

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2021

Ms. Gayle Smith
Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Mr. Jeremy Konyndyk
Executive Director, COVID-19 Task Force
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Ms. Smith and Mr. Konyndyk:

We write today regarding President Biden's goal of vaccinating 70% of the world's population by September 2022.¹ Ending the global pandemic must remain a top humanitarian and national security objective, especially given the risk that new emerging variants pose.² The United States has a chance to demonstrate to the world that it can lead this once-in-a-lifetime push to save lives and catalyze the global economy when it matters most. We stand ready to work with you to meet this challenge, and in doing so seek to better understand the Administration's current strategy in achieving the President's stated global-vaccination goal.

We applaud the Administration's commitment to-date to donate more than 1.1 billion vaccines to low- and middle-income countries, along with pledging key investments needed to support mitigation measures to minimize the secondary impacts of COVID-19.³ The shipment of more

¹ Nurith Aizenman, *Biden Announces A New Goal To Vaccinate 70% Of The World's Population Within A Year*, National Public Radio (Sept. 22, 2021), <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/22/1039800001/biden-announces-a-new-goal-to-vaccinate-70-of-the-worlds-population-within-a-year>.

² Vaughn Cooper and Lee Harrison, *Massive numbers of new COVID-19 infections, not vaccines, are the main driver of new coronavirus variants*, The Conversation (Sept. 9, 2021), <https://theconversation.com/massive-numbers-of-new-covid-19-infections-not-vaccines-are-the-main-driver-of-new-coronavirus-variants-166882>.

³ *FACT SHEET: Targets for Global COVID-19 Summit*, The White House (Sept. 22, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/22/fact-sheet-targets-for-global-covid-19-summit/>.

than 200 million donated vaccines from the overall commitment of more than 1.1 billion vaccines is a good first step.⁴

But much more is needed quickly if we are to achieve President Biden's goal of vaccinating 70% of the world's population by September 2022. Rough estimates predict that, in order to hit the 70% target, an additional 4-to-5 billion doses of vaccine must be manufactured, delivered, and administered.⁵ That means 400 million vaccines going out every month for the next 10 months. Given the vaccine divide that has emerged, this massive effort will not succeed unless we focus attention on reaching individuals in low- and middle-income countries. A mere 0.5% of doses administered to-date have gone to low-income countries, and the entire African continent has only a 7% vaccination rate. That is a moral failing that the United States must lead the charge to remedy.⁶ We can and must do better.

Achieving the President's vaccination goal requires a clear plan, targets, reliable manufacturing capacity, and robust supply chains. Congress is responsible for funding and oversight of U.S. vaccination efforts. Therefore, to better understand the Administration's strategy for achieving the stated vaccine goals, we request a response to the following questions by November 5, 2021:

- 1) What specific benchmarks and targets does the United States need to achieve to meet President Biden's stated goal of vaccinating 70% of the world's population by September 2022? According to what timeline? What are the greatest barriers to achieving this goal?
- 2) What is your own overall projection for how many additional doses will be needed to achieve 70% vaccination rates in low- and middle-income countries by September 2022, taking into account already pledged global donations, COVAX pre-purchase orders, and the pre-purchase orders of low- and middle-income countries? Which vaccine types and manufacturers are expected to be utilized to meet the goal, and what is the expected proportional breakdown for each? What is the timeline for delivery on pledged donations, and are they factored into your understanding of the global donation landscape? More specifically, approximately how many doses do you project will need to be delivered and administered in the next four quarters of FY22?
- 3) What is your understanding of the current global manufacturing capacity within the United States and abroad? Does sufficient global manufacturing capacity exist to meet the 70% goal by 2022? How does that factor into your strategy to vaccinate 70% of the world's population by September 2022? What sources is the Administration using to determine global manufacturing capacity as part of your planning? What are American

⁴ *COVID-19 Vaccine Donations*, U.S. Department of State (Oct. 14, 2021), <https://www.state.gov/covid-19-recovery/vaccine-deliveries/>.

