** POSITION PAPER**

**NAME OF THE DELEGATE: LUV VASHISHTH**

**COMMITTEE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)**

**COUNTRY: INDIA**

**AGENDA:** **DISCUSSING ABOUT VACCINE FOR PANDEMIC AS A WHOLE**

**(PRICING AND TIMELINE IN COUNTRIES)**

**A COVID-19 vaccine is a hypothetical vaccine against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID‑19). Although no vaccine has completed clinical trials, there are multiple efforts in progress to develop such a vaccine.**

**The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) – which is organizing a US$2 billion worldwide fund for rapid investment and development of vaccine candidates[3] – indicated in April that a vaccine may be available under emergency use protocols in less than 12 months or by early 2021.**

**By June 2020, 159 vaccine candidates were in development, with two in Phase II efficacy and dose-testing studies in human subjects, five in Phase I–II safety and efficacy trials, and four in Phase I trials.**

Coming up with a vaccine to halt Covid-19 in a matter of months isn’t the only colossal challenge. The next big test: getting billions of doses to every corner of the world at a time when countries increasingly are putting their own interests first. A variety of financing tools are under consideration to spur production of large quantities of potential vaccines and ensure they’re distributed equitably. In one arrangement, developers would agree to provide shots at affordable prices in return for funding commitments from governments or other donors.

**The stakes are immense with the coronavirus sickening more than 3 million people, even as billions hide from the pathogen indoors. Health advocates are concerned about richer countries monopolizing the global supply of Covid-19 vaccines if companies succeed, a scenario that played out during the 2009 swine flu pandemic. Distributing shots widely, they say, isn’t just the right thing to do. It’s also crucial in curbing the spread of the contagion.**The global Covid-19 vaccine race is set to kick up a notch from next month as several experimental coronavirus vaccines, including the ones developed by Moderna Inc, China’s Sinovac Biotech and UK’s Oxford-AstraZeneca, set to enter late-stage trials and subject to large-scale studies. Dozens of companies, including Sanofi, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna Inc., are in the race to come up with a vaccine, along with researchers at institutions ranging from the University of Oxford to the University of Queensland in Australia. Even though most of the over 100 vaccines under development are undergoing Phase II clinical trials, numerous countries, including Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the US, have already placed advance orders for millions of vaccines that could be available by the end of the year if they prove to be effective. As countries gradually emerge from lockdowns, governments are looking at a vaccine as the route to return to pre-pandemic life. So far, the vaccine candidate developed by Imperial College London has only been tested in animals and in the laboratory, where it produced much higher levels of antibodies than would normally be seen in infected people.

**The delegate from India would like to share with everyone here that there are more than 100 candidates for developing a vaccine that are working at different levels. The WHO is coordinating the efforts. “India is also actively contributing to that effort. We have 14 vaccine candidates that are working on different levels. Industry, academic world are contributing to it and our Ministry of Science is helping the Department of Biotechnology in all such efforts.”**

**Four out of the 14 COVID-19 vaccine candidates from India may enter the clinical trial stage in the next three-five months. Financial support and regulatory clearance will be provided to those who are working on this in India as has been announced by the Union Health Minister-Dr HarshVardhan “It’s very difficult to predict when a vaccine will come, but as the process it involves, one year would be a modest estimate,” “Till the vaccine is not developed, people should use social vaccines like the mask and social distancing.”** The Centre and private firms have stepped up efforts to develop a vaccine to halt the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The PM CARES Fund Trust has decided to allocate Rs 100 crore in efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine.A coronavirus vaccine was the most pressing need and Indian academia, start-ups and industry had come together in cutting-edge design and development. The Department of Biotechnology has been made a central coordination agency to identify pathways for vaccine development.

**The delegate believes that “The virus does not respect borders and it cuts across all classes of society, and all age groups,” “There really does seem to be a rapidly evolving consensus around the importance of delivering a vaccine globally to all countries as quickly as it can become available**.”**It’s important a vaccine is “available equitably and equally everywhere,”. “We can’t think of this pandemic as something that exists simply within our own borders.”**