



# A Five Step Plan for a People's Vaccine

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## Peoples Vaccine Policy Manifesto (updated January 2022)

The world is facing a vaccine apartheid – billions of people are unprotected facing the threat of illness and death from this cruel disease.

Billions are also facing hunger and destitution as a result of lockdowns and continued economic hardship. Billions are facing the huge social impacts, including children who have missed many months of education and women having faced increased domestic violence and many more hours of unpaid care work.

Insufficient vaccine supply combined with rich country hoarding of doses mean most people in developing countries faces this killer disease with minimal access to protection. While public money funded the vaccine research, development and manufacturing, pharmaceutical corporations have a monopoly on how many doses are produced, who gets them and what price they pay. These corporations get to decide who lives and who dies.

This is entirely self-defeating. The virus is mutating all the time. The Omicron variant, which emerged in late 2021, has reduced the effectiveness of vaccines. Although vaccines continue to protect against severe disease and hospitalisation, there is no guarantee this will continue in the face of future variants. At the same time, the cost to the global economy of failing to vaccinate the world is estimated to be \$9 trillion dollars.

The World Health Organisation has set a global goal to vaccinate 70% of humanity by the middle of 2022. This is laudable and shows the ambition required. Sadly the world is far off track, and particularly in the poorest nations. And now the need for booster doses means the 70% goal is now just the essential and urgent first step in what must be a much greater and sustained endeavour to ensure everyone across the world is protected.

The science and the economics are crystal clear. The majority of the world's people must have access to a vaccine. We cannot settle for vaccinating just a small proportion of people in developing countries. This will mean unnecessary death and suffering, it will not control the virus and it will not end this pandemic. Instead, world leaders must agree and implement a far more ambitious plan, based on what is needed to urgently reach the goal of vaccinating 70% of humanity by June 2022 and beyond this to ensure sustained universal and equitable access worldwide to COVID-19 prevention and life-saving technologies. This will require maximising vaccine manufacturing through open sharing of vaccine technology and know-how, waiving intellectual property protections and a huge coordinated investment in manufacturing and distribution of vaccines, delivered free of charge to people.



## **Five steps governments must take to a Peoples Vaccine:**

- 1. Urgently agree and implement a global roadmap to deliver the WHO goal of fully vaccinating 70%<sup>i</sup> of people by mid-2022.**

The roadmap should be based on a comprehensive global manufacturing and distribution plan for the vaccines and all COVID-19 products and technologies, fully funded with fair share financing from rich nations, and fair allocation of doses. It must guarantee vaccines of sufficient number to fully vaccinate 70% of people in all countries by the mid-2022, including offering the vaccine to 100% of healthworkers in Low-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), as well prioritising the most vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

- 2. Maximise the production of safe and effective vaccines and other COVID-19 products by suspending relevant intellectual property rules and ensuring the mandatory pooling of all COVID-19 related knowledge, data and technologies so that any nation can produce or buy sufficient and affordable doses of vaccines, treatments and tests.**

- Endorse and support the World Health Organisation COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) and regional mRNA hubs, to facilitate sharing vaccine, tests and treatments technologies, know-how and intellectual property, and use all policy and legal tools available to compel pharmaceutical corporations to contribute to them.
- Immediately support the proposal by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organisation to temporarily waive relevant intellectual property rules under the Agreement of Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) for COVID-19 vaccines and other technologies.

- 3. Invest public funding now in a rapid and massive increase in vaccine manufacturing as well as research and development (R&D) capacity to build a global distributed network capable of and governed to deliver affordable vaccines as global public goods to all nations.**

All countries must invest in the creation of regional R&D and manufacturing hubs with priority given to new capacity in developing countries. The African Union for example has set a target that it will manufacture 60% of its own vaccines. This financing should be based on a system of fair share burden sharing. This should include and build on the new innovations in vaccine technology supercharged by the pandemic such as mRNA, and guarantee the long-term public investment needed to develop and maintain the human capital and physical manufacturing infrastructure required to meet needs now and for future pandemics.

Due to the clear failure of the market alone in ensuring enough vaccines, governments should retain sufficient ownership of these new facilities and work in partnership with the WHO, to ensure their strategic direction and output serves public interest first.



**4. COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests are sold to governments and institutions at a price as close to the true cost as possible, provided free of charge to everyone, everywhere, and allocated according to need.**

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Vaccines are global public goods and must be provided free of charge to people. They must also be sold to all governments and international institutions at a price as close to the 'true cost' as possible.

Governments should use all policy and legal tools possible to drive down the price of vaccines, tests and treatments to reflect 'true cost' and public funding levels to maximise affordability and secure the lowest possible price. Any profiteering from the pandemic by Pharmaceutical firms should not be tolerated, and governments should act fast to apply punitive measures to any company that is found to be profiteering.

Vaccine distribution plans should follow the WHO Equitable Allocation Framework with priority given to frontline workers, people at risk and resource-poor countries with the least capacity to save lives. Allocation plans should be in the public domain and open to consultation and scrutiny and include all people regardless of nationality, residency, or identity. Marginalised groups should be part of the national vaccination programmes including refugees, prisoners, people with disabilities and indigenous populations.

Rich countries must contribute a proportion of doses secured from bilateral deals to COVAX, free of charge and in adherence to the 'Principles for sharing COVID-19 vaccine doses with COVAX'.

**5. Scale up sustainable investment in public health systems.**

Governments should urgently scale up national and global financial support for upgrading and expanding public health systems especially primary health care and for the millions of additional health workers needed for a successful vaccine roll out and for delivering everybody's right to health care. Health services should be free at the point of use, and all user fees eliminated.

Sustained financing of healthcare is urgently needed to ensure global security from emerging diseases and realise the goal of Universal Health Coverage and achieve the right to health for all. We must use the experience of the pandemic to transform health systems across the world - resilient, universal and equitable health systems are a global public good needed to respond to emergencies but also to protect and save lives every day.

**A Peoples Vaccine**

By agreeing to take these five clear steps for the world has the chance to turn this crisis around. An opportunity to build a more robust system of global health, which will give the world the capacity to finally end this pandemic, prepare us for future pandemics and deliver much needed health services and technologies for all who need them. This moment can still be remembered in history as the time we chose to put the collective right to safety for all ahead of the commercial monopolies of the few. World leaders must act now.

ENDS

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<sup>i</sup> The definition of fully vaccinated is two initial doses plus a booster- (with the exception of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine which is one dose originally).