

Resolution paper – 6<sup>th</sup> committee

**Forum:** 6<sup>th</sup> Committee – Legal.

**Issue:** Legal issues regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.

**Main-Chair:** Alexandru Adochitei.

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## Description of issue:

Since the Covid-19 virus which is thought to have originated in Wuhan, China was first identified on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2019, it has become a major global problem, being declared as a global pandemic and changing the everyday life of billions of people around the globe. The virus is very infectious in its nature, therefore, since its apparition in January, it has spread around the world at a very fast and alarming rate. This has led to almost all countries in the world declaring it as a pandemic and putting in place different measures such as but not limited to, mandatory rule to wear the mask in public spaces, travel restrictions, mandatory weekly tests in order to have access to non-essential services (such as hairdressing) and quarantine, which has been a measure that has been intensely criticized around the world by the public, as well as the media.

These measures have been very controversial, with people sometimes even doubting the legitimacy of the virus, believing that it is all an elaborate plan by governments and big companies around the world to sell sanitizing equipment, isolate people and the most controversial of all: covid-19 vaccines.

The covid-19 vaccines have had the most controversial reputation out of all of the measures that governments around the world took to prevent the spread of the virus. Conspiracy theories have risen around the world with people doubting the legitimacy of the vaccines, with some theories going as far as to say that these essential life-saving vaccines are an elaborate plan to inject the population with microchips so that governments can take control of their population. This has therefore put a lot of pressure on ruling administrations to make the right decision in instilling the population to get vaccinated in order to stop the spread of the virus and save as many lives as possible. Different countries took different approaches. Of course, some countries have had more success than others, with the United Arab Emirates being the country with the biggest percentage of its population that is vaccinated (92% of people have received at least one shot) as of 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021.

The integration of covid vaccines is not an easy process, both in its production, its distribution around the globe, which requires immense logistical resources especially in poorer, isolated countries, and convincing the population, especially in developed countries to get the vaccine.

## Background information:

Different countries have implemented different policies in order to convince the population to get vaccinated. Of course, everywhere in the world, vaccination is not mandatory. However, in some countries, vaccination is encouraged through the restriction of services people have access to. In countries such as Denmark, restriction have made it so that only people with a vaccination certificate, or a corona pass have access to non-essential services such as hairdressing or fitness. Along with this restriction, a person has to have a vaccination certificate if he wants to travel almost anywhere in the world, especially in European countries, thus encouraging the population of different nations to get vaccinated, despite the rumors or conspiracy theories. More and more people are becoming educated about the importance of getting vaccinated, but still, less than 50% of the world's population is vaccinated (as of 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021).

The different approaches that are being taken by different countries around the world can be questioned: is it right to, some degree, take an entire population's freedom, to encourage it to get vaccinated? This question has been taken up by media and social media quite frequently since the implementation of different measures that encourage individuals to get vaccinated. The efficacy of different countries with their policy can be looked at and disputed in order to determine the best approach that can be taken so that we can maximize the number of people getting vaccinated, while minimizing the suppression of freedom.

The way that vaccines are being implemented is therefore a subject that is very important in the present because it is something that will affect the entire population of the earth since the covid pandemic is a global pandemic, and that will also dictate the direction that the world's administrative governments will take towards eliminating future threats of the same nature.

## Definition of key terms:

*Herd immunity:* Resistance to the spread of an infectious disease within a population that is based on pre-existing immunity of a high proportion of individuals as a result of previous infection or vaccination.

*Vaccine:* A substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases, prepared from the causative agent of the disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute, treated to act as an antigen without inducing the disease.

*Corona pass:* Certification showing that either someone has been fully vaccinated, has tested negative in the previous 72 hours, or has tested positive 2 to 12 weeks earlier, conferring immunity to the virus.

## Main countries involved:

- People's republic of China – The People's republic of China has the highest population in the world, but is also one of the most vaccinated countries in the world.
- United States of America – Not on the top ten of most vaccinated countries in the world, but still an important addition to this list because it is a developed country with a very high population that has a high number of people debating how the vaccine should be implemented.
- Denmark – One of the most successful countries in terms of vaccination, but also in terms of eliminating the threat of covid overall.
- United Arab Emirates – the country with the highest percentage of its population that is vaccinated.
- India – the country with the largest number of people that are vaccinated.
- Spain – country with the 4<sup>th</sup> highest vaccination percentage and top 2 in Europe.
- United Kingdom – a country where the covid pandemic had a particularly big influence on the lives of the population at the beginning of the pandemic, but it is still one of the most vaccinated countries in the world.
- Portugal – the country with the highest percentage of the vaccinated population in Europe.

## Questions for delegates:

- What is your country's opinion on this issue?
- What approach did your country take in the implementation of the vaccine?
- What are some actions the UN should take regarding this issue?

## Useful resources for the delegates:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations - Statistics and Research - Our World in Data](#)
- [Which countries have mandatory childhood vaccination policies? - Our World in Data](#)

- [Overview of the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination strategies and deployment plans in the EU/EEA \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Vaccination policy - Wikipedia](#)