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VACCINE**

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People's Vaccine Alliance Africa

Civil Society Meeting

May 27, 2021

Hosted by the [African Alliance](#)

Meeting Objective

As Coordinators of the People's Vaccine Alliance in Africa, the African Alliance seeks to create a space where civil society representatives from around the continent can:

- receive updates on the PVA's global efforts,
- contribute to the PVA's activities and strategies,
- amplify African voices within the PVA, and
- work towards improving communication and coordination related to African vaccine access and equity efforts.

Participants (48 individuals representing 25 organizations)

- ActionAid – 2 participants
- Advocacy for Prevention of HIV and AIDS (APHA) – 1 participant
- African Alliance (South Africa) – 4 participants
- AIDC – 1 participant
- AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) – 1 participant
- Atlantic Institute – 1 participant
- AVAC – 1 participant
- COVID Kenya – 1 participant
- EANNASO – 1 participant
- Evisage LTD – 1 participant
- Frontline AIDS – 1 participant
- GALZ Africa – 1 participant
- Gauteng Together – 1 participant
- Gender Links – 1 participant
- Health Justice Initiative – 2 participants
- International Commission of Jurists – 1 participant
- Naledi – 1 participant
- Oxfam – 1 participant
- People's Vaccine Campaign – 1 participant
- REPSSI – 1 participant
- SAfAIDS – 2 participants
- Section 27 – 1 participant
- Southern African Network of Prisons – 1 participant
- SRHR Africa Trust – 1 participant
- Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity – 1 participant

Meeting Agenda & Key Points

Agenda Item 1: Meeting Introduction + Questions/Comments about April 30 Meeting Report (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 03:20)

Maaza Seyoum ([African Alliance](#), [People's Vaccine Alliance](#)) went over the meeting agenda briefly reviewed last month's report asking if there were any outstanding questions.

Maaza the question posted by **Vassie Naidoo** (UKZN) last month, which the African Alliance had promised to follow up on: What action has the People's Vaccine Alliance taken on pharmaceutical companies that want the governments, including governments in the global south, to take responsibility for any adverse events that vaccinated persons may experience? In response to this question, Maaza explained that the leadership at PVA reported not have an official stance on pharmaceutical companies insisting that governments take responsibility for adverse events. The feedback received is that this a country by country issue, depending on how governments negotiated with companies. Other participants were asked to give their inputs.

Tanveer Jeewa ([International Commission of Jurists \(ICJ\)](#)) (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 12:54) responded that historically, countries and states (not vaccine developers/suppliers) have been liable for any mishaps that happen with vaccines. She explained that many of the Global North countries adopted legislation before COVID that stated that in emergency circumstances, with the rapid development of vaccines, vaccine manufacturers and suppliers will not be liable for any cases of injury or death.

Fatima Hassan ([Health Justice Initiative](#)) encouraged meeting participants to take a look at the Health Justice Initiative's submission on the above topic. Those submissions can be found here: [HJI Submission on Proposed Vaccine Injury Scheme](#). Fatima elaborated by stating that HJI finds the situation to be completely egregious and also thinks the South African government's decisions and lack of transparency are also problematic.

Agenda Item 2: Updates from PVA Global (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 19:40)

Maaza Seyoum presented a short set of slides with the following updates

- Latest political developments (including the US administration's support for the TRIPS Waiver)
- A discussion of who is still opposed to the TRIPS Waiver (including France, Germany, and the UK)
- Some good resources (from PVA and others) to help when we need to provide counterarguments to challenge those who oppose the TRIPS Waiver and support the status quo.
- Some of the recent PVA achievements (open letter, global petition, tweet storms, reports, press releases)
- Context and strategy going forward for May & June
- Key moments coming up, including the PVA Global Week of Action (June 7), planned to coincide with the WTO TRIPS General Council (June 8-9) and the G7 Summit (June 11).

Please see the slide set for more details. That slide set can be found [HERE](#).

Agenda Item 3: Updates from the group (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 37:08)

- **Health Justice Initiative:** Fatima updated the group on how the physical actions (HJI, MSF, TAC, PVC) at pharmaceutical companies offices in SA went during the last PVA Global Day of Action in March. The group needs to decide if anyone wants to try to develop physical actions for the upcoming week of action (in June) or if it would preferred to focus on social media and traditional media.
- The group also discussed the arrival of French President Macron to South Africa. He apparently arrived as the meeting was taking place, and the group brainstormed on what sort of action could be developed at a moment's notice in order to challenge him and his opposition to the TRIPS Waiver.
- **International Commission of Jurists** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 37:41)
Tanveer updated on:
 - Continued work with lawyers in SADC region to try to put pressure on SADC governments. ICJ needs information on when SADC summits are coming up in order to strategize on pressure. The hope is to ensure that they include vaccines when they hold their next summit.
 - ICJ is also developing an AU strategy with to get commitments from member states and ministers to push for scale-up of vaccines hitting the desired 20% of the population by the end of 2021. Strategic litigation is being considered.
 - Youth advocacy is a goal of ICJ. They will be reaching out to people in this group, seeking collaboration.
- **People's Vaccine Kenya**
 - **Anand Madhvani** provided an update on the organizing they are doing with media groups in Kenya to crowdsource volunteer networks and information to encourage vaccine delivery.
- **Amnesty International** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 47:36)
Mandipa Machacha is working on SADC advocacy, lobbying countries in preparation for the August summit. The hope is to get SADC countries to make a declaration at the summit, relating to manufacturing, distribution and management of vaccines. Since they can't target all SADC countries, they are focusing on **Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, and DRC**. Mandipa asks that people from those countries or with good contacts in those countries reach out to her.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation by Onesmus Kalama (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 57:48)

Onesmus Kalama ([EANNASO](#)) gave presentation and highlighted the following points:

- What EANNASO is,
- the type of work EANNASO does,
- EANNASO's engagement with the Global Fund's [COVID-19 response mechanism](#) platform, and
- EANNASO'S goals as relate to COVID-19 vaccine equity and community education with a focus on vaccine preparedness, to ensure that when vaccines arrive, the communities are ready to take them.
- The group agrees to go forward with an African Civil Society Letter directed at European leaders. Maaza will draft and share.
- Mamofuta Kale (SafAIDS) requests to be included in the PVA Africa Steering Group.
- Onesmus Kalama informs the group that he has already signed up to be part of the Steering Group.
- Tian Johnson (African Alliance) gave an update on the [African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team \(AVATT\)](#) and directed everyone to the AVDA page on the African Alliance website: <https://africanalliance.org.za/avda/>

- Joab Okanda (Oxfam) reminded everyone that the PVA Week of Action (June 7) is coming up soon, and encouraged organizations to plan events and let us know. Maaza reminds people that PVA has a small pot of money for these activities in order to provide a bit of support.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion of the Africa Charter on COVID-19 (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:24:17)

Tian Johnson discusses their participation in the drafting of the African Charter on COVID-19. Tian highlights that the charter will not be focused on vaccines, but rather on a broad range of socioeconomic issues (including manufacturing access), international and global solidarity, and decolonization in the health sector. All participants are reminded that they can participate in that writing group.

Closing remarks by Maaza: Participants are encouraged to reach out to Maaza if they would like to join the PVA or have any questions (maaza@africanalliance.org.za).

Appendices

[PVA Presentation](#)

[Meeting Transcript](#)

[Meeting Recording \(audio\)](#)

[Meeting Recording \(video\)](#)