

Open Letter to the President of the United States: THE NEED FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL VACCINATIONS

August 10, 2021

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We want to commend you and your Administration for the global distribution of millions of doses of the COVID-19 vaccines. Our friends in recipient countries are truly grateful.

Nonetheless, in order to gain control of the pandemic, a much more considerable effort will be required to inoculate the global population. Millions of people in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia continue to have little or no access to vaccines and remain desperate as the delta variant becomes increasingly rampant worldwide. Helping to vaccinate populations in other countries is an investment in our own safety as well as global stability. The longer the virus spreads, the more opportunity it has to mutate into new and more vaccine-resistant variants and lead to the further breakdown of societies.

At June's G-7 meeting, the member countries made commitments to eradicate the disease and revitalize the world's democracies. There would be no better way to advance both laudable goals than to orchestrate a global plan with U.S. leadership in partnership with the G-7 to distribute the world's most proven vaccines to every country in need. The goal should be to vaccinate a majority of the global population by year's end. The G-7 must also provide resources and technical assistance to countries lacking capacity to mount mass vaccination campaigns.

Achieving such a monumental undertaking would be a powerful reminder to the world of the primacy of our great democracies in delivering solutions to humanity's most intractable challenges.

Mr. President, the United States has a historic opportunity to demonstrate decisive leadership and build goodwill across the globe. The world is yearning for it. It is in our national interest to deliver relief to so many millions in desperate need.

Sincerely,



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