⁵ *WHO, UN set out steps to meet world COVID vaccination targets*, World Health Organization (Oct. 7, 2021), <https://www.who.int/news/item/07-10-2021-who-un-set-out-steps-to-meet-world-covid-vaccination-targets>.

⁶ Josh Holder, *Tracking Coronavirus Vaccinations Around the World*, NY Times (Oct. 12, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>.

and European vaccine manufacturers currently doing to accelerate production, and what could they do to further accelerate production?

- 4) What is the precise expected timeline to deliver the current 1.1 billion doses donation already announced? What is the breakdown of the destinations for these doses? How is the Administration determining where to direct these donations? What can be done to accelerate the donation of these doses?
- 5) How many doses of vaccine does the United States currently have in the national stockpile? Will surplus vaccines be used for donations, and if so, how many and when? How many surplus doses the administration deem necessary to keep in the national stockpile for domestic use moving forward?
- 6) Does the Department of State anticipate additional U.S. donation announcements over the coming 10 months to achieve the 70% vaccination goal by next September?
- 7) Are there ways in which USAID could accelerate the timeline for vaccinating the global population ahead of the President's goal? What additional resources would be needed to prioritize such swift action?
- 8) What specific steps is USAID taking to ensure that vaccine-receiving nations have sufficient cold storage capacity and consistent power supply to manage distributions? How does USAID verify assurances provided by international partners regarding proper cold chain management and capacity?
- 9) How are you managing coordination of international vaccination efforts to prevent overlap, and strategically targeting countries with low vaccination rates? What progress has been made with key global allies to expand their manufacturing and vaccine sharing efforts? Is this being coordinated as part of a larger global strategy?
- 10) Given an adequate vaccine supply, what are the principal obstacles or bottlenecks to getting shots in arms in low- and middle-income countries? What are the estimated end-to-end delivery costs per dose of vaccines in low- and middle-income countries?
- 11) What is the status of conversations with members of the pharmaceutical industry to boost U.S. and international manufacturing capacities?
- 12) Please provide additional information regarding the recent public pledge following the Global COVID-19 summit on the sidelines of U.N. General Assembly to support the expansion of local and regional manufacturing capacity in low- and middle-income countries (such as through regional hubs). How do you intend to operationalize such a commitment, and what resources or authorities are required from Congress to achieve the regional manufacturing and capacity building goals? Who will be leading that effort within the Administration?

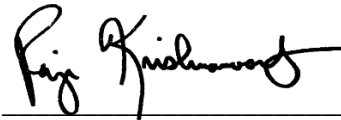
- 13) What is your current stance regarding the temporary Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver in the run up to the 12th World Trade Organization Ministerial at the end of November? Have you had conversations with Germany, the United Kingdom, or Switzerland concerning any potential holdouts on approving the TRIPS waiver? What are your goals for that Ministerial, and what groundwork is currently being laid to make that event a success? What is your current understanding of whether an agreement may be reached during the Ministerial?
- 14) What commitments have you, or others leading the nation's COVID-19 response, received from pharmaceutical companies with respect to technology transfer? Have leaders of the COVID-19 response used the tools at your disposal, both contractual and existing in federal law, to compel increased manufacturing and vaccine distribution? If not, do you plan to use them?

We thank you for your leadership in tackling this global pandemic and look forward to continuing to work together on this issue.

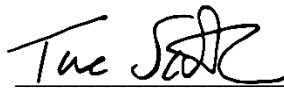
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



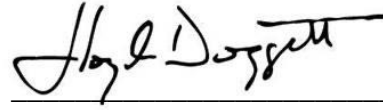
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



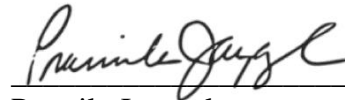
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



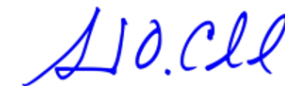
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator