

To prepare ourselves for new phases of the COVID-19 pandemic and to respond effectively, a global strategy with clear goals, milestones and priority actions is needed. **The significant inequity in vaccine access must be addressed immediately**, as it is not only unjust, but also threatens the effectiveness of global efforts to control the pandemic. Variants may still emerge that our vaccines cannot manage. The more quickly we vaccinate now, the less likelihood there is of ever more variants emerging. One action which can be taken now is an equitable redistribution of available vaccine doses. **Scaling up the development and supply of therapeutics and of diagnostic tests** is also very urgent to save lives.

Moreover, to prepare for likelihood of COVID-19 becoming endemic and to address inequity in vaccine access in a more sustained way, **manufacturing capacity of mRNA and other vaccines must urgently be built in Africa, Latin America and other low- and middle-income regions**. Vaccine manufacturing is highly specialized and difficult. Boosting production takes time so enabling it must begin now. **It requires agreements on voluntary licensing and technology transfer**.

There are 5.7 billion people in the world aged 16 and over. All need access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. This is not some aspiration for tomorrow – it is urgent, now. COVAX has secured 1.1 billion vaccine doses and has optioned 2.5 billion more⁽⁹⁾. Before the end of April, one billion vaccine doses were administered, overwhelmingly in high-income or upper-middle-income countries. The Panel joins with political and faith leaders across the world and calls for an all-out effort to reach the world's population with vaccines within a year and set in place the infrastructure needed for at least 5 billion booster doses annually.

Immediate action to end COVID-19 must be guided by explicit strategies with measurable milestones. The Panel recognizes the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for 2021⁽¹⁰⁾ provides useful technical guidance but the Panel's view is that there is a need for a higher level roadmap for ending the pandemic with clear targets, milestones and dates.

