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Following the COVID-19 pandemic, African countries and development partners have prioritised investment into vaccines manufacturing capacity with a goal to produce 60% of African demand locally with a view to overcome health inequities and improve health security.

From 27-29 June 2023, the African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (AVMI) in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) with support from German development cooperation, convened **A Global Event on Enhancing the Sustainability of Investment in Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa**. More than 140 participants from international and African vaccine industry, international organizations, governments, and civil society participated in the discussions. It should be noted that this represented the largest gathering of African vaccine manufacturers since the formation of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) in 2021. The critical need to establish local vaccine development and manufacturing capacity to ensure better health outcomes and health security in Africa cannot be overstated and is well accepted.

AVMI and African vaccine manufacturers in attendance welcomed the leadership of the Africa CDC and acknowledged the remarkable progress that the PAVM has made. Through engaging with a broad group of stakeholders, Africa CDC has established a growing movement towards building sound and viable vaccine manufacturing in Africa.

Now is the time to jointly build on these foundations to accelerate progress on key elements of the PAVM Framework for Action and adopt a market-based approach so that a competitive and viable vaccine manufacturing sector can emerge.

We, as AVMI and industry stakeholders, recognize our direct responsibility and role as implementers of vaccine development and manufacturing capacities on the ground and are committed to achieving this.

Therefore, recognising

- the substantial financial investments required;
- the importance of technology transfer in collaboration with industrial partners;
- the time it takes to achieve efficient production and that vaccine manufacturing is sensitive to economies of scale;
- the long lead-times involved in achieving WHO prequalification for vaccines;
- the need to establish vaccine R&D capacity to break the absolute reliance on 3rd parties for access to technology;
- the need for commitment from and alignment between African governments;
- that current efforts by African manufacturers and others should not be wasted and must result in tangible and viable long-term vaccine manufacturing capacities.

We emphasize the **urgent and essential requirement** for

1 Implementing enabling policies through

- 1.1. Time-limited supply-side incentives (e.g. interest subsidies, utility subsidies, concessionary land) in support of the domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing as part of a comprehensive industrial policy approach for the sector;

- 1.2. Establishing time-limited price premiums for African vaccine manufacturers within procurement mechanisms on the national level as well as within GAVI/UNICEF and mechanisms under development on the regional and continental level. Additional investment by both African governments and international partners will be required for the premiums as well as the full operationalization and financing of the GAVI Advance Market Commitment;
- 1.3. Operationalising regional and continental commitments for liberalisation of trade and investment to deepen the integration of the African biopharmaceutical market.

2 **Increasing predictability of demand through**

- 2.1. Consolidation of African vaccine demand on a sustained multi-year time horizon in alignment with procurement cycles by UNICEF and other procurement agencies with Guaranteed offtake agreements;
- 2.2. Commitment by African governments to choosing African-made vaccines when and where they are available under pre-defined terms and conditions;
- 2.3. Identifying a shortlist of priority antigens/vaccines for local procurement by African governments as well as regional and multilateral bodies, which manufacturers can specifically target for investments;
- 2.4. Financing a continental mechanism for pooled procurement of vaccines with targeted incentives for vaccines produced in Africa manufacturers.

3 **Streamlining and speeding up regulatory pathways for African vaccines through**

- 3.1. Expediting regional and pan-African regulatory harmonization schemes, including an accelerated ratification and operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency;
- 3.2. Utilising regulatory reliance mechanisms in the interim for expedited market authorization of African-made vaccines;
- 3.3. Working with WHO to expedite WHO prequalification of vaccines produced by African manufacturers.

4 **Mobilising financial resources through**

- 4.1. Unlocking financing to local manufacturers for preparation and implementation of bankable projects;
- 4.2. Applying innovative blended financing to develop vaccine R&D and manufacturing capabilities;
- 4.3. Supporting African governments investments in education, training and technology transfers for sustainable vaccine production.

The time is NOW!

Current and planned investments in vaccine manufacturing in Africa and emerging technology transfer partnerships are at a major risk without immediate and focussed interventions.

The AVMI and the African manufacturer constituency are poised to fully engage, support, and complement efforts to institute these practical, tangible and urgent interventions.

We are committed to working towards improved health outcomes, increased health security, and sustainable economic development through the establishment of a viable vaccine industry in Africa.
