



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy For everyone



To all Speakers of Parliament

Geneva, 12 January 2022

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

On 30 November 2021 the 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a landmark resolution on “Harnessing global parliamentary support for vaccine equity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic”. The resolution is attached to this letter and can be found online at <https://www.ipu.org/file/13235/download>

Vaccination is the centerpiece of a comprehensive strategy to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and save lives. As of January 2022, the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative has delivered a billion vaccine doses to low and lower-middle income countries, but persistent vaccine inequality and vaccine hesitancy further complicate the current health and developmental crisis resulting in more fatalities and increased poverty.

The resolution calls for joint efforts to ensure equitable and universal access to vaccines at the national and global levels and for each person to be vaccinated in accordance with their level of risk and needs on the basis of the principle of equity. It asks parliamentarians to advocate for the World Trade Organization to eliminate export restrictions and trade barriers on COVID-19 vaccines and the inputs involved in their production. It also highlights the importance of parliamentary engagement to reduce vaccine hesitancy through awareness raising and community outreach.

We are counting on your leadership to take decisive action to promote vaccine access, uptake and equity nationally and globally. The IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) have jointly provided parliamentarians with timely information at key stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand ready to continue promoting parliamentary engagement in times of pandemic and to support efforts of national parliaments to strengthen global health security. The WHO country offices will be pleased to work with national parliaments to identify ways in which they can support parliaments in the implementation of this important resolution.

We thank you in advance for your leadership and look forward to strengthened cooperation to implement this important resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization