



Online side event

Making quality health products accessible to all

Towards an Africa-EU partnership in global health

17 Feb. 2022 - 11:00-13:00 CET

Co-organised by Team Europe, Africa CDC and partners from Africa

Provisional Agenda & Speakers

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Timing (CET)	Session
11:00-11:05	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mme Meryame Kitir, Minister of Development Cooperation, Belgium
11:05-11:10	'Setting the Scene' by Africa CDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Deputy-Director, Africa, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)
11:10-11:40	Keynotes: building back better - structural solutions to facilitate equitable access to quality health products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General World Health Organization ▪ H.E. Minata Samaté* - African Union Commissioner for Health ▪ Mr. Koen Doens, Director General, European Commission DG INTPA ▪ H.E. Stephanie Seydoux, Global Ambassador Global Health, French Republic ▪ Professor Yérim Mbagnick Diop*, Directeur de la Pharmacie et du Médicament, Ministry of Health, Senegal
11:40-12:20	Panel 1: structural solutions for tech transfers & access to technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Mme Grace Naledi Pandor* - Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa ▪ H.E. Dr Bärbel Kofler – Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, (Federal Republic of Germany) ▪ Dr Amadou Sall - General Administrator, Institut Pasteur de Dakar (Senegal) ▪ Dr Richard Hatchett -Chief Executive Officer, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) ▪ Mr. Charles Gore - Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool
12:20-13:00	Panel 2: an enabling ecosystem & regulatory framework for quality assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Dr Daniel Ngamije - Minister of Health, Republic of Rwanda ▪ Mme Emer Cooke - Executive Director, European Medicines Agency (EMA) ▪ Prof Frimpong Boateng - Chairman, Presidential Vaccine Manufacturing Committee, Ghana ▪ Mr. Jean van Wetter - Managing Director, Enabel (Belgium)
13:00	Joint closure & way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Deputy-Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) ▪ Mme Meryame Kitir - Minister of Development Cooperation, Belgium

**To be confirmed*



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Introduction

The current pandemic has demonstrated the importance of **global equitable access to health technologies and quality health products** such as diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines as well as medical supplies. To save lives now and prepare for future pandemics, it is critical to have resilient, functional, and inclusive **health systems** with **universal health coverage**, and to provide access to health services and health products that are **available, accessible, acceptable, affordable and of quality**.

The pandemic has also highlighted that access to health products varied strongly between regions, causing a differentiated level of risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts. Africa in particular is dependent on vaccine imports, which count for 99% of local vaccine needs, yet only manufactures about 1% of vaccines. Drawing on lessons from the pandemic, the African Union, through the Africa CDC, has demonstrated international leadership through its ambitions for a **new public health order**. The ambition is set to locally produce 60% of African vaccine-needs by 2040, through the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM). In addition, in 2021 African countries started the ratification of the African Medicines Agency (AMA), which ties into these ambitions by helping improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products on the continent.

Team Europe has closely worked with Africa to forge a **strong partnership** in this domain. Beyond existing short-term support, the EU has announced a **€1 billion Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa**, with region-to-region cooperation and concrete local production partnerships in Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, and Ghana.

At global level, multiple actions have endorsed these ambitions, including resolutions on local production within WHO (WHA74) as well as WHO-initiatives to facilitate **technology transfers** such as C-TAP and the mRNA Tech Transfer Hub in South Africa. The international community, led by WHO, is furthermore reflecting on new instruments to strengthen health systems and epidemic preparedness.

Going forward, we require **structural solutions** to be better prepared for current and future health crises. While local production will contribute to this, the EU and Africa also stand shoulder to shoulder in their support for a new pandemic agreement, for which an intergovernmental negotiating body has been set up and which will have its first meeting in February 2022. The pandemic agreement is expected to amongst other topics include provisions on equitable access.

Building a local production ecosystem is a complex endeavour. It is thereby important to maintain a **public health-perspective** and to mobilise all the tools & partnerships at our disposal, combining the strengths of governments, development finance institutions, science and technology, the private sector and civil society. These investments, first directed at COVID-19 health products, will mobilise innovative health technologies for other health needs including malaria, TB, and neglected diseases.

The Africa-EU partnership should seize the momentum to strengthen its partnership in global health and set further **ambitious commitments to facilitate global equitable access to quality health products**. Preparing the ground for the EU-AU summit, this side-event intends to reflect on structural solutions in this direction, including through innovative local production initiatives in support of the African Union's ambitions.