic (COVID-19) through two parallel tracks which are: limiting the spread of this Pandemic, providing high-quality health care to the infected people, remedying the consequences thereof. The measures taken by the Kingdom are relied on (Human Rights-based approach) this is evident in that such measures are relied on the principle of equality and non-discrimination, the actual realization of the principle of Interdependence, inter-relatedness and indivisibility of human rights stipulated in Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993, through protecting and fulfilling other rights affected by the Corona Pandemic (COVID-19), and the following is a review of the measures taken by the Kingdom for the equitable access to COVID-19 Vaccine:

#	Subject	National Efforts
1	Urgent measures to ensure the equitable access to the vaccine in a way that ensures equality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of doses given of COVID- 19 Vaccine in the Kingdom until 6/1/2022 reached (59) million doses, through more than 587 centers distributed to all regions of the Kingdom, the Saudis have received 51% and the non-Saudis 49% of which. - To ensure the equitable distribution of the approved COVID-19 Vaccines on December 15, 2020, the Ministry of Health announced the commencement of registering for COVID-19 Vaccination by all Citizens and Residents, via national electronic applications approved in the Kingdom "Sehay and Tawakkalna" for free, which allows reservations for appointments to receive the vaccine without discrimination between the citizen and the resident, as well as providing COVID-19 Vaccines to the visitors without permanent residency through allowing them to make appointments for receiving the vaccines via the respective applications,



	<p>and in coordination with the Ministry of Interior in order to apply the principle of non-accountability while appearing in vaccination centers, free health care is also provided to the violators of residency and work laws, and border security infected with or suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus, in hospitals, government and private medical centers, without any legal consequences, which ensures the health security of the Kingdom, its Citizens and Residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Health (MOH) has identified priority groups to receive COVID-19 Vaccine: Citizens and residents who are over 65 years and professionals who are most vulnerable to infection such as healthcare practitioners. Those who are obese with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of over 40, those who have immune deficiency such as those who had undergone organ transplantation or taking immunosuppressive drugs, and those who have two or more of the following chronic diseases: asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic heart disease, including coronary artery disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and those with a previous stroke. - Vaccines were given to those who are residing in social care centers and people with disabilities, in coordination with the entities concerned with social affairs. - Vaccines were given to pregnant women and children groups and these vaccines were provided with a sound scientific gradation in accordance with health priorities. - The concerned entities were cooperated to put supporting programmes for the return of education and giving vaccines with an interim priority for teachers (male and female) and students (male and female).
Measures taken in order to provide the adequate stock of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since the beginning of the Pandemic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been one of the first countries in the world which were keen on the early contracting with the companies manufacturing the approved vaccine and putting plans and



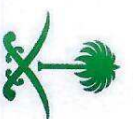
<p>approved COVID-19 vaccines in the Kingdom.</p>	<p>measures for ensuring the vaccines flow and access to the Kingdom periodically in accordance with the timetables prepared for that, whereas higher committees were formed with wide powers to contract and direct purchase all pandemic supplies, including vaccines, along with ensuring the balance and appropriate mechanisms for disposing any surplus quantities through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief).</p> <p>- Since the vaccines availability began, the Kingdom has only approved the vaccines of high quality, safety and reliability of its value and effectiveness. The scientific and national committees and the competent entities in the Kingdom are keen on the continuously follow up on anything new regarding the vaccines and medicines of COVID-19, and everything new which proves to be useful, the Kingdom initiates to provide for the community health, the experts and scientists follow up and contribute to studies and researches of COVID-19 and in constant contact with the international entities, scientific centers and the offices of experts in this regard.</p>
<p>Measures taken in order to avoid storing vaccines, ensure its global distribution, and provide</p>	<p>- The Kingdom provided continuous support in order to develop the tools of dealing with the Corona Pandemic, especially the vaccines for low- and middle-income countries, whereas the Kingdom, under its presidency of the Group of Twenty, contributed more than USD (500) million to support the COVAX Union, and the Kingdom also contributed USD (150) million to (GAVI) Alliance and in the amount of USD (200) million for other international and regional health organizations and programs. Whereas the total amount provided by the Kingdom for combating the Pandemic globally is more than USD (850) million.</p> <p>- In December, 2021, KSRelief signed with (GAVI) Alliance two agreements, and the Kingdom has contributed to the First Agreement by allocating an amount of USD (5333,000) to Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for supporting 22</p>



