

UNIDO – 49th Industrial Development Board

Statement by H.E. Mr. Gerhard Küntzle, Permanent Representative,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

of the Federal Republic of Germany

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Agenda Item 7 – Response to the COVID 19 pandemic

Excellencies, Director-General, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have taken note of UNIDO’s document on this issue and Member States’ comments. I would like to add some remarks from Germany.

The German government sees access to COVID-19 vaccines as a global public good and has therefore been working for equitable distribution worldwide since the beginning of the pandemic. To this end, the German government has chosen the multilateral approach and has supported the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its global vaccine platform COVAX since its inception.

With a contribution of almost 2.2 billion euros Germany is the second largest ACT-A donor. ACT-A’s goal is to ensure globally equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. The vaccine platform COVAX, for example, aims for providing vaccine doses to cover up to 30% of the population in 92 low and lower middle income countries by early 2022.

The COVAX vaccine platform follows the “Fair allocation framework” developed by the World Health Organization for vaccine distribution, which aims to ensure equitable distribution worldwide. As COVAX faces supply shortages, countries with access to vaccines are encouraged to share vaccine doses with COVAX. German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced at the G20 Health Summit on May 21 that Germany will donate 30 million COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of the year, largely through COVAX.

In addition, the global expansion of vaccine production capacity is an essential tool for global pandemic prevention and control. Currently, vaccines are produced in only a few developing countries, with the Serum Institute in India being the world's largest vaccine producer. In Africa, on the other hand, only

about 1% of the vaccines used there are produced locally, leaving the continent in a critical state of dependency. To this end, the African Union (AU) held a high-level conference on April 12 and 13, with the goal of increasing its own vaccine production to 60% of the vaccines used on the continent by 2040. Germany is currently exploring opportunities to promote local production in African countries. Germany is also in dialogue with pharmaceutical companies and associations to explore private-sector solutions. During his visit in Senegal, German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr. Gerd Müller, announced the provision of 20 million euros to support the plans of the Senegalese government to promote vaccine production.

It is in the area of manufacturing capacity where we see UNIDO's valuable expertise with which it can make a major contribution to the fight against the pandemic.

Thank you.