



PRESIDENCIA
DEL GOBIERNO

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE COMUNICACIÓN

TRANSCRIPCIÓN

**EL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, INTERVIENE EN REMOTO
EN EL GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT**

Madrid, 21 de mayo de 2021

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Gracias. Thank you, Mario, Ursula,

Let me start by commending the Italian G20 Presidency and the European Commission for the initiative to co-host this Summit.

As we continue to mourn the millions of victims of COVID-19, it is crucial that we redouble our efforts to end the current pandemic and be readier for future ones.

Spain is firmly committed to improving the global health architecture and to translating the urgency that brings us together today into concrete action.

Our first priority must be putting the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. The pace of vaccinations has accelerated across the European Union. This will allow for a gradual reopening of our societies. And I am hopeful that two multilateral initiatives that Spain has championed, the EU COVID-19 certificate and the OECD Blueprint for Safer International Travel, will make a difference in facilitating mobility between most of our countries.

But we still stand way behind on our goal to ensuring affordable and equitable access to vaccines for all. The gap between countries is increasing, and future needs might not be fully met. It is not only a matter of justice; it is a matter of ensuring we fight the pandemic efficiently and with all the means and instruments at our disposal.

Many voices and countries have been calling for a temporary waiver of the TRIPS agreement, or for overriding some of its requirements. Spain firmly believes that we must urgently find consensus on such proposals.

But licenses and intellectual property rights are just one part of the equation. That is why my country is proposing to act simultaneously on the three fronts that need action: facilitating the transmission of the necessary technology and expertise, lifting all barriers to ramp up production, and accelerating vaccine distribution.



First, until an agreement is reached in the WTO, we need to foster voluntary licensing agreements, as well as the pooling of all forms of knowledge related to the virus, including through platforms such as the World Health Organization's C-TAP, which Spain has just joined.

Second, we need to make full use of existing manufacturing capacities, no matter where they are. This requires not only quickly identifying these resources to match supply with demand, but also removing all obstacles to trade of both finished vaccines and the raw materials and components necessary to produce them.

I want to acknowledge here the good news that the key vaccine makers have shared with us during this Summit, that they are going to accelerate, and increase substantially the production of vaccines most of which will go to developing countries. Every extra dose counts.

Third, vaccine distribution needs to be accelerated and facilitated. We must strengthen our commitment to ACT-A and COVAX, increasing financial and non-financial contributions. Spain will be playing its part, starting with the donation of 7.5 million doses to Latin American partners through COVAX. And this is why, at the European level, I call for enhancing our coordination through the EU Vaccine Sharing Mechanism, that we are building together. Still, for these vaccines to reach their final recipients, we must also mobilize adequate transportation means and make sure that all countries have the necessary capacities to roll out their vaccination programmes.

There is no better short-term economic policy than accelerating vaccination campaigns worldwide. Ensuring universal access to vaccines must be the first step to building back better.

Dear colleagues,

As we start to see the end of this nightmare, we cannot afford to put pandemic preparedness and response on autopilot once the COVID emergency is under control. It is time to leverage the current political and societal momentum to move forward with the long-term improvements that we need.

21/05/2021

In this regard, Spain calls for an International Treaty on Pandemics to provide continued political backing for the prevention, early detection and management of future pandemics. This Treaty would foster mutual accountability, shared responsibility, transparency and cooperation.

Moreover, we must ensure that the multilateral health system, with the WHO at its core, is sustainably financed and empowered to address future pandemics. Because health expenditure is not a cost, but an investment. And there is a clear need to invest in local capacities, in improving primary healthcare and expanding universal health coverage, in scientific research and innovation, and in health education.

Ultimately, my dear friends, a "One Health" approach is required to deal with the challenges of tomorrow, one that takes into account that human health and environmental protection are two sides of the same coin. A collective responsibility falls upon us to ensure that our children, and our children's children, are better prepared than we were to tackle the next global health crisis. We cannot disappoint them.

Thank you.