

# End the Pandemic Everywhere

## Rapid Response Opportunity

We have an opportunity to give millions of people vaccines and end the pandemic everywhere and as it is they're being sacrificed to pharmaceutical industries profits. Currently billions of people in the global south will not get access to the vaccine until 2024<sup>1</sup>. This is not only an egregious human rights and racial justice issue, it's a threat to the safety of global north residents and the entire global economy<sup>2</sup>. While there has been encouraging movement on voluntary measures like COVAX and CTAP at the World Health Organization<sup>3</sup>, public health experts have warned that these measures are insufficient. India and South Africa have petitioned for a waiver on intellectual property rules at the World Trade Organization<sup>4</sup> to address these issues and increase manufacturing capacity of COVID-19 vaccines led by 100 countries in the global south.<sup>5</sup>

The US, unfortunately, has been one of the key roadblocks, apparently in order to protect the pharmaceutical industry's profits. The new administration, though, has demonstrated a commitment to a more progressive trade policy and has an interest in extending goodwill around the world as a way of restoring confidence in US leadership after Trump. During his campaign last year, President Biden verbally committed to healthcare activist Ady Barkan that he would ensure that patents do not prevent other countries from accessing COVID-19 vaccine technology.<sup>6</sup> We can move the administration on this and secure support for a waiver at the general council meeting on March 2nd. To do that we need to organize hundreds of progressive groups, move figures with influence on the administration to publicly support our agenda, and run a sophisticated digital strategy to effectively engage thousands of volunteers to take action.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/27/most-poor-nations-will-take-until-2024-to-achieve-mass-covid-19-immunisation>

[https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/17/global\\_vaccine\\_supply\\_hoarding](https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/17/global_vaccine_supply_hoarding)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/23/business/coronavirus-vaccines-global-economy.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/biden-administration-who-covax/2021/01/20/3ddc25ce-5a8c-11eb-aaad-93988621dd28\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/biden-administration-who-covax/2021/01/20/3ddc25ce-5a8c-11eb-aaad-93988621dd28_story.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://msfaccess.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/COVID\\_TechBrief\\_MSF\\_AC\\_IP\\_TRIPSWaiverMythsRealities\\_ENG\\_Dec2020.pdf](https://msfaccess.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/COVID_TechBrief_MSF_AC_IP_TRIPSWaiverMythsRealities_ENG_Dec2020.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/12/urgently-waive-intellectual-property-rules-for-covid-19-vaccine/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://healthgap.org/press/bidens-commitment-to-global-sharing-of-covid-19-vaccine-technology-is-a-step-in-the-right-direction-must-be-followed-by-concrete-plans-to-dismantle-dangerous-healthcare-nationalism/>