**Country- Australia**

**Agenda- DISCUSSING ABOUT VACCINE FOR PANDEMIC AS A WHOLE (PRICING AND TIMELINE IN COUNTRIES)**

**Committee- WHO (World Health Organization)**

Honorable chair and Esteemed Delegates, it has come to your notice that Covid-19 can only be defeated completely by the help of a Vaccine and there is no licensed vaccine for nCoV or for other coronaviruses and no established immunological correlates of protection. Several candidate vaccines have completed Phase 1 clinical trials against SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV. Participants noted however that the clinical development status of the various SARS-CoV vaccines and the potential availability of candidate vaccine stocks remains unclear and needs to be assessed. Participants noted that, although there is some level of homology between the nCoV and SARS-CoV, and to a lesser extent MERS-CoV, there is currently insufficient information of cross-reactivity between nCoV and other coronaviruses. However, it was agreed that it would not be expected that antibodies from MERS-CoV vaccines based on the spike protein would be significantly cross-reactive. It was also considered that SARS vaccines, which were under development some years ago, might result in inadequate levels of cross-neutralizing antibodies.

Every time there has been news about a potential new vaccine against [Covid-19](https://indianexpress.com/about/coronavirus/), hopes have risen around the world. But some have also taken a realistic approach. Such as British PM Boris Johnson, a Covid-19 survivor himself, who has written in The Mail: “There remains a very long way to go, and I must be frank that a vaccine might not come to fruition…We need to find new ways to control the virus.”

The Delegate of Australia also highlights that Australia has effectively eliminated COVID-19 in some parts of the country, its chief medical officer said on Friday. Australia has recorded 38 cases of the novel coronavirus over last week, Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy told reporters in Canberra. More than half of them are travellers returning from overseas and already quarantined in hotels. About 4,000 employees of Australian hospitals will participate in a trial of the vaccine starting in the next week, with results expected in about six months, said the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne on Friday.

Half the participants will take the vaccine, which has few side effects, while the other half will take a placebo, and both groups will allow their health to be tracked through a software application attached to their smartphone, the institute said.

They join trials ramping up in the Netherlands, the United States and elsewhere, it added.

“It’s repurposing a very old vaccine for a new purpose,” said Nigel Curtis, group leader of infectious diseases at the MCRI, on a call with journalists.

The start of human trials is a critical milestone in the journey towards a coronavirus vaccine, with the [Novavax](https://www.afr.com/companies/healthcare-and-fitness/finding-a-covid-19-vaccine-is-the-easy-part-20200216-p5419f)product already shown in animal testing to be safe and effective in low doses.

I hope the committee will be successful and come to a good decision after a long round of debate. Wish a good day to all of the committee and chair members.

Regards

The Delegate of Australia