



UNGA Resolution on Covid-19

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Why in News

Recently, the **United Nations General Assembly** has adopted a resolution, calling for global cooperation to ensure '**equitable and fair**' access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment for all nations to battle the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

Key Points

- The UNGA resolution which was **drafted by Mexico** was adopted through consensus.
- The resolution:
 - **Prevent any undue stockpiling** of essential medical supplies.
 - **Recognised the importance of international cooperation** and **effective multilateralism** to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines and vaccines.
 - Encourages member states **to work in partnership** with all relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.
 - Called to **bolster coordination with the private sector** towards rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, antiviral medicines, personal protective equipment and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility, and affordability.
- Earlier, the United Nations General Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution, **calling for intensified international cooperation** to defeat the pandemic that is causing severe disruption to societies and economies.

United Nations General Assembly

- The General Assembly is the **main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN**.

- **All 193 Member States** of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.
- Each year, in **September**, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in **New York** for the **annual General Assembly session**, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address.
- Decisions on important questions, such as those on **peace and security, admission of new members** and budgetary matters, require **a two-thirds majority** of the General Assembly.
Decisions on other questions are **by simple majority**.
- **The President** of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.

Source: IE