<p>aid to other countries in this field.</p>	<p>countries of the least developed with (COVID-19) vaccines, accordingly distributing vaccines equally among them in cooperation with (GAVI) Alliance, and in the Second Agreement by allocating USD (965) thousands of donations resulting out of the organization of the "Gamers Without Borders" Tournament for electronic games in order to support the efforts of the (GAVI) Alliance for combating COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supported the Countries which need the vaccines sorely and the medical and preventive aids necessary to contribute to combating the Corona Pandemic (COVID-19), and carried out a number of projects aimed at securing the medical and preventive devices and supplies, which are until now for more than 34 countries around the world. - The total cost of such projects is estimated at USD (833,581,032.30), and these efforts included some countries, and an international organization such as (GAVI) Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and it supported the special fund for Combating Coronavirus of (WHO). - The Kingdom made a global contribution related to clinical research, studies and research related to the access to additional information and steps towards the treatments of new Coronavirus. <p>Whereas the Kingdom contributed USD 150 million in order to support (CEPI), and it is a global partnership concerned with researching and developing the tools and vaccines for combating epidemics. The Kingdom also allocated the amount of USD 500 million to meet the global need for developing and distributing the vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tools of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Kingdom has been ranked (25) globally which is an advanced rank among the world countries, and it has been ranked second at the level of middle east and the first among the Arab Countries in issuing the scientific papers related to the novel
<p>The Kingdom's local and global efforts to support research and studies related to the production</p>	



and development of the COVID-19 vaccine	coronavirus through its cadres of Saudis (male and female) who are pioneers in the field of research and holders of prestigious scientific degrees at the two levels: regional and global.
National policies and practices for using the compulsory license under the TRIPS Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Kingdom joined (TRIPS) Agreement, in accordance with Royal Decree No. M/25 dated 3/9/2002. - Article No. (3) of Regulation of Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property issued under the Cabinet's resolution No. (469) dated 29/5/2018 stipulates that "Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property aims to organize, support, sponsor, protect and promote intellectual property in the Kingdom in accordance with global best practices...., in order to achieve its goals, it has the right to propose laws and regulations related to intellectual property, grant them protection documents and enforce them, follow up on the obligations arising from the Kingdom's accession to international Conventions related to intellectual property, and enhance the use of intellectual property, to build an advanced knowledge-based economy." - And Article No. (24) of Law of Patents stipulates that the Patent Authority may grant a compulsory license to others in order to exploit the invention protected by patent in accordance with an application submitted to the Authority. If the license applicant is a government entity or a person authorized by it, this license is granted as long as the purpose of the application is to achieve the public interest, especially security, <u>health</u>, nutrition or the development of other vital sectors of the national economy, or facing <u>emergency</u> or very <u>urgent</u> cases. - The Kingdom supported Health Sector with the amount of SAR (17) billion in addition to SAR (32) billion until the end of the fiscal year 2021 to combat coronavirus. - Launching the (Health Endowment Fund), which aims to contribute to health development and helps to provide patients' needs of devices, treatment and



