



**THE  
PEOPLE'S  
VACCINE**

Available to everyone, everywhere, free of charge

## **People's Vaccine Alliance Africa**

Civil Society Meeting

July 29, 2021

Hosted by the [African Alliance](#)

## Meeting Objectives

---

As Coordinators of the People's Vaccine Alliance in Africa, the African Alliance seeks to create a space where civil society representatives from around the continent can:

- receive updates on the PVA's global efforts,
- contribute to the PVA's activities and strategies,
- amplify African voices within the PVA, and
- work towards improving communication and coordination related to African vaccine access and equity efforts.

## Participants (14 individuals representing 11 organizations)

---

### African CSOs

- African Alliance – 2 participants
- Gender Links– 1 participant
- Kabale University – 2 participants
- SAfAIDS – 1 participant
- Section 27 – 2 participants
- Tshintsha Amakhaya – 1 participant
- University of KwaZulu Natal – 1 participant
- Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability – 1 participant

### International Organizations

- Amnesty International – 1 participant
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – 1 participant
- London School of Economics – 1 participant

## Meeting Agenda & Key Points

---

**Agenda Item 1: Meeting Introduction + Questions/Comments about June Meeting Report (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 07:33)**

**Maaza Seyoum** (African Alliance) went over the meeting agenda and gave a brief presentation. A link to Maaza's slides is included in the report appendix.

Maaza highlighted the following:

- For those who are joining this meeting for the first time, brief intro to the PVA.
- Highlights of PVA activities/campaigns during the month of July:
  - [#EyesOnPharmaGreed](#) campaign
  - [#StopPlayingGames](#) campaign

- [PVA response to EU's announcement to help build a manufacturing plant in Senegal](#) (10 July)
- [Game of two halves –football finals offer ray of hope in Europe while Uganda turns stadium into COVID hospital](#) (11 July)
- [Position paper on dose redistribution](#) (27 July)
- [The Great Vaccine Robbery – Policy Brief](#) (29 July)
- Sharing of [COVID vaccine rollout data](#) (via Oxfam Kenya)

## **Agenda Item 2: PVA Strategy Shift** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 16:00)

**Maaza Seyoum** discussed PVA's strategy shift and mentioned the following points:

- The strategy shift comes as a result of the third wave of cases on the continent and the slow vaccine rollout.
- New areas of focus
  - 1) Working on advocacy in order to push Germany and rest of TRIPS Waiver blockers in European.
  - 2) Amplifying the voice of the Global South regarding the cost of inaction. (
  - 3) continuing to pressure pharmaceutical companies into joining [CTAP](#).

**Jens Pedersen** (**MSF South Africa**) poses the following question to the group: what are some strategic considerations when it comes to tactics for pressuring pharmaceutical companies to join CTAP/shaming countries into agreeing to the TRIPS waiver?

**Charles Ebikeme** (**London School of Economics**) (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 36:34) points out that many people do not really support/understand the TRIPS waiver because they believe pharmaceutical companies should be making a profit from the vaccines. Charles wonders if one tactic could be emphasizing the point that a lot of public money has gone into developing the vaccine, and highlighting that "the people's vaccine is your vaccine..."

## **Agenda Item 3: Updates from the group** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 26:44)

- [MSF South Africa](#)
  - Held an inaugural meeting bringing together civil society organizations and various interest groups across the continent to address vaccine innovation, IP, finance, etc.
- [SAfAIDS](#)
  - Discovered notable misinformation regarding COVID-19 amongst leaders of civil society organizations
  - Hosted informal focus group discussions to address misinformation/misconceptions
  - Created [digicards](#) based on learnings from focus group discussions

A reminder from Maaza to please share activities as they are being planned if you think they could go on PVA calendar, be amplified by PVA on social media, or could benefit from any support from PVA.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Upcoming Key Advocacy Dates** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 52:51)

- World Trade Organization general council meeting: October 13 & 14
- German Federal Elections: September
- World Bank annual meeting: October
- G20: October 30 & 31
- Climate Change conference, Scotland: October & November
- World AIDS Day: December 1
  - Interest from the group in planning something on/around World AIDS Day, especially given recent data showing a heightened risk of COVID-19 morbidity among PLWHA. Links shared by Vassie Naidoo: (UKZN) [Covid is especially risky for people with HIV, large study finds](#) and Rachel Nicholson (Amnesty International): [WHO warns that HIV infection increases risk of severe and critical COVID-19](#)

Reminder from Maaza about the push from PVA to incorporate spokespeople and/or stories from Africa. Please contact Maaza if you would like to be included in the list or have any names to recommend. The PVA would like to shine a light on the juxtaposition between the vaccine situation in the Global South vs the rest of the world. The hope is to use those stories for advocacy. (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:03:29).

- Link shared by Charles Ebikeme: [My uncle died of Covid-19 before he could get a vaccine in Kenya, and I got mine in a US drugstore. This is what vaccine inequality looks like](#)

Closing remarks: Participants are encouraged to reach out to Maaza if they would like to join the PVA, the PVA Africa WhatsApp group, or have any additions/comments/questions ([maaza@africanalliance.org.za](mailto:maaza@africanalliance.org.za)).

#### **Appendices**

---

[Presentation](#)

[Meeting Transcript](#)

[Meeting Recording \(audio\)](#)

[Meeting Recording \(video\)](#)