Dear President von der Leyen,

Today, Pfizer is launching An Accord for a Healthier World, a groundbreaking new initiative focused on greatly reducing the health inequities that exist between many lower-income countries and the rest of the world. Together with government and global health partners, we aim to address the challenges and broader systemic barriers that currently limit, or worse, prevent equitable access to medicines and vaccines in the most vulnerable parts of the world.

As a key part of this initiative, I am proud to share that Pfizer has committed to provide all its patent-protected medicines and vaccines available in the U.S. or EU, as well as future innovations, on a not-for-profit basis to 45 lower-income countries. This includes all 27 low-income countries and 18 lower-middle-income countries that have transitioned from low to lower-middle classification in the last 10 years.

Because we know that supply is only the first step to ensure medicines and vaccines reach those in need, under the Accord we will collaborate with governments and the global health community to help address current barriers and mobilize resources that can accelerate access and drive sustainable improvements for stronger health systems. The European Commission’s Global Gateway Strategy is a prime example of the long-term vision needed, based on investments in infrastructure and in people.

Our Accord has the potential to impact around 1.2 billion people, enabling treatment for diseases that kill nearly one million people each year in these countries and offering an opportunity for a better quality of life for at least half a million more suffering from chronic diseases.¹
Rwanda, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda have agreed to lead the way as the first launch countries for the Accord. Pfizer and other Accord partners will collaborate closely with these countries to identify opportunities for improvements in diagnosis, education, infrastructure, storage and more to remove the barriers to access. Accord partners will also collaborate with participant countries to identify quick and efficient regulatory pathways and procurement processes to help reduce the often-longer timelines to make new medicines and vaccines available in these countries.

As we launch the Accord for a Healthier World, we are calling upon the global health community and others that play a role in delivering quality health to work together with us in this endeavor to find new ways to expedite equitable access and change the lives of patients who are most in need – today and into the future.

With all we have learned and accomplished over the past two years, including bringing the first safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to European citizens, now is the time to focus on closing this critical access gap and create a healthier world – one where every human being has access to life-saving medicines and vaccines. We would be honored and grateful if you would lend your voice to encourage this global partnership and collaboration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Albert Bourla
Chairman & CEO

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