

Policy Brief #3

(Statement on the global and effective use of vaccination against Covid-19)

Preamble

The ISC GeoUnions Standing for DRR seeks to strengthen the long-standing International Science Council (ISC) leadership in advancing Disaster Risk Reduction. The International Council of Scientific Unions (the predecessor to ISC) coordinated and represented the science and technology communities in preparation to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that reported the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The ISC and the UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction co-sponsor the Sendai Hazard Definition and Classification Review to further define the Sendai Framework to provide consistent awareness and terminology to strengthen and clarify actions in support of the Sendai Framework and improved societal well-being.

Context

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) disease has affected over 120 countries in a matter of weeks. The way humans live and work on planet Earth has changed profoundly over the last few months. Many lives and livelihoods have been lost. The most effective way to resist this outbreak is now that all vulnerable humans get vaccinated however there is a shortage of reaching enough vaccines by economically not well-situated parties.

Impacts

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) a pandemic on 11 March 2020. Since then, the pandemic continues to rage, and morbidity and mortality rates continue to climb globally. The disruption of the supply chain caused by coronavirus is raising the risk of a severe food crisis, as most countries depend on imports of food and feed.

Chair: **ORHAN ALTAN**
ISC/ISPRS, TURKEY
Email: oaltan@itu.edu.tr

Co-Chair: **ALEXANDER RUDLOFF**
IUGG, GERMANY
Email: sg@iugg.org

Headquarter:
JIE JIANG, YANG DENG (Secretary)
Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, CHINA
Email: jiangjie@bucea.edu.cn, dengyang@bucea.edu.cn

Members:
ANIK A BRAUN, INQUA
CARLO DOGLIONI, IUGS
EDOARDO COSTANTINI, IUSS
HIROSHI KITAZATO, IUGS
JAMES MCCALPIN, INQUA
JIE JIANG, ISPRS
JOHN LABRECQUE, IUGG

MADHUKAR CHANDRA, URSI
PEIJUN SHI, IGU
R.B. SINGH, IGU
SISI ZLATANOVA, ISPRS
TAKASHI KOSAKI, IUSS
TULLIO JOSEPH TANZI, URSI
YANG DENG

This illuminates the urgency of developing and ensuring access to affordable, safe, and efficacious vaccines, and their rapid and fair deployment. The positive results announced by several vaccine candidates in November 2020 have led to vaccines being approved at record speed in different parts of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed unprecedented and complex public policy issues. One that has emerged as a challenge for many countries globally is how to ensure the efficient and effective procurement of quality medical supplies. A critical response will be required by governments to ensure access of their populations to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Some African countries have refused to use the vaccination for non-plausible reasons. This might have the roots that these countries do not have adequate sources to buy the vaccines, or they don't believe in scientific evidence. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00362-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00362-7/fulltext)

Mr. Magufuli, who was one of Africa's most prominent coronavirus skeptics, and called for prayers and herbal-infused steam therapy to counter the virus, died on Wednesday from heart complications at a hospital. But Opposition politicians said last week that he had contracted Covid-19, but this has not been confirmed.

Last week India, one of the world's largest producers of coronavirus vaccines, is struggling to meet its export commitments.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization has issued a most urgent and eloquent call on worldwide coordination of the vaccination efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic. Several academies and scientific associations have issued declarations in endorsing this call from the WHO Director-General and appealing to all governments for coordinated, equitable, efficient, and sustained action to implement policy measures that can ensure equitable access to vaccination, which is the most powerful mean we have to combat the pandemic.

The ISC GUSC DRR, considering the risk of catastrophic consequences of the pandemic, endorses the statement made by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, in his opening remarks at the 148th Session of the WHO Executive Board. Furthermore, we call on all countries to work together in solidarity, ensure and help that vaccination in all countries run as a standard routine, in the best interest of each nation on Earth.

Policy Advise to National Governments

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Action Advice to ISC GeoUnions members and expert panels.

GeoUnion Members are asked to support these policy briefs by distributing them to respecting expert panel groups and disseminate to Governments and NGOs.

Involvement of Global Stakeholders to Disseminate This Policy Brief

International Science Council, IAP Global Network of Science Academies, WMO, National Meteorological Agencies, Geo-Unions be involved for dissemination of.

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Lead Author: Orhan Altan

Contributing Authors; Madhu Chandra, John Labrecque

Chair: **ORHAN ALTAN**
ISC/ISPRS, TURKEY
Email: oaltan@itu.edu.tr

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YANG DENG