Tokyo Statement from the Biopharmaceutical Industry: Priorities for Progress in Global Health

The global innovative Biopharmaceutical Industry welcomes Japan's leadership in shaping the global health agenda. Over the last three years during the pandemic Japan has played a pivotal role in supporting the global community's fight against COVID-19, both politically as well as financially. The G7 Hiroshima Summit provides a unique opportunity for world leaders to take stock of what worked well and what could have been done differently. The pandemic has highlighted the value of Japan's championing of the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in building resilient healthcare systems as well as the need for a vibrant innovation ecosystem to address the main global health challenges of today and tomorrow.

In this Tokyo Statement, the biopharmaceutical industry shares perspectives on the current priorities for progress in health globally, calls on the G7 under Japan's Leadership to take bold action, and re-affirms its commitments to contribute through developing innovative vaccines, treatments and diagnostics, ensuring they are available all around the world.

Global health priority issues

- Industry has contributed significantly to mitigating the devastating impact of the pandemic, and demonstrated its health and economic value worldwide. We have researched, developed, manufactured and delivered innovative vaccines, treatments and diagnostics against COVID-19 at record speed and in historic quantities. In just two years, there has been 47 vaccines and 38 therapeutics authorized or approved by at least one country, with 381 manufacturing deals for vaccines signed and 150 for therapeutics; 85% of COVID-19 vaccines doses delivered by COVAX were developed in partnership with IFPMA members. At the same time, we maintained the supply of other critically needed products.
- Pandemic preparedness is not just about health security, it is about economic security, bearing in mind that not only millions of lives were lost, but the global economy suffered a loss of $13 trillion. Improving the health of the world's population – young and old, rich and poor – should be a common goal, and no less important than securing energy and food resources.
- As countries move back to "normal" social and economic activities, we must remind ourselves of the ongoing threat that COVID-19 poses and the importance of wisely and proactively using available tools including vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. It is also crucial to build back routine immunization programmes and to address the treatment of non-communicable diseases, including cancer, dementia

and obesity. The pandemic has set back some previous gains in the control of NCDs that will need to be addressed. There are still many patients throughout the world who require innovative treatments that currently do not exist, such as for Alzheimer's disease, or that do not have equitable access to existing ones. The "silent pandemic" of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) also presents challenges in both innovation and access that need to be addressed.

- The innovative biopharmaceutical industry remains committed to relentless innovation to triumph over such diseases and to working proactively with all stakeholders to advance the global health agenda. In this context, we call upon the G7 leaders to nurture an enabling environment for innovation and to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a key enabler for equitable access to medicines, vaccines and diagnostics.

Request to the G7 #1: Safeguard a Sustainable Innovation Ecosystem

- Among the key lessons learned during the pandemic is the power of science and an innovation ecosystem which delivered medical countermeasures in record time. It is of critical importance that any global pandemic preparedness and response framework preserves this innovation ecosystem built on the protection of intellectual property rights, which provided a stable legal framework allowing companies to engage on an unprecedented scale in voluntary partnerships, technology transfer and knowledge sharing. Intellectual property has also enabled the creation of powerful new platform technologies such as mRNA developed over many years to be deployed in the fight against COVID-19.

- At present, many countries around the world are experiencing a progressively aging population and rising social security costs. The increasing burden of care poses serious issues – both health and economic – that can be mitigated by innovations that meet unmet needs. A healthier population means a larger number of people supporting society, ensuring the sustainability of social security systems will be enhanced. In other words, positioning the innovation and health benefits of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics as an investment in the future, rather than a cost and taking into account the holistic societal value, is crucial.

- Another lesson learned during the pandemic was the importance of resilient supply

chains and health systems to ensure the delivery and uptake of critical health products. Even in developed countries, healthcare systems were temporarily overwhelmed and surges in demand affected supply chains, which together impacted the provision of routine immunization and other essential healthcare services. International cooperation to build robust and diversified supply chains is a key for continuous distribution of medicines internationally and locally in each country during future pandemic and periods of conflict.

- Industry supports the G7 100 days mission, aiming to develop and deliver new treatments, vaccines and diagnostics even faster in future pandemics. This requires on-going investment into innovative technologies and candidate products across the R&D ecosystem including academic, public and private researchers. In order to achieve the 100 days mission, it is critical that scientists have immediate access to pathogens as soon as they emerge. Some ongoing discussions, including at the WHO on the “Pandemic Accord” and the review of the International Health Regulations (IHR) are pushing for a transactional approach that makes access to pathogens conditional on “benefits sharing”. To avoid delays, maximize speed and global equity, access to pathogens should be decoupled from access to medicines and vaccines, and we call on G7 leaders to spearhead the strengthening of global surveillance networks and ensure unhindered access to pathogens.

