

June 30, 2021

President Joseph Biden Jr.
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C.
20500

Cc:

Daleep Singh, Deputy National Security Advisor, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, G7 and G20 Sherpa

Gayle E. Smith, State Department Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security

Re: Request for Briefing on US's Global COVID Response and 500M Vaccine Donation

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for your G7 Summit pledge to donate 500 million COVID vaccine doses to needy countries in coordination with COVAX. We were pleased to see that the first 1.5 million doses were shipped to Honduras yesterday through COVAX. The 500 million doses that the U.S. is donating will save countless lives and help bring an end to this terrible pandemic in an equitable way.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to mobilize G7 leaders on dose donations, as well as your Administration's earlier unilateral commitments to support last mile distribution, boost the supply of the vaccines, advance global health security, and improve disease surveillance and early warning systems. All of these elements are critical to stopping this pandemic and preventing the next one.

However, the world is still far from having a comprehensive global roadmap for defeating this pandemic. Your G7 leadership moved us forward, but we are disappointed that other world leaders did not commit to donating their fair share towards the necessary 1 billion doses by September, nor pledge any additional funds to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A). The rapidly increasing rise of global Delta variant infections demonstrates that time is not on our side. World leaders must move faster to ensure developing countries have timely access to the full suite of tools required for tackling this pandemic: diagnostics, therapeutics, and health system support.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with Administration staff to discuss the following:

1. Clarity on Funding for the 500M Dose Donation

We applaud the size and speed of the latest 500 million dose commitment and would appreciate additional clarity on the \$3.5 billion cost. As we understand it, \$2 billion of funding is coming from Gavi - what impact will this have on Gavi's original programmatic

plans for those funds? For the remaining \$1.5 billion, which American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding accounts will these funds be pulled from and what impact will that have on the original intended programs these funds were meant to support? Will these funds come from the 550 Account (e.g. through BARDA as lead agency for US vaccine procurement) or the 150 Account (e.g. via USAID or State)?

2. Funding for ongoing Research for Vaccines, Tests, Treatments and Delivery Systems

ARPA included a contribution to a multilateral vaccine development partnership to support epidemic preparedness (e.g. CEPI) for ongoing R&D efforts led by CEPI to keep up with variants of concern, studies on mix and match doses, and ensuring products are designed for use in low-resource settings. Last week, U.S. Senate leadership introduced the [International Pandemic Preparedness and COVID-19 Response Act of 2021](#) reiterating congressional intent for USAID to make an “immediate contribution” of \$300 million to CEPI from ARPA funding allocated for that purpose back in March, yet our understanding is that those funds have not yet been disbursed despite the urgent need.

In addition to vaccines, U.S. collaborations with ACT-A partners are essential to supporting ongoing R&D to develop, manufacture, and deploy diagnostics and therapeutics, including oxygen therapies.

We’re also eager to hear if/how the U.S. will be supporting vaccine delivery efforts in low-income countries to ensure that U.S. dose donations make it from tarmac to arms

3. Establishing a Comprehensive Global Response Plan

We’d also welcome the opportunity to hear the next steps and timeline for achieving a comprehensive global roadmap for ending this pandemic. While the G7 Summit didn’t achieve this outcome, we urge the U.S. to push G20 Finance Ministers for the urgent multilateral cooperation that will be essential for vaccinating the world.

We formally request an NGO briefing next week to discuss the points above.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to learning more about the U.S.’s global response efforts and how we can continue to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

US ACT-A Working Group

(Chaired by Better World Campaign, Global Citizen and ONE)

Global Health Security Roundtable, Global Health Council

(Chaired by Management Sciences for Health and Pandemic Action Network)

Multilateral Roundtable, Global Health Council

(Chaired by Better World Campaign and Global Health Technologies Coalition)