		<p>rehabilitation, and to contribute to finance the preventive programs and health research. And it has received donations about one billion tiyals.</p> <p>- In June 2021, 70% of the Kingdom adult population was vaccinated, and the vaccines continued to be provided in order to cover all society members of citizens, residents, and violators of Residency laws in all permitted age groups in accordance with priority in terms of age group, health status and the availability of vaccines.</p> <p>- Recently, the booster doses of (COVID-19) vaccines started to be given for the people 18 years and over in order to enhance the level of immunity among the society members, and to control the virus outbreak which has recently appeared, especially its new variants, and from February 2022, receiving the booster dose, considered as a condition to continue showing "immune" statue on Tawakkalna Application for the people 18 years and over who were vaccinated with the second dose more than 8 months ago, except for the people who were excluded from taking the vaccine for health reasons.</p> <p>- Launching the National Health Command Center NHCC: NHCC contains operating rooms through which it is possible to review the status of the Health Sector in terms of prevention, primary care and medical referrals in accordance with the advanced analysis, business intelligence, artificial intelligence and simulation, through which a statistical platform has launched; a platform available to everyone and it is distinguished by easy browsing, in order to facilitate follow-up and reviewing the COVID-19 updates, to provide credible statistics about the pandemic from a unified source, and to follow up the consequences of its spread in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it is continuously updated in terms of the number of its cases and its spread. This platform is considered a comprehensive database and one of the most important methods upon which is</p>
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<p>Other efforts and measures</p>	<p>relied to take the precautionary measures, and it has positive impact in providing accurate, daily and cumulative data and statistics about the number of infected, active, recovered, critical cases and deceased for each administrative region and the various governorates of the Kingdom. It also provides a number of daily check-ups, and the number of vaccine doses given. This Platform connects the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the world through a singular global database through which the numbers are continuously updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launching HESN Program: which is an interconnected and flexible web-based application, to control and manage diseases and pandemics, it provides the health workers and decision makers with accurate information that enables them to provide a high level of health services, its most important goals are to take preventive measures to combat infectious and epidemic diseases, help to prevent some pandemic diseases, register cases and control the spread through a partnership among 5 main programs, and they are investigations of infectious and epidemic diseases, outbreaks of pandemic diseases, immunizations and vaccinations, stock (vaccinations and etc.), and Family and Community Health (FCH) Program. - Launching the remotely clinic service: a service that enables the patient to have medical care through the (Sehaty) App; to facilitate access to health services, and enable the beneficiary to have a remote integrated service, whether for follow-up, or for new appointments, hence the rate of patients' visits to hospitals and health centers for non-emergency cases is reduced, which contributes to limit the spread of infection, and increase the patient's satisfaction through reducing the effort and time required for having the health service. - Expanded Testing Initiative: It aims to combat the novel (Coronavirus), which was launched through a number of stages, from which the citizens and residents
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	<p>benefit through conducting coronavirus test in a number of fixed and mobile sites spread across all Kingdom regions. It targets both citizens and residents, whether or not they feel symptoms of (Coronavirus), it is booked via Sehatty App, then the beneficiary will move to the nearest place at the appropriate time, and the test result will be received via the App and a text message.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Service for the people aged 70 years and older: a service was launched by the MOH; in order to maintain the health and safety of the elderly, who are eligible for vaccination, and to protect them against complications of COVID-19, as well as saving them the burden of visiting vaccination centers to get the vaccine, Specialized medical teams are working to provide this service for the people aged 70 years and older; in such a way that ensures providing them the necessary health care while they are among their families, meanwhile applying the precautionary measures recommended by the (MOH). - Awlawia Service: For receiving Coronavirus vaccine to keep the elderly whether citizens or residents safe, in a rapid and available manner in all vaccination centers across the Kingdom all the time. It is a service that does not require registration and it is done, without an appointment and without waiting. - (Mawid) Service: it is optional service provided to all citizens and residents in order to receive the (Coronavirus) vaccine via Sehatty App; whereas a pre-appointment is booked in order to take the vaccine at the nearest center, and the applicant receives a message about the date scheduled for taking the doses within 48 hours after submitting the application. This service is provided via Sehatty App without any requirements to book an appointment to receive the vaccine through an instant and free online reservation.
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