

“Where you live
should not
determine whether
you live”.
Global justice and
the distribution of
vaccines.

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The Ethics of a Pandemic – Hindsight and Foresight

Smer 2022-12-08





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The international community must guarantee equal global access to a covid-19 vaccine

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The Washington Post | NEWSLETTERS

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“Where you live should not determine whether you live and global solidarity is central to saving lives and protecting the economy”

Global gaps:
Current health expenditure per
capita US\$ –(World Bank)

- Armenia 407
- Bangladesh 36
- Kongo 20
- Sweden 5.900
- USA 10.200





TURKEY WORLD ECONOMY POLITICS ENERGY SPORTS INFOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS VIDEO PHOTO

WORLD, HEALTH, LATEST ON CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

'Richest countries already bought 80% Pfizer vaccine'

1B+ doses of COVID-19 vaccine purchased to be used for 14% of global population: UK-based Global Justice Now campaign group

Ahmet Gürhan Kartal | 12.11.2020

January 2021 the WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warned that the world was "...on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure"

Coronavirus



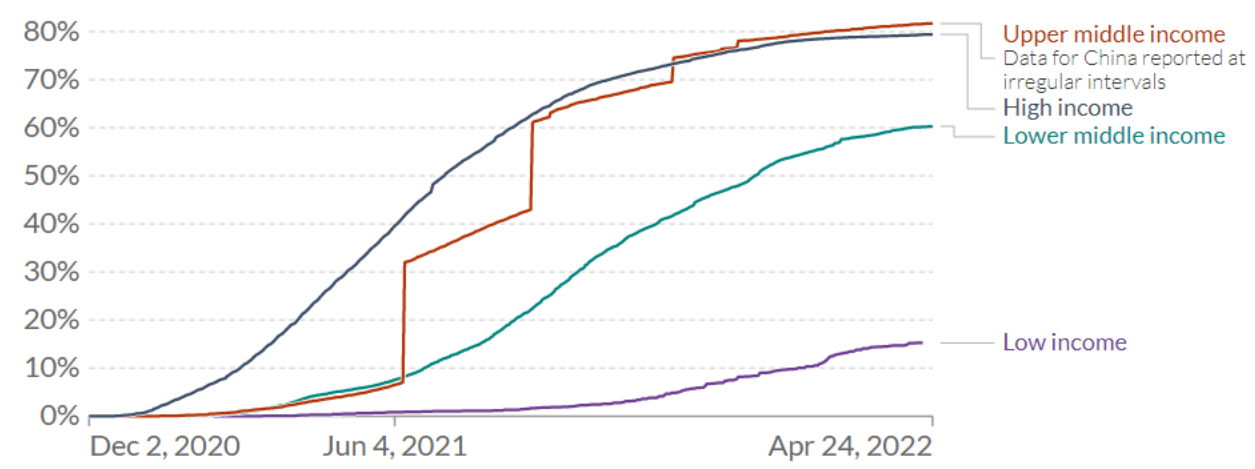
COVID-19 vaccinations, cases, excess mortality, and much more Explore our COVID-19 data

Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Our World in Data

Total number of people who received at least one vaccine dose, divided by the total population of the country.

+ Add country



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 25 April 2022 OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY



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Is it really a problem?

- Health care systems in low-income countries are fragile, with no means to treat COVID-19 patients in intensive care.
- The imposed lockdowns have secondary devastating effects
- “COVID-19 death toll four times higher in lower-income countries than rich ones” The Economist, February 21, 2022

What ethical principles should guide global distribution of vaccines?

- Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics (Smer)
- *“Ethical Choices in a Pandemic” (2020)*
- **global justice**
- **international solidarity.**



