

**grandmothers**  
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien des  
**grands-mères**

Advocating for Grandmothers, Vulnerable Children and Youth in Africa  
Soutien aux grands-mères, enfants et jeunes vulnérables en Afrique

January, 2021

### **Open Letter To Mr. Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D, Chair and CEO, Pfizer**

Dear Mr. Bourla,

Congratulations on your announcement that Pfizer will be sending 40 million vaccine doses to COVAX, the ground-breaking facility that aims to provide fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for every country in the world.

Developing and manufacturing a life-saving vaccine during a pandemic is an outstanding achievement for which the whole world is grateful. Having control over the supply of a vaccine that can save millions of lives is a responsibility that few will ever face and that will have historic consequences. In this effort to date, Pfizer is seen as a leader on the world stage.

You have said that PfizerBioNTech should be able to produce two billion COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of 2021. Your donation of 40 million doses represents 2% of your planned output, one very small step given Pfizer's overall production capacity that is currently being further expanded.

The donation of 40 million doses will vaccinate 20 million people, about the population of a country such as Ivory Coast or Ghana. What about the many remaining poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries?

COVAX has stated that it could procure enough vaccine doses this year to vaccinate 1.8 billion people, about 27% of the population of the poorest countries. This is not enough if we truly wish to end the pandemic and curtail opportunities for COVID mutations that could reduce the efficacy of current COVID-19 vaccines. Time and global availability are of the essence. All pharmaceutical companies are being asked to meet this demanding humanitarian challenge.

In rising to this challenge, transparency is critical to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. Full transparency from Pfizer/BioNTech and Gavi on the agreement, on the prices charged for all the countries taking part in COVAX, and on the timing of the delivery to COVAX countries, is vital.

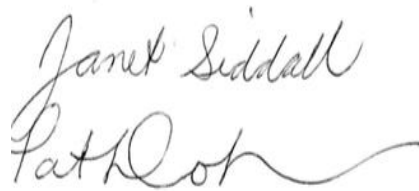
It is important to note that billions of dollars of public funding have already supported the development of COVID-19 vaccines and the COVAX Facility itself. Pfizer is therefore being

asked, as are other pharmaceutical companies, to supply the COVAX Facility with the volumes it needs at an at-cost price.

If Pfizer truly wishes to be seen as a humanitarian pharmaceutical leader on the world stage, then it is critical that Pfizer supports the WHO framework for allocation of COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, the bulk of Pfizer's supply should be offered to the COVAX Facility and priced at cost. These vaccines must be distributed equitably, not based upon who can pay the most. The secrecy of bilateral agreements with more affluent countries gives way to the notion of price gouging and serves to cloud Pfizer's humanitarian efforts, which is most unfortunate as it tarnishes Pfizer's image on the world stage.

In closing, we are asking Pfizer to step up to its global responsibility and increase its donation to a minimum of 10% of production volumes. Two hundred million doses would be a contribution worthy of a great leading pharmaceutical company and would set an example and a standard for other vaccine manufacturers. Will you step up?

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Janet Siddall' and the second is 'Pat Dolan'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Siddall and Pat Dolan  
Co-Chairs, Grandmothers Advocacy Network  
<https://grandmothersadvocacy.org/>

c.c.

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of International Development