



**THE
PEOPLE'S
VACCINE**

African Civil Society Meeting

May 27, 2021

What we'll cover today...

- Questions/comments on April 30 report.
- Update from PVA Global – recent developments, shifts in strategy, future opportunities
- Updates from the group – recent activities, future plans
- Brief discussion on the Africa Charter on COVID-19 (currently in draft form)
- Other activities we can develop together in June (open letter from African CSOs to European leaders?)



Latest political developments...

- In late April the Alliance hosted a fortnight of coordinated action – presenting **over 2 million petition signatures** (urging WTO COVID-19 Waiver) ([via a press conference featuring US Senator Bernie Sanders and others](#)).
- On May 5th the **Biden Administration surprised us all by announcing their support** for the WTO TRIPS waiver. Official reaction of the PVA, [here](#).
- This US statement was celebrated by India and South Africa, as well as the AU and African CDC who said the US would be remembered for standing up for Africa on this issue. And a great thread in response, from the PVA-Asia, [here](#).
- And the [European Parliament has voted in favor of the TRIPS waiver](#).



Latest political developments...

- New Zealand, Spain (with the PM even [publishing an OpEd in the FT](#)), Indonesia, Russia, China and Italy come out in support of the waiver, with positive signs from Ireland and Belgium.
- Following push-back from big pharma arguing the waiver won't solve the problem, France and Canada pulled back on their momentary support, and have 'flip-flopped' ever since.
- The UK is now saying it's open to discussing what supporting the waiver could look like, but still unclear. Johnson is [under increasing pressure, with the G7 Summit in Cornwall coming up in a few weeks](#).
- Germany is a steadfast blocker, along with Norway, Brazil, South Korea and Singapore.
- While the US's announcement is welcomed, right now it's proposal is around a more narrowed version of the waiver we're pushing for.



Good resources to counter arguments...

- Some good resources:
 - Jim Clarken wrote a good Q&A-style piece for the Irish Examiner: [We need global vaccine equality, not excuses.](#)
 - From PVA Member, HealthGap: [Debunking pharma's talking points on the TRIPS waiver](#)
 - From Stiglitz on Project Syndicate: [Will corporate greed prolong the pandemic?](#)
 - From the PVA Medium page: [Who controls the COVID1 vaccines? 10 myths and misdirections](#)



Latest from the People's Vaccine Alliance...

- Over the past month (in addition to the fortnight of action) we have:
 - Mobilized [over 170 former Heads of State and Nobel Laureates to sign onto an open letter to Biden](#) calling on him to support the WTO TRIPS waiver
 - Grown the Alliance's global petition to over 2.2 million people! With the past month's of activity inspiring over a dozen new organizations to join, so we're aiming to reach 3 million in the next month!
 - Mobilized nearly 2,000 people to tweet at big pharma CEOs ahead of their shareholder meetings, and presented resolutions in J&J and Pfizer AGMs that won 30% shareholder support.
 - Supported the release of Oxfam America's [Shot at Recovery](#) report, which informed a global PVA release on [big pharma profits during the pandemic – enough to vaccinate 1.3 billion people!](#)
 - Global release on the [9 new billionaires created out of the COVID19 vaccines](#)



Our Strategy going forward (May/June 2021)

▪ **Context:**

- The bulk of deaths could still be ahead of us;
- Following Biden's announcement, many people think we've won – which is not the case. It was a historical moment, but we have a long road ahead;
- Biden currently does not have a plan. Biden and Tai both have good intentions, but there isn't consensus within the Administration.
- We'll use the momentum of new memberships to the PVA, revisit old ideas and think strategically about how we strengthen/build-on strategies that have been working well, particularly in critical markets like Germany, and in the Global South.
- We have renewed opportunity to beat down on pharma.
- The upcoming G7 (June 11 -13, UK) is critical, but we also need to start thinking forward to the G20 (Oct 30-31, Italy).



Our Strategy going forward (May/June 2021)

- **Strategic priorities for May/June:**

- Pushing the U.S. to play a diplomatic role, focus on tech transfer (CTAP), progressive text at WTO for wide waiver
- **Grow voice of South, people and countries, on cost of inaction and readiness to manufacture**
- **Pushing Germany – and rest of blockers mainly Europe – to pursue tech transfer, back waiver.**
- Increase heat on big pharmaceutical corporations – with continued goal of one corporation into CTAP



For public campaigning & media work...

- **Key tactics for May & June:**

- Continue evidence-based global media work as much as possible.
- Strategic outreach to existing supporters in key countries, and to other groups in countries where we don't have but need stronger Alliance presence (Regional alliances, and in Germany)
- Build on and promote the growing groundswell of people demanding a People's Vaccine.
- TBD tactics around continuing to put pressure on pharma companies.
- Aiming to have all of these elements represented during our Global Week of Action, the week of **June 7th**.



Key Moments Coming Up...

- **June 2:** COVAX mtg co-hosted by Japan & US
- **June 3 & 4:** G7 Health Ministers Meeting
- **Week of June 7th: GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION in line with:**
 - **June 8 & 9:** formal meeting of the WTO TRIPS General Council
 - **June 11-13:** G7 Summit