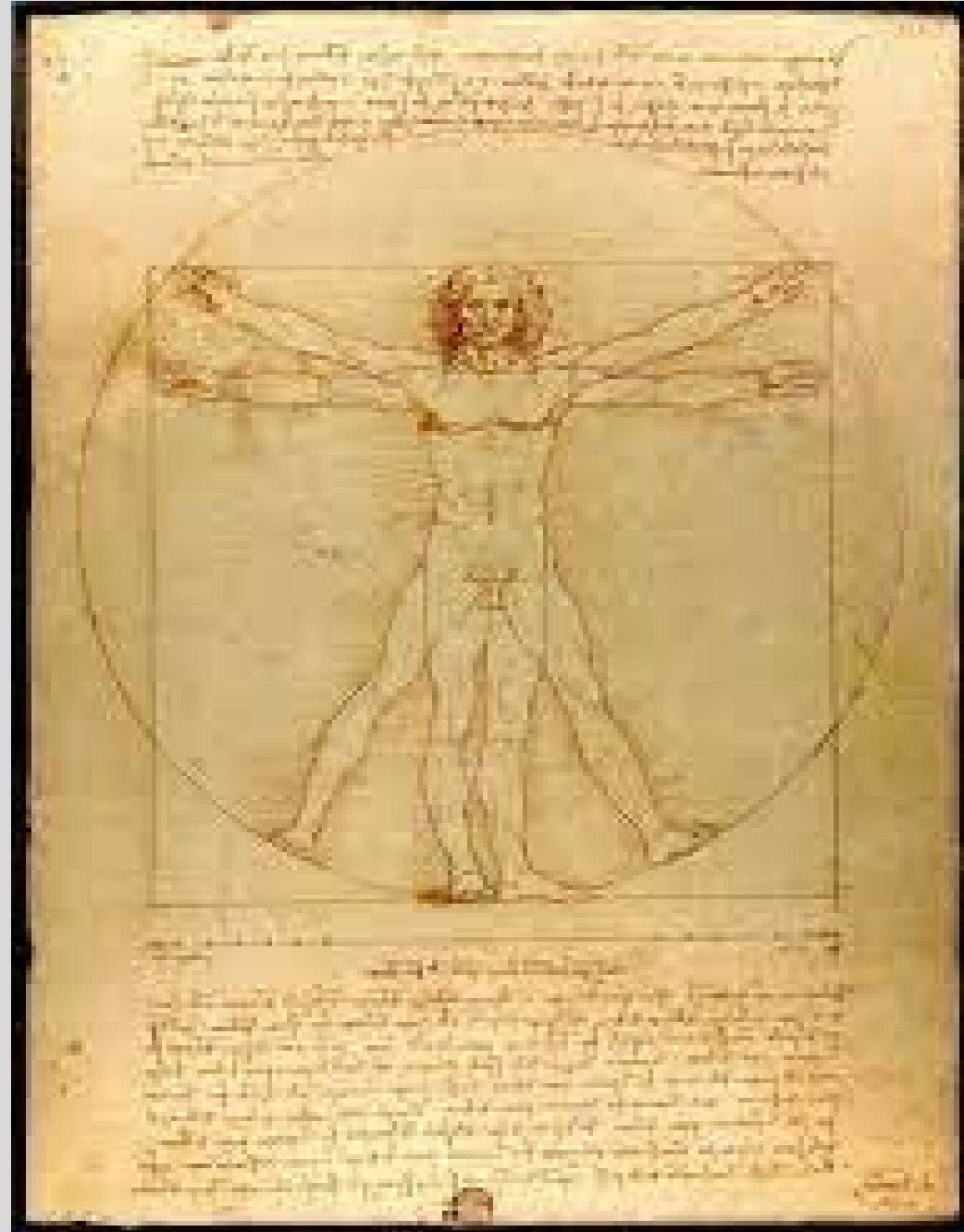
Vaccine cosmopolitanism

Every human being irrespective of nationality has the same right to vaccination against fatal viruses



Vaccine cosmopolitanism

- A principle of human dignity;
 - each human life is of equal importance and each human life is equally valuable
 - no one should be worse-off because of her poor luck in the natural lottery (luck-egalitarianism)



Vaccine nationalism

Citizenship is a relevant factor for decisions on priorities of vaccination

- Government is based on contractual obligation, entailing moral principles of trust, solidarity and consent.
- Political leaders have primary moral obligations to their fellow citizens



Irresolvable
conflict or a
middle way?
– modified
vaccine
cosmopolitanism

- States have the right to vaccinate in accordance with their obligations to their citizens,
- ***and they have moral duties to ensure that the global population has sufficient level of vaccines***
- *Modified vaccine cosmopolitanism* implies that each human being irrespective of nationality has the same right to be vaccinated against COVID-19
- Then, “where you live, does not determine whether you live,” at least not with regard to the corona pandemic
- What are the practical implications?

COVAX

CEPI



Rich countries could increase their donations to low-income countries through COVAX and in other ways

- Temporary waiver of patent rights to vaccines to increase the production
- *Proposal to the WTO from INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA Oct 2 2020*

The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the website for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/>. The website header features the MSF logo and navigation links: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, CAREERS, and SUPPORT US. Below the header is a large photograph of a protest. Protesters are holding signs with the following text: "BAD PATENTS", "STRANGLE ACCESS to MEDICINES", "STRANGLE ACCESS to MEDICINES", "Medikamente dürfen kein LUXUS sein", and "BA...". A red text box is overlaid on the bottom right of the image, containing the text: "MSF calls on governments to support landmark move at WTO to suspend patents during COVID-19". The browser's taskbar at the top shows several open tabs, including "waiver from certain provisions", "W669.pdf", and "MSF calls on governments to support...".

Dagens Nyheter x COVID-19 x Data Coronavir x Nation and x cosmopolit x human dig x WHO is the x A patent wa x

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EDITORIAL | 25 May 2021

A patent waiver on COVID vaccines is right and fair

Wealthier countries must join the United States, Russia and China in recognizing that everyone benefits if vaccine manufacturing is distributed evenly around the world.


