

Background Paper

Committee: World Health Organization

Topic 1: Ensuring equal distribution of medications and vaccines for rich and poor countries

Chairs: Bruno Alcantar Medina and Judith Castañeda Andrade

School: American School of Durango

Access to medications and vaccines has always been an issue for poor countries but for rich countries it has not. Rich countries always seem to have the most resources to treat patients when it comes to sickness. Wealthier countries have it easier to get all these because they have better economies and that gives them the ability to be able to buy large amounts of medical supplies . On the other hand the poor countries often rely on help from other countries.A clear example of when we could see the inequality of this was during the COVID- 19 pandemic. Rich countries got the majority of the anti covid vaccines early and left the poor countries waiting for months and sometimes years to get the vaccines.

Even though there are a lot of efforts to try and get fairness for every country, equality just keeps getting worse. During the pandemic there was something called the COVAX initiative which was created by who and it was an initiative to try and distribute vaccines to all the countries around the world. But unfortunately due to production shortenings and limited funding for this project this limited its impact. There is an agreement called the Trips Agreement that makes it very hard for developing countries to manufacture essential drugs for the medications . All of these challenges just show how much the world needs to find a solution on how to better the global health policies. And also that they need to invest in local production companies to not rely on the wealthier countries.

To ensure the equality of medications and vaccines, countries must unite in sharing technology, support local manufacturers, and support flexible intellectual property policies during health crises. Richer countries can be very important in this because they can invest in medical production in developing countries and they can also help strengthen people who distribute

medications and vaccines worldwide. Making sure that we can distribute medications and vaccines equally is a step towards global stability, economic growth, and the prevention of future pandemics.

Works cited:

“COVAX.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization,
www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax. Accessed 10 Nov. 2025.

“World Trade Organization.” *WTO*,
www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/pharmpatent_e.htm. Accessed 10 Nov. 2025.

“Inequality in Access to Essential Health and Medicine: Covid19 Vaccines.” *UNDP*,
www.undp.org/publications/inequality-access-essential-health-and-medicine-covid19-vaccines. Accessed 10 Nov. 2025.

“UN Human Rights Office.” *OHCHR*, ohchr.org/en/health/access-vaccines-and-medicines. Accessed 10 Nov. 2025.

“Vaccine Inequity Undermining Global Economic Recovery.” *World Health Organization*,
World Health Organization,
www.who.int/news/item/22-07-2021-vaccine-inequity-undermining-global-economic-recovery. Accessed 10 Nov. 2025.

Motari, Marion, et al. "The Role of Intellectual Property Rights on Access to Medicines in the Who African Region: 25 Years after the TRIPS Agreement - BMC Public Health."

BioMed Central, BioMed Central, 11 Mar. 2021,

bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-021-10374-y