



## Call to Action for World Leaders Accelerating an Effective and Equitable COVID-19 Response and Pandemic-proofing the Future March 25, 2022

We are at a pivotal moment in the COVID-19 pandemic. With only [14% of people in low-income countries vaccinated with at least one dose](#), progress against the disease is at risk. Equitable access to vaccines, tests, and treatments remains elusive, compromising the health of millions of people, increasing the chances of more deadly variants, and endangering recovery. Now Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought a new security challenge, further threatening global health and safety. The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and looming food and energy emergencies will continue to strain economies, people, and systems — not only in Europe, but also in other regions where progress against COVID-19 is still fragile.

The convergence of different security crises with a still-present COVID-19 emergency will only deepen global suffering unless world leaders act urgently. It is essential that G7, G20, and all leaders not retreat from COVID-19 and acknowledge that ending this pandemic remains critical to the world's security and stability. It is the time to double down and finish this solvable crisis — before the world is faced with a more transmissible or deadly variant, or even a novel pathogen. We call on leaders to revamp their response to the pandemic in upcoming Summits and global coordination meetings taking place in 2022 and stay the course and secure the future, by prioritizing the following actions:

### 1. Accelerate equitable access to and acceptance of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics

- Contribute fair share of funding to support the projected US\$48 billion needed for the global response to COVID-19, including US\$27 billion in grant funding to the Access to COVID-19 Tools-Accelerator (ACT-A) and towards in-country delivery needs for all COVID-19 tools and to support country preparedness for future waves or variants.
- Accelerate regionally diverse development, manufacture and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and tests to meet global and country targets and save the maximum number of lives — ensuring tools are deployable in the most vulnerable communities, low-resource and humanitarian settings.
- Implement a strong agreement in the World Trade Organization to waive intellectual property rights for *all* COVID-19-related medical countermeasures and support the World Health Organization (WHO) backed mRNA Technology Transfer Hub and the COVID-19 technology access pool.
- Facilitate increased transparency in the production, pricing, supply, financing, and delivery of pandemic countermeasures to track tools from production to patients.

## 2. Provide new, diversified funding to fill country-identified gaps in response and preparedness

- Prioritize and commit significant new resources for both COVID-19 response and long-term preparedness, prioritizing resources beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA). Funding should reflect the whole-of-government, whole-of-society nature of pandemic preparedness and response, leverage resources from multisectoral actors — including multilateral development banks (MDBs), IMF, and the private sector — and prioritizing grant funding for LMICs to support country- and regionally-identified priorities.
- Stand up and sustainably finance a new Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness Fund in 2022 to jumpstart financing for country and regional preparedness for pandemic threats, toward a target of US\$10 billion annually.
- Provide sufficient, predictable funding for the global COVID-19 response so that countries are not forced to prioritize among COVID-19 needs and other national health imperatives.
- Ensure national and global security investments prioritize pandemic prevention and preparedness to guard against emerging biosecurity threats.

## 3. Build now to pandemic proof the future

- Strengthen global and regional systems for health security through existing and new initiatives, like the African Preparedness and Response Authority and Global Health Security Agenda, and take ambitious action to reform the International Health Regulations, sustainably finance the WHO, and stand-up a new Pandemic Instrument.
- Establish a Global Health Threats Council to elevate and prioritize leadership for future pandemics with meaningful leadership and representation from LMICs.
- Advance reforms to drive equitable access to new medical countermeasures during a health emergency, such as access principles on pandemic-related countermeasures advanced with public funds, pre-negotiated, regional pooled procurement mechanisms, improved regional development, manufacture, and delivery of medical products that are designed and produced for low-income settings.
- Prioritize and finance a globally networked surveillance and early-warning system with incentives for countries to share data on and sequence new variants and pathogens.

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