



## **G20 Global Health Summit**

*21 May 2021*

In this *Global Health Summit* we are called upon to prepare the future, while still combating the current pandemic.

The Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council coincided with some of the worst phases of the pandemic, but also with the vaccination roll-out and the start of the recovery.

*Let me start on **vaccination**.* Science and scientific international cooperation allowed us to develop and produce vaccines in record time.

We must now focus on promoting widespread access to vaccines by expanding manufacturing capacities, preventing supply chain bottlenecks and removing export restrictions.

That is why we should not be distracted from our immediate needs: speed up manufacturing and distribution of vaccines to all, guaranteeing immunization as a global public good.

The European Union is doing its part. It leads in supporting research and development of vaccines and in financing their production and distribution.



The EU and its Member States are among the lead contributors to COVAX and the EU is setting up a European vaccine sharing mechanism directed to partner countries.

*Second*, we must deal with the social and economic consequences of the pandemic. We must shore up the **recovery** on new foundations, making the best use of trends and technologies already in progress before the pandemic: the green transition and the digital transformation.

At the same time, we must give special attention to those more vulnerable to the crisis and to the ongoing transformations in economies and labour markets.

This week, in the Summit on Financing African Economies, which took place in Paris, we consolidated a consensus on the need of a new issuance of special drawing rights (SDRs) of 650 billion USD, 33 billion of which will go to African countries. Only with adequate financing countries, especially the most vulnerable countries, will be able to fight the pandemic and foster recovery. We also agreed that universal access to vaccines should be attained including via production in Africa.

*Third*, the world needs to be better prepared to prevent **future** health crises.



At the multilateral level, we must support, strengthen and reform the WHO and promote the full implementation of the International Health Regulations.

Portugal is also willing to participate on the negotiation of an International Treaty on Pandemics, within the scope of the WHO and having the International Health Regulations as its cornerstone.

The “*One Health Approach*” must also be at the centre of our discussions. The impact of the effects of climate change in vector-borne diseases should be a top priority, as well as the challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance.

The pandemic took us by surprise. But in the past year we have been learning from our response to it.

We learned:

- that it is better to combat the pandemic together than in isolation;
- that vaccine nationalism, trade barriers and supply chain bottlenecks will only make us all worse off;
- that our National Health Services and their workers are the first and best line of defence against the current and future crises.

The *Rome Declaration* offers us valuable guidance. I thank all countries and organizations, as well as the Scientific Panel and civil society, for their contributions to the debate, helping us to be better prepared for our post-pandemic future.

Thank you!