

## **SHEM AND WFPHA STATEMENT TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

In the current context of health crisis, the most effective way to advance towards the global strengthening of human rights is to promote global recovery through universal, equitable and free access to end users to all health technologies that have been proven to be safe and effective against COVID-19. It is essential to increase the production and distribution of vaccines, medicines, medical oxygen and diagnostic tests, fostering knowledge sharing and technology transfer, with the waiving of intellectual property rights. Immunization against COVID-19 must be recognized as a global public good in order to contain the transmission of the coronavirus and help to put an end to the pandemic. It is equally essential to eliminate all unilateral coercive sanctions that are limiting the access of populations to the resources to live and survive the pandemic.

The United Nations and all its Member States must make every effort to ensure timely access for all countries to COVID-19 vaccines and to end all unilateral sanctions. High-income countries, in particular, must adequately fund the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and COVAX, supporting the equitable distribution of vaccines worldwide, with due consideration to the type of vaccine needed for second doses, where applicable.

Multilateral financial institutions should help low and middle-income countries in the overall strengthening of their national health systems and their immunization programs, particularly. Only if no one is left behind will we promote better human rights standards. The full right to development is a fundamental tool for equity in health and a challenge that the Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM) and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) urge the Human Rights Council to help the United Nations tackle.