

International Pledging Initiative to mobilise funding for COVID-19

(Working paper – Subject to change)

With the adoption of the joint [EU's global response to COVID-19](#) on 8 April, President von der Leyen announced that the EU would soon convene a virtual pledging event to help mobilise the necessary funding and support the World Health Organisation to assist the most vulnerable countries. This follows up on an earlier announcement made by the President of the European Commission together with the EU Council President Michel at the G20 leaders' Summit on 26 March

Within the European Commission, the work will be led by DG International Cooperation, with very strong involvement of DG Research and Innovation, DG Health and Food Safety, DG Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and in close collaboration with the European External Action Service.

The European Commission will team up with the Member States and partners around the world to hold a pledging initiative, with the aim of closing the current funding gap of EUR 7.5 billion identified by the [Global Preparedness Monitoring Board](#), comprising world leading scientists and health experts. The President is starting to reach out to the Heads of State and Government in Europe and beyond.

DG Research and Innovation suggests to strongly involve in this pledging initiative key international partners with which the EU has Science and Technology Agreements with particular attention to Japan, Canada, India and South Africa, both for science and innovation related reasons and for their geo-political strategic role considering the need to pay strong attention to the most vulnerable population.

Discussions are currently ongoing on what these funds should be used for: research and development of rapid coronavirus diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, quickly and at scale; ensuring sufficient supplies of protective equipment for health workers and support the WHO to coordinate and prioritise efforts to the most vulnerable countries. In addition, all new vaccines, diagnostics and treatments developed for COVID-19 must be globally available, appropriate, and affordable, regardless of where they have been developed, or who has funded them. This is a starting point and it will be essential that the EU engages in the pledging initiative with a coordinated position, especially on vaccines and treatments.

In addition, discussions are ongoing on who should be the recipients of these funds. Some of the funds should go to organisations that are coordinating the global response to this crisis, namely CEPI (the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, GAVI (the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization), the Gates/Wellcome Trust/Master Card Therapies Accelerator and other relevant initiatives such as Glopriid-R. While contributions will be made to organisations as mentioned above, we will continue to support and step-up the work started under Horizon 2020 in close coordination with EU Member States efforts and with the EIB. We need to get a deeper analysis of who does what and make sure the work is done in a complementary manner.

Before further developing the EU input for the pledging initiative, it is therefore important to further coordinate the course of action with the Member States. We have therefore proposed this point on the agenda of the [5.1.2e](#) meeting of 15 April in order to provide further input to the organisation of the pledging moment on the basis of the discussion.

