Subject: Call for Contributions Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observers Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations and has the honour to inform of the following:

At its 46th session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 46/14 on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The resolution requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the World Health Organization, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, to prepare a report on the human rights implications of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the deepening inequalities between States, including the related vulnerabilities and challenges and the impact on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

In this regard, OHCHR is seeking inputs on the following areas, in particular:

(a) the human rights implications of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines;

(b) vulnerabilities and challenges experienced by countries as a result of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines;

(c) good or promising practices and initiatives in these areas, including examples of international cooperation.

Submissions should be limited to four pages and be submitted in an accessible format (Microsoft Word). They should reach the Office of the High Commissioner by 8 November 2021 and be address to the Registry of OHCHR, indicating in the subject matter ‘Input to HRC resolution 46/14’.

For any follow-up queries, kindly contact Mr Khaled HASSINE (khaled.hassine@un.org).

7 October 2021