- In order to play its role in achieving a more equitable rollout of vaccines, treatments and tests in future pandemics than during COVID-19, the biopharmaceutical industry is keen to be a solution partner. To this end, it has committed to reserving part of real-time production of vaccines, treatments and tests in future pandemics for allocation to vulnerable populations in low-income countries. However, this commitment will only work if G7 leaders, and leaders of countries with major manufacturing capacity, sign on to a social contract allowing export of such products and refrain from trade restrictions. Early completion of advanced purchase agreements for this allocation, as well as delivery capabilities in the recipient countries are also critical factors for successful equity. We have witnessed many countries asking orders to be delayed or having to destroy doses received due to insufficient absorptive capacity.

Antimicrobial Resistance

- G7 members have in the past committed to the creation of novel incentives to support a sustainable antimicrobial R&D pipeline but there is now an urgent need to translate this important political commitment into action, with concrete, measurable steps to advance economic market reforms in each G7 country. We welcome progress in some G7 countries, including Japan, to develop the necessary incentives. It is time for action elsewhere.

Request to the G7 #2: Support Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and promote equitable access to medicines.

- Industry welcomes the inclusion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in this year's G7 agenda. Universal Health Coverage means that everyone, everywhere, has access to the health services they need without risking financial hardship.
- Yet today the lack of UHC in countries around the world harms billions of people via delays in diagnosis and treatment and irregular uptake of health interventions, leading to suboptimal health outcomes. Almost 1bn people face out-of-pocket payments of above 10% of their income where public programs are lacking. The COVID-19 pandemic has also led to a reversal of recent gains made in global health outcomes through the diversion of resources towards emergency response and disruptions to essential prevention and health services, including for key areas such as infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- It is critical to improve health systems readiness and resilience as a cornerstone to achieving UHC, particularly at a primary healthcare level, including new approaches to prevention, health promotion, screening, diagnosis, treatment, surveillance, life course vaccination and patient follow-up, building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Investments in these areas will help prepare for future pandemics as well.
- Achieving SDG 3 requires investing more and investing better on effective interventions towards achieving UHC, with mobilizing domestic financing being key for its sustainability. The biopharmaceutical industry is willing to contribute by supporting initiatives to improve patient access to quality, affordable medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and healthcare.
- The experience with COVID-19 reinforced the importance of UHC and of strong adult immunization systems. The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) foresees

routine adult immunization as a critical component of societal wellbeing and called for: “A world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being.” Therefore, protecting and prioritizing immunization through life is an essential pillar of expanded prevention strategies and a central component of universal health coverage. Life-course approaches to immunization strategies are a cost-effective means of improving health throughout adult life. Vaccinations not only reduce the incidence and severity of infectious disease, they also reduce the incidence and severity of comorbidities with noncommunicable conditions.

Conclusion – Health Security and the Role of the Biopharmaceutical Industry

- Medicines, and vaccines play a core role in health security. Beyond curing and preventing diseases, medicines also provide substantial social and economic value, such as contributing to the reintegration of patients into society, their ability to become supportive members of communities, and the reduction of caregiver’s burden.
- The protection of intellectual property rights is critical as the foundation for future innovation in drug discovery for diseases with unmet medical needs which should support people’s healthier lives. Improving patients access to innovative medicines, vaccines and diagnostics across the life course should be a common goal.
- In particular, as Japan is ahead of the rest of the world in the super-aging of its population, we ask that the Japanese Government leads the G7 discussions by demonstrating to the world its commitment to extending healthy life expectancy and addressing falling birth rates. This includes advancing comprehensive measures for the prevention, management, treatment and care of chronic disease, and supporting the eradication of entrenched pandemics that affect the world’s poorest and most vulnerable such as HIV and TB.
- We welcome increased alignment between health and finance ministers, as health and economic security are inter-linked.
- As a trusted partner in health security, the innovative biopharmaceutical industry will continue to rise to the challenge of developing breakthrough innovations against unmet medical needs to provide a better future for patients suffering from a broad range of diseases worldwide. We will strive to continuously develop valuable medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, and ensure that they are delivered to patients in need.