

SUNYMEU 2022

ALTERNATIVE AGENDA PROPOSAL

To be presented at SUNYMEU 2022 Opening on 7 April 2022 as noted on the conference schedule.

Member State Presenting this Proposal: Kingdom of The Netherlands

Agenda Title

Low-Cost Vaccines for African Countries – Six-Month Suspension of Intellectual Property Rights (VIA: Vaccine in Africa)

Links to:

-European Council, *A New Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 – Promoting Europe’s Interests and Values in the World*

-*Taking Forward the Strategic Agenda 18-month Programme of the Council* (1 January 2022- 30 January 2023), *Promoting Europe’s Interests and Values in the World* (p. 25)

-*Programme of the French Presidency, Development and Humanitarian Aid* (pp. 20-21)

Background

Africa is currently the least vaccinated continent in the world; only 11 percent of the entire country is vaccinated. So far, out of the 54 African countries, only Mauritius and Seychelles have met the 70 percent vaccination goal. Seven other countries are nearly there with a 40 percent vaccination rate. However, 21 countries have vaccinated less than 10 percent, 16 have vaccinated less than 5 percent and three have vaccinated less than 2 percent. There is currently an average of 6 million people vaccinated every week in Africa, this number will need to increase to 36 million people a week if Africa wants to reach its 70 percent vaccination rate in a reasonable period. There have been a total of 239,000 deaths caused by Covid, with a reported 8.6 million cases means that Africa has a casualty rate of 38.69 percent. Though there is a need for vaccines in various African countries, these countries lack the resources to obtain them. According to WHO (World Health Organization) in a study done on 40 African countries, there is a €120 billion gap

in funding for vaccines. The biggest strain on African vaccination rates is the finances to transport vaccines into the continent.

Currently, the EU has committed to providing Africa with 450 million vaccine donations by mid-2022. However, this will not be enough to help the African population reach its goal.

Vaccination donations are only a short-term solution to a long-term problem and there are more efficient ways to vaccinate the continent of Africa. In February of 2022, the EU and the African Union agreed to work on a joint vision for the future. This vision will not be possible without Africa being at its full strength.

For Africa to be an effective partner and ally to the EU, the general population must be fully vaccinated.

Recommendations

VIA requires that the EU will enable:

1. Africa to reach its 70 percent vaccination rate by no later than 2023. This will be accomplished by the 27 member states of the EU.

- a- Temporarily suspending the intellectual property rights (patents and copyrights) on vaccines for six months starting no later than July 1, 2022, so that African countries will be able to produce the vaccine creating jobs and economic development opportunities for Africans.

- b- Providing funding to help close the €120 billion gap needed to vaccinate the African population by 25 percent between July 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

2. Provide training to African doctors and nurses to develop the skills of administering vaccinations in six traveling vaccination training stations for three weeks in each country.

- a- Along with the process of administering vaccines, the courses in the stations would provide a basic overview of anatomy, biology, and the history of vaccines.