March 16, 2022

WTO chief welcomes COVID shot patent plan, drugmakers balk

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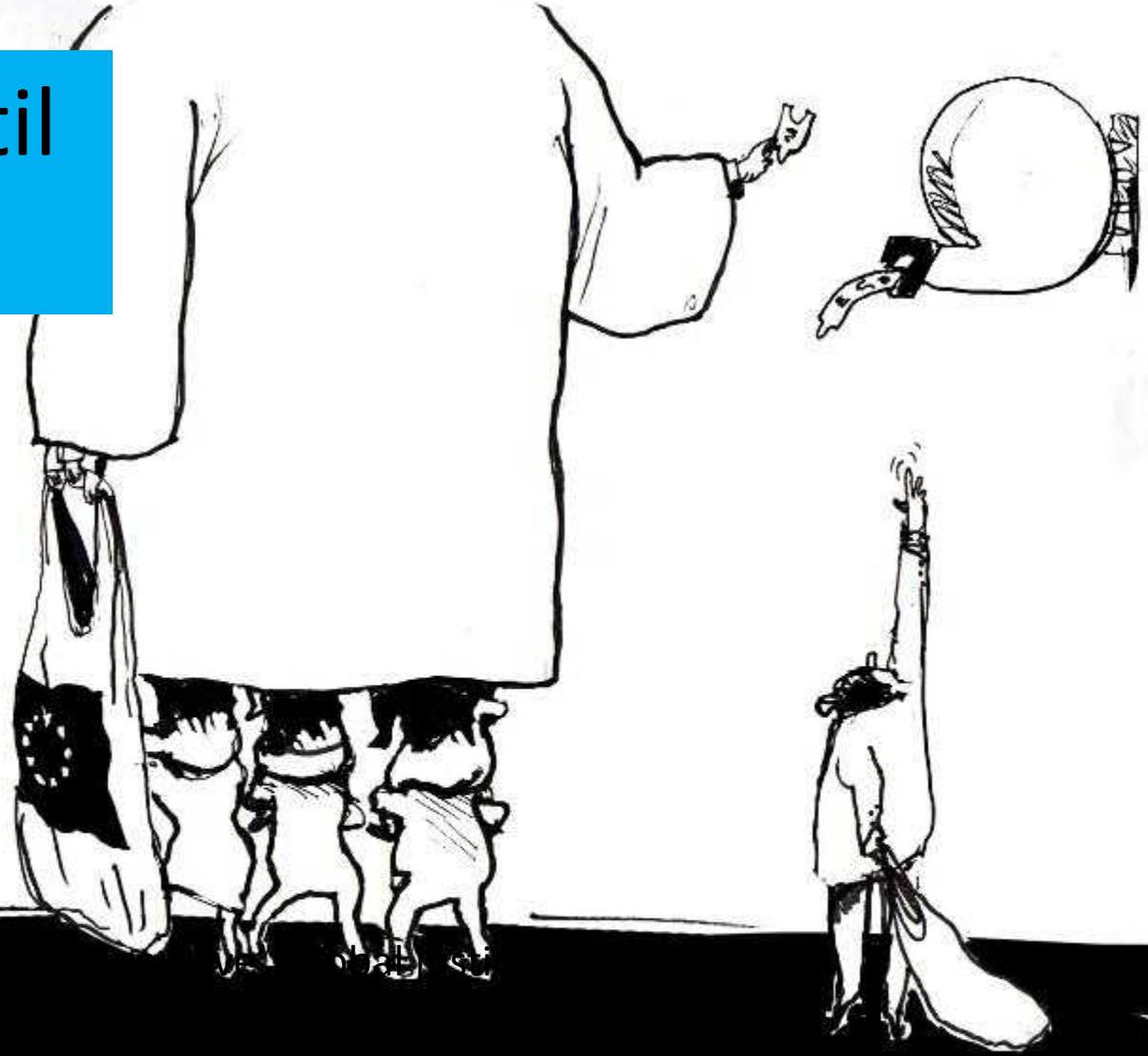
It's time to consider a patent reprieve for COVID vaccines



6 MAY 2022 TRIPS
TRIPS Council hears initial reactions to Quad's outcome document on IP COVID-19 response

- **In conclusion,**
- **Modified vaccine cosmopolitanism**
 - encompasses both principles of **global justice** and **international solidarity** on the one hand, and the duties of governments to their own citizens on the other,
 - provides a mid-way solution between vaccine cosmopolitanism and vaccine nationalism,
 - corresponds to the declarations of world leaders of international solidarity in a time of pandemic, and
 - Is realized through the joint efforts of WTO, WHO, COVAX and other international as well as national actors.

No one is safe until everyone is safe



Thank you!