

Collaborative Engagement on Access to Medicine and SDG3 May 2022 update

SUMMARY

We are pleased to report that investor engagement with ATM Index companies continues to drive progress towards increased access to medicine and the achievement of SDG3. Lead investors have so far met with 10 companies (AbbVie, Astellas, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Merck & Co, Merck KGaA, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Roche and Takeda) in the [2021 ATM Index](#) to:

- Discuss and drive progress against company report card opportunities
- Encourage full participation in the data collection process for the upcoming 2022 ATM Index (*to be published in Q4 2022*).

Please see the first tab in the Excel tracker for an overview of how companies have responded to lead investors with specific regard to their report card opportunities, as well as more detailed meeting notes in the second tab. Lead investors for the majority of the remaining 9 companies are in the process of engaging in or arranging meetings.

Thank you to all for your support and engagement. Special thanks to our 37 lead investors for their continued efforts in setting up company meetings, discussing opportunities and sharing feedback with the wider signatory group.

COMPANY PROGRESS

In line with opportunities for progress that are highlighted in the 2021 ATM Index report cards, below are some examples of steps pharmaceutical companies have taken towards increasing access to medicine in low- and middle-income countries:

- In May 2021 **Johnson & Johnson** [embedded a commitment](#), within its Health for Humanity 2025 Goals, that by 2025 it will enable access to bedaquiline for 700,000 cumulative patients, potentially averting 6,000,000 new MDR TB infections. This progress reflects a 2021 ATM Index opportunity for the company to expand access to its patented products.
- As part of its New Corporate Strategy Plan 2021, **Astellas** [has committed](#) to ‘implementing a comprehensive strategy from development to the market for providing access to health to address patient needs.’ This development follows a 2021 ATM Index opportunity calling on the company to consolidate its access approaches into an overall strategy and to clearly align this with its corporate strategy.
- In July 2021, **Merck KGaA** [entered into](#) a contract manufacturing agreement with Kenyan Universal Corporation Ltd., for the large-scale production of arpraziquantel – a paediatric medication for schistosomiasis – once it has been registered. This agreement includes the build-up of extensive production capacities in Nairobi, Kenya, for future provision of the treatment in endemic African countries. It is currently being tested in a pivotal clinical Phase III trial in Kenya and Côte d’Ivoire to generate confirmatory data for registration.
- In October, **Bayer** [pledged](#) to invest over €400 million to increase access to modern contraception in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), supporting its global sustainability commitment of providing 100 million women in LMICs with access to modern contraception by 2030. This investment will go towards new production capabilities and sites

in Costa Rica and securing long-term supply to meet increased global demand for long-acting reversible contraceptives. Through this pledge, Bayer makes noteworthy progress on its opportunity published in the 2021 ATM Index, which called the company to apply equitable pricing strategies for contraceptives that are not procured through UNFPA.

- In February 2022, [Roche announced](#) new commitment to double the number of patients receiving their innovative therapies in low- and lower-middle income countries by the end of 2026. The company highlighted this commitment in a recent meeting with lead investors.

COVID-19

As coronaviruses fall within the scope of the ATM Index, this initiative has also formed an important part of global efforts to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 medicines, vaccines and diagnostics. Below is a snapshot of recent progress by companies, investors and governments:

- In August 2021, [Pfizer and BioNTech announced](#) a collaboration with Brazil's Eurofarma to manufacture mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for distribution within Latin America. They will manufacture more than 100 million doses annually through the agreement.
- In October 2021, [Merck & Co \(MSD\)](#) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) [signed a](#) voluntary licensing agreement for Molnupiravir, an Investigational Oral Antiviral COVID-19 Medicine, to facilitate global access to the medicine in 105 LMICs. This was the first MPP agreement to provide access for a COVID-19 medical technology.
- In October 2021 [G20 leaders](#) established a G20 Joint Finance-Health Task Force specific to ensure adequate financing of pandemic preparedness and response (PPR). The taskforce published an [update](#) in April 2022, calling on donor countries to commit to a multiannual programme of funding, for at least an initial 5-year period.
- In November 2021, [Pfizer](#) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) [signed a](#) voluntary licensing agreement for Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment candidate PF-07321332, to expand access to the treatment in LMICs.
- In January 2022, a [letter](#) led by [Achmea](#) and supported by [65 investors](#) was sent to 4 major COVID vaccine manufacturers calling on the companies to link executive pay to the World Health Organization vaccine roadmap.
 - Achmea plan to organise a roundtable in the coming months to explore next steps. To find out more, please contact Frank Wagemans (Frank.Wagemans@achmea.nl).
- In March 2022, [ICCR](#) confirmed 12 proposals seeking information on pharma companies access-to-medicine strategies – including COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics – have gone to a vote at 2022 AGMs. Resolutions were also filed by [Oxfam USA](#) at Pfizer and Moderna, calling on both companies to undertake a tech transfer feasibility study. As well as a resolution at JNJ, seeking transparency on how the company determines pricing for its COVID vaccines in light of public funding received.
 - The resolutions received a significant amount of support but not enough to pass. See recent [BBC article](#) for more.

GROWTH IN INVESTOR SUPPORT

Your continued support has been an instrumental part of elevating the issue of access to medicine as a priority engagement topic for investors.

Over the last year, the ATM Foundation has welcomed over 20 new signatory investors including HSBC, Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation, Swedbank Robur Fonder AB, EGAMO and Valori Asset Management.

For the full list of investor signatories, please see the [updated investor statement](#) on our website.

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