

Contribution by Mr. Till Mansmann, MP, member of the German delegation
for the Joint session with the IPU Standing Committees on Sustainable Development and on United
Nations on 27 April 2021
Regarding Part II of the session “Vaccines accessibility”

Thank you Mrs. Chairwoman, dear colleagues,

Germany will advocate for strengthening health systems around the world and especially assuring and defining vaccine accessibility as a public good. In this meaning, it is important to establish and agree on our understanding of what we mean by „vaccine accessibility as a public good“. Vaccination is the way out of the pandemic.

The German delegation acknowledges the German government's responsibility and commitment in the development cooperation and policies, to ensure a global access to vaccines and achieve a fair and equitable distribution. The German delegation strongly stands for a long-term and efficient solution to overcome this pandemic. This industry has developed several effective vaccines in less than a year and manufacturers have committed themselves to fair conditions and have strengthened cooperation with other governments. A general withdraw of patent protection at a national or international stage would imply a short-term vision and would mean taking a step backwards, after all the progress we have already achieved.

We consider vaccines should be a global public good and that it is the government's duty to grant access to it worldwide. But we cannot allow this to be misinterpreted, taking short-sighted, and rushed measures that will undermine an efficient long-term solution. Patents are an extremely important incentive to invest resources in research and development, as we know from the economics of innovation. As this will not be the last pandemic, in the future, we will need pharmaceutical companies and their ability to innovate.

Market mechanisms are highly effective to reach this goals.

Germany is expected to receive a total of 300 million doses. This figure is derived from the number of doses Germany will receive from EU contracts and the vaccine doses agreed with German manufacturers that the German government has funded.

It is essential, in the case of vaccine oversupply, to develop a strategy and action plan for the re-distribution of vaccines from countries with more advanced vaccination to developing countries. This would require a coordination and collaborative work between the different countries and the European Union in order to carry out a global cooperation for an equitable, united and more efficient redistribution. The multilateral system must adapt and reform to recover better.

Following this approach, we are also acting in accordance with SDG Nr. 3, (Good health and Wellbeing) by ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages by 2030.

Accordingly, we will advocate for a common regulatory framework that enables companies and responsible consumers to make transparent decisions and relies on free

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market mechanisms to minimize violations of human rights and environmental and
social standards in the future.