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**People's Vaccine Alliance Africa
Civil Society Meeting
January 25, 2022**

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,
- share information with each other on activities, challenges, and successes,
- develop advocacy strategies and activities together, and
- work towards improving communication and coordination related to African vaccine access and equity efforts.

Participants (17 individuals, representing 12 organizations)

| | Name | Organisation |
|-----|------------------|---|
| 1. | Anand Madhvani | COVID Kenya |
| 2. | Belinda Ameterra | AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) |
| 3. | Charles Ebikeme | Personal Capacity |
| 4. | Flavia Mwangovya | Amnesty International |
| 5. | Jackie Wadi | African Alliance |
| 6. | Jens Pedersen | MSF-SA |
| 7. | Joab Okanda | Christian Aid |
| 8. | Kavengo Matundu | Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) |
| 9. | Maaza Seyoum | African Alliance |
| 10. | Marta Colomer | Amnesty International |
| 11. | Ntando Yola | Desmond Tutu Health Foundation |
| 12. | Onesmus Kalama | Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organisations (EANNASO) |
| 13. | Rodrick Mhlongo | Human Resource and Social Information Centre (HURESIC) |
| 14. | Sofien Asta | JAMAITY |
| 15. | Suhayl Omar | Personal Capacity |
| 16. | Tian Johnson | African Alliance |
| 17. | Vassie Naidoo | UKZN College of Health Sciences |

Meeting Agenda

- **PVA Global Update**
 - Changes in the global messaging and updating of PVA strategy and manifesto
- **Updates from around the continent**
 - COVID-19 discussions and priorities in the countries/regions represented on the call
 - Status of vaccine rollout (AVDA/Tian)

- What feedback we can give to PVA Global as they revise their manifesto?
- **Update on PVA Africa**
 - Funding update
 - Membership information review (Jackie)
 - Introduction of PVA Africa Steering Group
 - Nomination process for PVA Africa Steering Group alternates
 - Position open at African Alliance
- **Key upcoming dates in Q1 2022**
 - Dates from PVA Global
 - Dates from PVA Africa membership
- **Any other business**

Action Points

- Alternates nomination form to be shared along with Terms of Reference for the PVA Africa Steering Group (African Alliance)
- Bios for each of the Steering Group members to be shared (African Alliance)
- Online form to update contact info will be shared including a contact number for Jackie to assist with queries (African Alliance)
- Information about Abuja Ports to Arms summit to be shared (African Alliance)
- Information about Christian Aid's activities at the AU Summit and pre AU-EU Summit to be shared (Joab Okanda)
- Any additional dates/events (particularly in Q1) around the continent to be shared for the Global Advocacy Calendar (All)
- Any activities/events planned for March 11 (two-year anniversary of the announcement of the pandemic) to be shared with the group (All)
- No Patents Film to be shared on networks, if applicable (All)

Summary of Discussion

Welcome Remarks [SEE TRANSCRIPT 05:53]

Maaza Seyoum thanked Vassie Naidoo for responding to the outreach for African callers into a BBC radio show. This was an opportunity that was shared with the entire group via email in early January, that Vassie followed up on. She was able to call into the BBC and ask a question about the lack of support for the TRIPS Waiver and make a comment about the greed of the pharmaceutical companies.

[Note: you can find the link to Vassie's appearance here: [BBC World Questions - COVID-19 and Europe](#). Her question was towards the end of the discussion at about minute 45.]

Agenda Item 1: PVA Global Update [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 13:22]

Maaza gave an update on where the PVA stands in light of the state of affairs of the pandemic generally and Omicron specifically. There appears to be a divide on projections regarding the trajectory of the pandemic. Some have indicated that they believe the pandemic may be fizzling out due to the perceived weakness of the Omicron variant while others are not in agreement. There is also some discussion about whether the TRIPS Waiver should continue to be the primary focus of advocates, when other strategies (like voluntary licensing) are available. This has prompted PVA to review its manifesto and strategy and clearly include matters of treatment and testing.

Maaza opened the floor to discuss suggestions that could be taken forward to the PVA as it updates the manifesto and strategy. Interventions and suggestions were provided by several participants, which will be taken back to PVA Global. [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 15:49]

Belinda Ameterra asked a question about the discovery and identification of the Omicron variant. There are rumours circulating that it was first discovered in the USA, and that confusion about this fuels fake news and hesitancy. She requested clarification. [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 23:10]

- Consensus from the group that although Omicron was identified in Southern Africa, it seems very unlikely that it originated there. Evidence is that it most likely originated in Europe. However, the most important response to these rumours is to focus on the need for vaccinations regardless of where variants emerged. It is only improved vaccination coverage that will limit the emergence of new variants.

Agenda Item 2: Updates from around the continent [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 32:03]

Tian Johnson gave an update from AVDA and about the new facility (led by COVAX, GAVI, WHO, UNICEF, AVDA, and ACT-A) that has come together to work on a new country prioritization for vaccine rollout. Some key points:

- AVDA and AVATT are working hard to push COVAX to improve the they improve the quality and predictability of its vaccine deliveries. Shelf life is a big issue. Vaccines should not be delivered without at least 10 weeks of shelf life.
- The new facility is currently putting together a list of priority countries for vaccine delivery and related support, including technical assistance at country level to improve rollout. Those countries are still being identified, but in addition to that initiative, the *Ports to Arms* program rolls out in Malawi, Rwanda, and Zambia in February.

