



5 November 2021

Open Letter to Foreign Ministers Re: Ministerial Meeting to be Convened by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on 10 November 2021

Dear Foreign Ministers,

At the Global COVID-19 Summit in September and the recently concluded G20 Summit, world leaders set important targets to help vaccinate the world, save lives now, and build back better from the pandemic. Yet as advanced economies begin to look beyond the crisis and bounce back past pre-pandemic growth estimates, low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are being left further behind and could suffer economic, health, and social aftershocks for years to come.

At your forthcoming Ministerial meeting, we urge you to adopt a clear roadmap of concrete actions, timelines, and accountability to accelerate progress toward the global targets of vaccinating 70% of the population in every country by mid-2022, expanded delivery of other lifesaving response needs, and strengthened pandemic finance and governance. Specifically:

1. **Divert COVID-19 vaccine production and delivery at scale with full transparency in 2021:** High-income countries (HICs) must share 2 billion doses by the end of 2021. Ministers should agree to share all doses beyond those needed for domestic demand, as soon as they come off the production line, clearly stating how they are coordinating with COVAX and regional mechanisms (such as the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT)), the number of doses to be delivered week by week, and the expiry dates for doses. HICs must publicly commit to send their expected deliveries straight to COVAX and regional mechanisms in Q4 2021 and organize this without delay with pharmaceutical and delivery companies. Ministers must use all routes available, including donations and ‘queue swaps’, to deliver doses to LMICs quickly.
2. **Commit to fully finance the global COVID-19 response and to prepare for future pandemic threats:** A mix of grant funding, bilateral support, loans, and concessional financing from multilateral development banks (MDBs) and domestic financing will be needed to end the acute COVID-19 crisis and begin to course-correct for the longstanding global failure to invest in pandemic preparedness. Ministers should agree in principle to deliver their fair share of grant funding no later than the next Global COVID-19 Summit in Q1 of 2022 and work with MDBs and others to release the international support needed to vaccinate the world and save lives now. The cost of an effective response is estimated to be at least US\$43.1B (per ACT-A estimates), and emerging data and evidence indicates the real costs are likely to be higher in countries with fragile health systems. Concurrently, foreign ministers should work with their health and finance counterparts to swiftly establish and fund a new pandemic financing facility by early 2022 — with resources additional to existing ODA.
3. **Ramp up and increase transparency of global supply and delivery of vaccines, tests, treatments, oxygen, PPE, and other COVID-19 tools, and strengthen supply chains and pharmacovigilance:** Ministers should commit to concrete steps to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer agreements, licensing, public-private cooperation, and investments — in addition to action on a TRIPS waiver or other steps to be taken at the WTO — to accelerate and expand manufacturing capacity in LMICs. Ministers should work with LMICs to establish regional vaccine production hubs (such as the WHO-South Africa mRNA hub) and ensure that there are appropriate training programs available to ensure seamless transfer of production technology and know-how. Ministers should also work with industry to take specific steps to increase transparency of production, pricing, supply, financing, and delivery so that vaccines can be tracked from factory to arm.

4. **Prioritize strengthening country-level distribution and delivery capabilities in a manner that addresses current needs and future health system resilience:** Robust and equitable country-level distribution and delivery have become key constraints in the race between vaccines and variants. Ministers should commit to specific steps to address the logistical, delivery, and funding gaps in each country, including last-mile delivery, delivery to vulnerable populations such as refugees and internally displaced people, and in-country disparities, including gender barriers. Health systems need to be strengthened by providing additional support for frontline and community health workers, implementing enhanced vaccine safety monitoring systems and successful vaccination campaigns, tracking vaccinations, addressing vaccine hesitancy, expanding COVID-19 testing, and increasing surveillance.
5. **Unlock special drawing rights (SDRs) for the global response & recovery:** The historic allocation by the International Monetary Fund Board of Governors of US\$650B in SDRs presents an opportunity to deliver meaningful finance at scale for the pandemic. Ministers should agree to donate their whole SDR allocation to LMICs, and should endorse and publish a roadmap to meet this commitment. Ensuring that the full reallocation of SDRs goes to help LMICs address health and climate change challenges can help maximize the amount that can be freed up in the short-term for the global COVID-19 response.
6. **Increase transparency and tracking from inputs to outcomes:** Ministers must ensure that all their actions — from vaccine production, funding, and finance to delivery of results on the ground — are fully transparent with data in the public domain. Ministers should commit to timely, ongoing tracking and reporting of disaggregated data and analysis on all aspects of the global COVID-19 response, including proactive identification of financial, logistical, supply, and delivery gaps with a focus on equitable distribution; enable country-level monthly progress reporting with independent verification to refine national and global priorities; support robust surveillance and data-sharing (including for genomic sequencing); and increased testing and analysis to detect emerging variants.

We are alarmed by the growing sense of complacency around this global crisis and emerging pandemic threats. At the Ministerial, we urge you to make specific, time-bound commitments and take concrete steps on each of these priority areas to demonstrate and accelerate progress toward the Summit targets. The world cannot wait any longer for action to end this pandemic and help prevent the next one.

Sincerely,

The Access Challenge
 AVAC
 CARE
 Center for Global Health Security & Diplomacy
 Community Health Impact Coalition
 CORE Group
 East African Health Platform
 Fast-Track Cities Institute
 FIND
 Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)
 Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric,
 Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care - The G4
 Alliance
 Global Citizen
 Global Health Security Agenda Consortium
 Global Immunization Action Network Team
 HelpAge USA
 International Association of Providers in AIDS
 Care (IAPAC)
 International Medical Corps
 Internews

Intrahealth
 IRC
 Korean Advocates for Global Health
 MSH
 NTI
 ONE
 Open Society Foundations
 Pandemic Action Network
 Panorama Global
 PATH
 Resolve To Save Lives
 ReSurge International
 The Rockefeller Foundation
 Sabin Vaccine Institute
 Stowarzyszenie Higieny Lecznictwa (SHL)
 The Task Force for Global Health
 Training for Health Equity Network: THEnet
 UNITE
 URC
 VillageReach
 Women in Global Health