

International Cooperation to Discover a Vaccine

The fast global coronavirus dissemination at this moment means that nobody is safe from this pandemic until everyone is safe. In Brazil, as in our countries, people have been making enormous personal sacrifices to slow the spread of the virus. However, only one factor has the capacity to stop this pandemic: a vaccine.

The global sense of community among nations is notable as we work together towards finding a cure. The only way of obtaining success is reuniting our resources, science, and expertise. A global alliance to fight Covid-19 is being organized and we hope that Brazil will be part of it.

On April 24 the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) initiative was launched, a cooperation platform to accelerate research, development and uniform access to all vaccines, therapeutic treatments, vital diagnostics, and to strengthen health systems in the most vulnerable countries.

We are proud that our countries have organised this week the Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference, of which the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Japan were co-hosts. Hosted by the European Commission, the event has already raised R\$ 46 billion, from governments and global institutions from the public and private sectors, for research and development of vaccines, treatments, and tests to help end this coronavirus pandemic. The period for other donors to pledge is open until May 23rd, and we hope more countries can contribute.

Many are contributing to winning this war. Developing a vaccine for coronavirus will save many lives and means of subsistence around the world. Last week we celebrated the news that scientists from the University of Oxford had initiated human testing and have a partnership with a pharmaceutical company to ensure that a viable and largely applicable vaccine is ready soon. The same thing is happening in a lot of countries around the world.

It is clear that the more countries, companies and global institutions unite to gather their knowledge, the faster our scientists will find a vaccine that will be accessible to all. The international impulse to find a vaccine is growing and does not stop there.

As the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said: "With this commitment, we are on the path to develop, produce and implement a vaccine for all. However, this is only the beginning. We need to sustain the effort and be ready to contribute more. The marathon of promises will continue".

This is just the beginning. On June 4th, the United Kingdom will be the virtual host of the Global Vaccine Summit, focused on fundraising for the Gavi Alliance (Global, Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization), at which Brazil would be very welcome. Gavi's work is essential to prevent diseases spreading globally, protecting our countries from future pandemics. Once the coronavirus vaccine is ready, the Gavi Alliance will also play an essential part to ensure its global distribution.

It is time for countries to work together towards a solution. As the WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, “It is clear that no country, however its size or resources, can manage COVID-19 alone”. Therefore, the shared effort now will be the most important to preserve our lives. We are all in this together and together we will succeed.