

OUTCOME OF THE COVAX AMC SUMMIT

ON June 2nd, the COVAX AMCⁱ Summit was held (virtual format), co-hosted by the Government of Japan and Gaviⁱⁱ. Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide co-chaired the meeting with Mr. José Manuel Barroso, Gavi Board Chair, and Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu took the role of facilitator during the Summit.

This Summit was organized to raise additional funding to secure necessary vaccines for developing countries by the end of 2021, in order to ensure through the COVAX Facilityⁱⁱⁱ equitable access to safe, effective and quality-assured vaccines thereby overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants in the Summit include leaders and ministers from about 40 countries including the Honorable Ms. Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America, and H.E. Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, as well as H.E. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General and other heads of international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and representatives from the civil society and the private companies such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Prime Minister Suga called for further solidarity and commitments from the international community in the fight against COVID-19, and expressed Japan's full support for ensuring equitable access to safe and effective vaccines for as many people as possible with a view to achieving Universal Health Coverage guided by the principle of human security. Prime Minister Suga also explained that Japan has continuously supported the efforts by the COVAX Facility, including through its financial contribution amounting to 200 million USD and announced Japan's additional contribution of 800 million USD. Furthermore, Prime Minister Suga expressed Japan's intention to provide, when circumstances allow and at an appropriate time, around 30 million doses of vaccines manufactured in Japan to other countries and regions, including through the COVAX Facility.

Minister Motegi expressed his hope for further cooperation among countries and organizations. In particular, Minister Motegi emphasized, during the discussion on the cooperation with partners including the private sector, Japan's "Last One Mile Support", which contributes to the delivery of vaccines down to the last person by leveraging Japan's technology and strength. As such, Minister Motegi called for further collabora-



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tion with the COVAX Facility.

During the Summit, many additional pledges were announced from governments and non-governmental entities. As a result, the Summit raised well beyond the target of \$8.3 billion USD to secure 1.8 billion vaccine doses to protect nearly 30 percent of the population in AMC-eligible economies.

i The Gavi COVAX AMC (COVID-19 Vaccines Advance Market Commitment) is the financing instrument that will support the participation of 92 low- and middle-income economies in the COVAX Facility—enabling access to donor-funded doses of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. (<https://www.gavi.org/>)

ii GAVI, officially "Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance," is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization in poor countries.

iii The COVAX Facility is the vaccine procurement platform funded by COVAX AMC.