

C-19 Global Summit 22 September 2021

**Statement by the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**

President Biden, thank you for bringing us together today - and for building on the momentum of our G7 in Cornwall - to end this pandemic and prevent another.

This is not merely a moral mission, but an act of enlightened self-interest, because no-one is safe until everyone is safe.

So our urgent priority must be equitable access to vaccines, and the UK's G7 Presidency has already secured pledges of more than 1 billion doses - of which at least 883 million will be donated to COVAX.

The UK committed to share 100 million doses by next June, with the first 5 million by the end of this month. In fact we have already shared 10 million, and will be donating before the end of the year another 20 million doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, which remains the workhorse of global immunisation, available on a not-for-profit basis for everyone.

The UK is ensuring we don't have vaccine stockpiles, by releasing doses for other countries. We've contributed over £800 million to ACT-A, donated ventilators, and oxygen generating units, and stand ready to support further efforts, including by working with Prime Minister Draghi ahead of next month's G20.

Of course we must also prevent such devastation from happening again. So at last year's UN General Assembly I set out a Five Point Plan, now enshrined in the Carbis Bay Declaration.

That includes an effective early warning system to spot new Covid variants and other emerging infectious diseases before they spread, so, together with my good friend Dr Tedros, the UK has proposed a Global Pandemic Radar.

Effective early warning can also help accelerate the production of Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics, from the 300 days of this pandemic to 100 days in the future.

We must also identify dangerous animal borne diseases before they make the jump across the species barrier, through a global network of Zoonotic Research

Hubs. And mindful that the next animal pathogen may not reach humanity via natural means, the UK will renew our Biosecurity Strategy.

The greatest tragedy of the last eighteen months is not that the world was beset by a devastating disease but that humanity failed to unite against it. So the UK is proposing a Treaty on Pandemic Preparedness and Response and I hope we can take that forwards together at the Special Session of the World Health Assembly in November.

Because now is the time to put aside the spirit of *sauve qui peut*, and make collective defence against common threats the legacy of the post pandemic era.

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