Agenda Item 3: Update on PVA Africa [SEE TRANSCRIPT 37:04]

Funding Update

Maaza reminded attendees about the funding that has recently been committed to the PVA from foundations in the US and the support that it will provide for work going forward. The funding will support the work of groups that are leading the work in the Global South regions (such as African Alliance in Africa), and also support programs in the regions. The PVA has set aside \$250,000 to vaccine equity / PVA related campaigns in the African region for the next two years.

PVA Africa Steering Group and nomination of alternates

In order to make the disbursement of funding transparent, and also to guide the work of the PVA in Africa, we have spoken for a while about the need to set up a Steering Group. That group has now been set up. The next step is the nomination of alternates. Each Steering Group member should have an alternate from their region who is fully briefed on the work and can step in as necessary. All PVA Africa members will receive a nomination form [and Terms of Reference] shortly, and are invited to nominate individuals as alternatives.

Tian introduced each of the Steering group members [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 40:00]: Rouzeh Eghtessadi (SAfAIDS, Lorence Kabasele from DRC, Florita Durueke from NHVMAS, Onesmus Kalama from EANNASO, and Sofien Asta from JAMAITY.

Joab Okanda [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 45:09] is keen to see the PVA Africa SG Terms of Reference and suggests that PVA Africa meetings should – in future be used less as updates and more to discuss strategy. His hope is that the SG will be able to assist in driving strategy so that we don't end up with important international events coming up soon (as is the case in Feb) and no clear strategy as PVA Africa to address them.

Maaza agrees that this is the goal. She also encourages the participants on the call to become PVA members either as individuals or as on behalf of their organizations if they had not done so. The reason this is beneficial is that membership allows African members to contribute directly in strategizing at global level (via membership in the various working groups) as well as during PVA Africa meetings.

Tian suggests African Alliance send out bios of all the SG members along with the TOR and alternates nomination form.

Membership information review [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 51:58]

The intention was for Jackie to share her screen and show everyone the form for updating contact and organizational info. Since she is on her phone, the African Alliance will send out the form with Jackie's phone number so people can contact her on WhatsApp if they have any questions about completing the form.

Position open at African Alliance [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 53:22]

Maaza announced that the meeting was her final meeting as PVA Africa lead as she was taking up a position at PVA Global working as Convenor for their Global South work. A call is currently out for a replacement to take on the PVA Africa tasks that she was responsible for. Participants are encouraged to share the link with people in their networks (deadline January 31).

Agenda Item 4: Key upcoming dates in Q1 2022 [SEE TRANSCRIPT 56:07]

Maaza shared some Q1 2022 items from the PVA calendar and asked people to add more detail or any events from the region that are missing.

| Month | Day | Event |
|---------|------------------|---|
| January | 1 | France took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU. |
| January | 24 | Launch of No Patent film: https://peoplesvaccine.org/take-action/no-patents/ |
| January | 25 th | Progressive International (non-member) online event and press conference on Cuba vaccine success |

| Month | Day | Event |
|---------------|---------|--|
| January | 31st | BBC Panorama release featuring Fatima Hassan (HJI) on Moderna & lack of mRNA hub sharing. |
| February | 4-20 | Winter Olympics Beijing |
| February | 5-6 | African Union Summit Addition from Christian Aid: They are hoping to organize a few activities around the Summit: a joint letter from civil society; a bilateral meeting with the incoming AU Chair or other leaders. |
| February | 11 | International Day of Women & Girls in Science |
| February 2022 | 17-18th | AU-EU Summit Addition from Christian Aid: They are planning a two-day summit with AFRODAD and OSF Africa Regional Office on Feb 10-11. There will be a session on health and vaccine justice. |
| February | tbc | Christian Aid equity index. The index looks to monitor G-20 members and how they are doing in relation to vaccine equity. |
| February | 22-24 | Addition from African Alliance: #PortsToArms Africa Summit: Vaccine Equity, Delivery and Manufacturing (Abuja & hybrid). Led by AVDA, African Alliance, and global partners with attendance from WHO & GAVI leadership |
| February | 25th | High-Level Meeting on Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination |
| March | 1 | Zero Discrimination Day |
| March | 3-5 | Addition from Christian Aid: Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Kigali) |
| March | 8 | International Women's Day |
| March | 11 | PVA Global Day of Action: Second "anniversary" of pandemic declaration |
| March 21 | 21 | SA Human Rights Day |

Maaza notes that PVA members in Asia, Europe, and North America are developing a Global Day of Action for March 11 and asks PVA Africa members to let her know if this is something any of their countries would like to be involved in. She also encourages all members to let the group know of other important events that have been left out of Q1 calendar.

Agenda Item 5: Any other business

Africa CDC [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:12:09]

Discussion re Africa CDC hosting meetings with Western pharmaceutical companies.

There has been some discomfort around Africa CDC's close relationship with Moderna and J&J. Maaza was tasked by PVA Global to checking with the PVA Africa membership on the level of concern at our end. The consensus is that there is benefit to having pharma "in the room" as it allows us to ask difficult questions.

PVA No Patent Film [SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:21:24]

Maaza shared the short film and asked PVA Africa members to share it with their networks if they thought it was appropriate for their audiences.

Appendices

[Meeting Transcript](#)

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

[Meeting Slides](#)