

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Presidency of the Republic

Remarks by the President of Republic Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune at the White House Global COVID-19 Summit

(September 22, 2021)

Mr. President,

The current health situation that the world is going through since the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, has caused huge losses, amounting to 4.5 million victims until today, and negatively and significantly affected our societies economically and socially. This has increased poverty, deepened inequality, and exacerbated the level of fragility of weak countries, especially in Africa, as they lack the necessary capabilities to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

The race between countries to obtain the largest number of vaccines, in light of a unilateral approach, comes to increase the suffering of peoples.

WHO figures for late August 2021, demonstrate inequality in the distribution and access to vaccines between countries and peoples, with 75% of them going to ten high-income countries, while low-income countries only got 6.1% of the vaccine.

Algeria, which seeks to speed up the implementation of its national vaccination strategy, has so far vaccinated more than 9 million citizens. In addition, Algeria decided to establish a facility for the national production of vaccines, which will start the production process before the end of this month, to provide vaccine doses to all citizens, and will accelerate the pace of vaccination in order to reach 70 percent of the vaccinated population by the end of this year.

My country has also quickly engaged in international and regional initiatives aimed at confronting this pandemic, despite the effects of this crisis on its financial resources, as it made two financial contributions to the United Nations Global Response Fund to the Virus, and to the African Union Fund for Pandemic Response, in addition to other assistance to neighboring countries in order to curb the spread of the pandemic.

My country will remain in solidarity with all countries, and will continue to participate in the efforts of the international community, which requires

mobilizing more capabilities, and strengthening the spirit of cooperation and solidarity in the context of multilateral action, to enable all peoples to obtain vaccines without discrimination or exclusion.

In this regard, and during its chairmanship of the last meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on May 22, 2021, and devoted to discussing the difficulties that prevent access to the vaccine, Algeria urgently called for the effective fair distribution of vaccines at the global level, especially for the benefit of African countries, so that all peoples, regardless of their level of economic and technological development, can get their right to appropriate and necessary health care.

Thank you for your kind attention.