

A paper on the Efforts of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic

In the context of the global trends to contain the Covid 19 pandemic and the commitment from the League of Arab States to unify efforts to provide vaccines to all members of the Arab community, especially developing countries, and to work to build health systems that are safer and capable of facing such crises, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States has worked to provide urgent support to the ministries of health in developing Arab countries to provide urgent medical needs to confront the Covid 19 pandemic through the Council of Arab Health Ministers, and the following are the most important efforts of the Arab League:

1. The Council of Arab Health Ministers has prepared a draft Arab strategy for obtaining Covid-19 vaccines and unifying efforts to ensure the provision and equitable distribution of vaccines to Arab states and the mechanism for their implementation, and it will be presented to the next meeting of the Council for approval.
2. The Council of Arab Health Ministers adopted the Arab strategy for a health-friendly budget prepared by the ministries of health in the Arab member states in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund for Arab Countries and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, and it was circulated among member states for guidance.
3. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States seeks to create an Arab platform for exchanging experiences and best practices to address COVID-19, and to prepare a unified Arab plan to prevent the spread of the pandemic in cooperation with the ministries of health in Arab countries, the regional office of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund for Arab States.
4. The Economic and Social Council, in its 108th regular session at the ministerial level, on 2/9/2021, approved the general Arab principles for unifying procedures for registering and approving vaccines and their use among Arab countries as guiding principles in this field, which were submitted by the Arab Tourism Organization, the Arab Civil Aviation Organization and the Arab Union for Air Transportation.
5. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States attaches importance to the issue of Arab states obtaining the largest possible share of Covid-19 vaccines available through international mechanisms approved by the G-7.
6. It should be noted that the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States organized the first joint meeting between the Technical Advisory Committee of the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the Ministry of Health and Human Services in the United States of America on February 16 2021 via video conference, which stressed the importance of exchanging experiences and expertise and benefiting from the experience of the United States of America in the pharmaceutical and vaccine industries and the transfer of these experiences to Arab countries, and work to build a strong partnership between the Arab and U.S. sides in the fields of health related to training and exchanging information on pandemics, especially the Coronavirus virus and Pfizer and Moderna vaccines against Covid 19.