



Medicines for Malaria Venture

[www.mmv.org](http://www.mmv.org)

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## Chapeau

*(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)*

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the critical importance of investing in biomedical research and development (R&D) to achieve Health for All has become more apparent than ever. New, effective vaccines were developed with unprecedented speed thanks to a level of global investment in R&D and collaboration that matched the urgency of the crisis. However, these remarkable efforts also exposed serious gaps in equitable access to health tools, technologies, and services. This, in turn, has had a negative impact on key areas of development. The lesson is clear: investing in both biomedical innovation and equitable access is necessary to achieve Health for All, particularly for poverty related and neglected tropical diseases and other diseases affecting developing countries.

## Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

*(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)*

## Chapter II. International peace and security

*(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 2)*

## Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

*(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)*

The world is not on track for Sustainable Development Goal 3. To achieve Health for All, the Pact for the Future will need to drive greater commitment, investments, and efforts in the areas of science, technology, and innovation, while focusing on building the systems that allow for better access to lifesaving tools.

The need to invest in both innovation and access is reflected under target 3.b of SDG3, which calls to “support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, and provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines...”

However, the scope of the vision and precision of the targets under SDG3 could be improved. Target 3b does not sufficiently consider the inclusive innovation, equitable access and sustainable financing required for Health for All. Furthermore, global health R&D is currently represented in the SDG 3.b.2 as “Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors”. This target only reflects investments in R&D from the development assistance community and not the required investments in the development of technologies in affected countries or in the strengthening of national health systems allowing for better access. Indeed, even in instances where international funding is available, lack of infrastructure, capacity and regulatory hurdles impede the full deployment of R&D potential in countries, and access to and use of new health technologies. When it comes to achieving Health for All, greater emphasis should be placed on developing sustainable systems for inclusive, expanded, and equitable innovation and access.

A new future for health research, resulting in increased well-being for all, can draw from the product development partnership (PDP) model. PDPs remain the chief developers of innovative, new medical technologies for people suffering with diseases and health threats that are underserved by traditional markets. PDPs develop global research capacity and are essential to achieving long-term health targets like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2010, 12 PDPs have delivered 79 new health technologies,<sup>1</sup> including a new HIV/AIDS prevention product, a combination antiretroviral treatment for young children with HIV/AIDS, new treatments for hepatitis C, child-friendly medicines to address relapsing malaria, and new diagnostic technologies for COVID-19 and tuberculosis. PDPs conduct their work where the diseases they are fighting are prevalent, performing research around the world, often in low-resource settings. Through their work, this group of PDPs has helped build research capacity and research literacy in 98 countries since 2010. The products developed by PDPs have reached more than 2.4 billion people, mostly in low- and middle-income countries.

Signatories of the Pact for the Future should therefore:

- 1) Recognize the power of innovation as a game-changer for health and development and adjust their commitments and investments accordingly.** There are still significant gaps in the development and delivery of health tools and services for poverty related and neglected tropical diseases. A steady pipeline of innovation tools is needed to meet continuing and evolving health needs, address resistance, facilitate elimination, and reach underserved populations, particularly children, women of childbearing potential and pregnant women, who are often the very last to receive interventions. This will require a wider vision, scaled-up commitment, and sustainable financial investments in biomedical R&D and access.
- 2) Place the needs of affected communities at the centre of biomedical research and innovation efforts.** New products do not become tools for prevention, diagnostics, or medicines until they reach the patients that need them. The needs of affected people, particularly the most vulnerable, must therefore remain at the heart of research and innovation decision making.
- 3) Shift the centre of gravity of global health research needs to shift towards affected countries and regions.** We need to break the North- South approach so that novel health commodities are rapidly available, affordable, and equitably accessible in low and middle-income countries. This

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.keepingthepromisereport.org/>

will require stronger multi-sectoral collaboration including coordination with, and support from, research institutions, regulators, funders, the private sector, governments, and multilateral agencies. This will also require sustainable investments in local R&D and capacity building in lower and middle-income countries (LMICs).

- 4) Leverage existing partnerships.** A broad range of actors must be involved in the design, planning, adaptation, and scaled-up delivery of innovation. But no need to reinvent the wheel. PDPs are “system integrators” that leverage the facilities and expertise of public, private, academic, and philanthropic partners. Their end-to-end collaborations with researchers, manufacturers, global, regional, and national regulators, and national health programmes ensure prompt approval, incorporation into national protocols, and equitable access to these new technologies. PDPs perform clinical research in LMICs, thus helping to build sustainable local research platforms. PDPs like MMV are also working with African manufacturers to strengthen the local production and the increase availability of quality-assured antimalarials.

#### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

*(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)*

#### **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

*(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)*