**NATIONAL STATEMENT**
**MINISTER OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**
**WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY 74**
**25 MAY 2021**

***PRESIDENT OF THE 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY HER EXCELLENCY DASHO DECHEN WANGMO,***
***DR. TEDROS,***
***EXCELLENCIES,***
***DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES.***

**"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES; IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES**". THIS LINE FROM CHARLES DICKENS' PERHAPS IS A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

THE WORLD HAS BEEN RIDING THE WAVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR NEARLY 1.5 YEARS NOW.

THOUGH SOME COUNTRIES ARE DOING BETTER WITH GOOD ACCESS TO VACCINES, DIAGNOSTICS, AND MEDICINES. **YET SOME ARE STILL STRUGGLING.**

TODAY, 83% OF GLOBAL VACCINE SUPPLIES WERE AVAILABLE FOR RICH COUNTRIES, WHEREAS **ONLY 17% WERE RECEIVED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**— THOUGH THEY REPRESENT 47% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

EVEN MORE CONTRAST, WHEN SOME COUNTRIES HAVE STARTED VACCINATING LOW-RISK POPULATIONS SUCH AS TEENS AND KIDS, **ONLY 0.3% OF VACCINES WERE AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.**

***EXCELLENCIES,***

THIS PANDEMIC HAS REMINDED US TO A FUNDAMENTAL YET OFTEN FORGOTTEN TRUTH, THAT **WE ALL ARE INTERCONNECTED.**

WITH OVER 40,000 FLIGHT CONNECTIONS GLOBALLY, A NEW DISEASE EMERGING FROM ANY CORNER OF THE WORLD IS ONLY ONE FLIGHT AWAY FROM ALMOST WHEREVER WE ARE.

SO, WHEN CORONAVIRUS IS STILL RAGING IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD, NONE SHOULD EVER ASSUME SAFETY AND TURN A BLIND EYE TO OTHERS.

IF WE WANT TO GO OUT OF THIS DARK TUNNEL SAFELY, **WE MUST DO IT TOGETHER**.

IN SHORT TERM, THE MOST UNRIVALED WAY OF SHOWING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY IN FIGHTING THIS PANDEMIC IS **TO PUSH HARDER** FOR **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO VACCINES FOR ALL COUNTRIES** THROUGH THE COVAX-FACILITY.

MOVING FORWARD TO OUR SHARED VISION OF A HEALTHY FUTURE, WE ALSO NEED TO BUILD **A STRONG AND RESILIENT GLOBAL HEALTH ARCHITECTURE**.

**FIRST**, WE MUST MULTIPLY GLOBAL **CAPACITIES OF VACCINE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION**.

SECOND, WE NEED TO IMPROVE **EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR GLOBAL PREPAREDNESS,** BY INCREASING CAPACITIES TO PROMPTLY DETECT POTENTIAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES, AND ENSURE RAPID INFORMATION SHARING IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

**THIRD**, WE MUST **PREVENT PANDEMIC AT ITS SOURCE** BY CURBING SPILLOVER OF VIRUSES FROM WILDLIFE INTO PEOPLE MOSTLY CAUSED BY NATURE DEGRADATION AND WILDLIFE TRADE.

**FOURTH**, WE SHOULD **ENHANCE THE ROLE OF EXISTING TASKFORCES** BY PROVIDING THEM WITH RELEVANT RESOURCES FOR COUNTERMEASURE.

**FINALLY, AND ABOVE ALL,** WE NEED A **STRONG POLITICAL COMMITMENT FROM ALL GLOBAL LEADERS**. IN THIS REGARD, INDONESIA SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PANDEMIC TREATY.

PRINCIPLES IN THE PROPOSED TREATY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO OUR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.

HOWEVER, WITHOUT CONCRETE ACTIONS, **PRINCIPLES ARE IN VAIN.**

THERE IS NO BETTER TIME FOR GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, IF NOT THROUGH A CRISIS SUCH AS THIS PANDEMIC.

**WE NEED A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT OF MINDSET** FROM PUTTING OURSELVES ABOVE OTHERS INTO PUTTING OUR SHARED INTERESTS ABOVE OUR OWN.

I WISH THAT WE ALL COULD SEE A GLIMMER OF LIGHT AT THE END OF THE DARK TUNNEL AND COME OUT TOGETHER STRONGER AND BETTER.

**IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES; IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES,** THANK YOU.