



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT
OF HIS EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA,
JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO
AT THE**

High-Level Thematic Debate
entitled
“Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination”

Challenges in vaccine production and
distribution to countries with low vaccination
coverage against COVID-19

New York, 25th February 2022

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ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED

For nearly two years, our countries have been unequally suffering the direct and indirect negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the fields of health, the economy, and the development of our people. We saw the external debt grow, the poverty rates increase and the increased uncertainties in the future.

I say uneven, because the richest nations are now well protected, with close to 80% of their populations

vaccinated and many offering third or even fourth booster doses, however in many of our countries vaccination coverage against COVID-19 is very low, insufficient to prevent the collapse of our health systems and the deepening of poverty.

It is necessary to ensure that each developing country complies with its vaccination plan, this premise must be a global objective. Universal vaccination is what is needed to stop the spread of this virus and prevent it from evolving further. It is the only way to end the pandemic and for countries to fully resume trade, exchanges, travel and normalize economic and social activities.

The current situation requires urgent solutions, building on what has already been built: I am referring to the multilateral commitment of Gavi COVAX, the AMC, which has already allowed a billion doses to flow through our countries, for this it will be necessary for countries with financial

capacity, make donations to COVAX at least of US\$ 5.2 billion in additional funds to urgently acquire close to 600 million doses as well as to support the implementation of national vaccination campaigns with funds.

In this way COVAX doses, along with doses provided through other multilateral initiatives such as the African Union Vaccine Procurement Trust, will have the tools we need to support our national and regional pandemic response strategies.

However, these mechanisms must become more flexible and respond to the needs of the countries, guaranteeing reasonable vaccine validity periods and a regular flow of them, for this they must develop models to manage the challenges and risks and take advantage of the momentum to help countries meet their national strategies. This way low-income countries will not be left behind in line again.

Thanks a lot!!