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Subject: Call for Contributions – OHCHR analytical study on protection gaps in access to medicines, vaccines and other health products (Human Rights Council resolution 59/7)

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, and has the honour to inform them of the following:

At its fifty-ninth session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 59/7 on access to medicines, vaccines and other health products in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The resolution requests OHCHR to prepare an analytical study on protection gaps affecting vulnerable populations, in developing countries, in particular least developed States, landlocked States and small island developing States, in accessing medicines, vaccines, and other health products with the aim of achieving the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-second session.

Due to the ongoing liquidity crisis, the analytical study will be presented with a delay as an advanced unedited version to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session.

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

a) What are the main obstacles / protection gaps that limit access of vulnerable segments of the population to medicines, vaccines and other health products in your country or region? (vulnerable segments of the population may include children, women, older persons, migrants, persons with disabilities, persons in the informal economy, Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities among other groups).

b) What new and emerging obstacles/ challenges have hampered the ability to secure the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in particular for vulnerable segments of the population, and what human rights implications do these challenges pose? Please highlight particular obstacles linked to: (a) international or domestic conflicts and violence; (b) decreased external financial and technical support, mounting debt and reduced fiscal policy space; (c) trade and supply chain disruptions; (d) harmful narratives and regressive legislation; (e) digitalization and

artificial intelligence; (f) and environmental degradation and climate change.

c) What constraints are you facing as a State in assessing the extent of the problem of access of vulnerable segments of the population to healthcare (for example access to data); and what constraints are you facing in improving universal and equitable access to medicines, vaccines and other health products?

d) What recommendations or priorities would you suggest to further advance universal and equitable access to medicines, vaccines, and other health products, in particular for vulnerable segments of the population, taking into account both current and anticipated future requirements?

e) Please add any other information or data you would like to share that have not been covered above.

Submissions should be submitted in an accessible format (Microsoft Word). The Office would be grateful for any inputs to be submitted by 15 June 2026, addressed to the Registry of OHCHR, indicating in the subject matter 'Input to HRC resolution 59/7 – comprehensive report access to medicines`. Your contribution, which should not exceed 750 words, will be made public on the OHCHR website, unless otherwise requested. For any follow-up queries, kindly contact Ms. Doris SCHMITZ-MEINERS (doris.schmitz-meiners@un.org).

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