When I look back a year and half ago, a deep sense of responsibility has been the driving force behind the unprecedented efforts of the innovative industry.[1]

Breaking all historical records in vaccine R&D, manufacturing capacity expansion, and production, today we can really count on several safe and highly effective COVID-19 vaccines.

But from the beginning we knew that scaling up manufacturing capacities would be a daunting task.

So, companies scaled-up vaccine manufacturing at risk, supported by countries' risk-sharing models, even though it was not sure yet which, if any, vaccines in development will be approved by health authorities.

Since the outset of the pandemic, companies have been looking for the right partners that fit the need for scaling up such a complex manufacturing process that you have with vaccines. Biotechs, large pharmaceutical companies, and contract manufacturing organizations are working together, with over 300 agreements, in both developed and developing countries today.[2]

As mentioned by Mr. Rasmus Bach Hansen before - We are getting the job done. By the end of this month, over 3 billion vaccines will have been made - from zero a few months ago. We are on track to produce an estimate of 10 to 12 billion by year end.[3,4]

To put that into perspective, the global production estimate of vaccines for 2019 totaled 5,5 billion doses.[5]

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[1] IFPMA COVID-19 hub https://www.ifpma.org/covid19/

[2] COVID-19 R&D-based pharma industry's innovative partnership to meet urgent global supply needs https://www.ifpma.org/resource-centre/rd-based-pharmaceutical-industrys

By signing up to the ACT-Accelerator in April 2020, we committed to work together with others to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines – to leave no one behind.[6]

Concretely, this had meant socially responsible pricing, trebling the world capacity in a year time, and committing doses to COVAX[7] as well as other agreements with developing economies.

Since February, COVAX has successfully shipped over 89 million COVID-19 vaccines to 133 economies.[8]

1) Stepping up responsible dose sharing; The latest development from G7 countries, which pledged 1 billion doses for low- and middle-income countries in 2021 and 2022, with hopefully more to come now, is extremely encouraging. COVAX announced, last week, an estimated 515 million doses to start becoming available in significant numbers very soon.[7]
2) Continuing to optimize production, including through additional voluntary collaborations with trusted partners that can produce significant quantities, without compromising quality or safety.
3) Supporting country readiness, to ensure that countries are ready and able to deploy available doses. We are already seeing countries giving back doses, or worse, doses expiring.
4) Driving further innovation, the evolution of the virus is a stark reminder that continued innovation will be key. Our scientists are studying how the vaccines perform against the emergence of new variants or are looking into the next generation of vaccines with improved dosage formulations and storage conditions.
5) Eliminating all trade barriers to export and further streamline regulatory procedures.

Globally integrated supply chains for COVID-19 vaccines should work at their full potential to produce over 10 billion doses by year end - enough to vaccinate the world's adult population.

This goes hand in hand with

Expanding and streamlining regulatory review and reliance practices, adopting alternatives to on-site inspections (e.g., virtual inspections), reducing import and release testing requirements and expediting raw materials supplier qualifications for new suppliers; and

Facilitating the cross-border supply of key raw materials, essential manufacturing materials, vaccines, and prioritizing the movement of skilled vaccine manufacturing workforce.

We are working now with our partners in the COVAX Supply Chain and Manufacturing Task Force to see what can be done to eliminate trade barriers, fahm2594(3)4(1)3(5)(ou)4(1)(pa)TJ EMC 0.000008866 0 594.96 842.04 reW*nBTf1 0