



AVMi
African Vaccine
Manufacturing Initiative

October
2024

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues

There has been continued progress in our key strategic priorities this quarter, with key interventions at the various industry meetings.

There was excellent representation of AVMs at this year's UNICEF Vaccine Industry Consultation in Copenhagen. In addition to any briefings you have received from your organisation representatives, I wanted to provide you with a summary of the AVMI discussions that took place at the margins of this meeting (attended on behalf of AVMI by myself and Lisa Bonadonna). We did manage to have a dinner with the AVMs in attendance - thanks to the folks from IPD, DEK, Aspen and Biovac that took the time to join.

The need for **formalisation of industry representation** was raised with GAVI, UNICEF and the WHO both in terms of key committee participation and also the development of strategic priorities, plans and documents such as GAVI 6.0 and IA2030. We will continue to pursue this goal even if it takes some time, however it does seem as if we are getting some senior stakeholders to champion this critical agenda of representation of industry.

With both GAVI and UNICEF we discussed the **ongoing need for a form of volume commitment for African manufactured vaccines from African nations and multilateral procurers and funders**. Although the details are still to be worked out, there was for the first time a willingness from UNICEF to explore proposals to achieve this end and we deliberated around what this could look like. This will be a key discussion point for our next Board meeting in October as we work up the AVMI position paper on this. From the perspective of commitment of African member states, the Africa PPM is under development and Africa CDC are beginning planned tailored consultations with the first block of countries in the next 2 months. A detailed update will be presented to all at the Manufacturers Forum in Q1 2025 (referred to below).

As you know, GAVI AVMA was launched in June and in our discussions with GAVI we took the opportunity to **identify aspects where the AVMA could be improved**. In particular we raised the term of the AVMA, the significant expense incurred before any milestone payment is awarded and the need for funding of supporting programmes. GAVI communicated a willingness to review and discuss any formal proposals made by AVMI. This too will be a Board agenda item and we will be preparing a formal letter to this end.

We will circulate both these positions formally to all members for comment, as with previous AVMI positions taken wrt GAVI AVMA. We will also have an industry call to deliberate as required. The Manufacturers Forum which serves as AVMA governance, will be combined with the Africa CDC marketplace and this event, co-hosted by GAVI | Africa CDC | RVMC will likely be held early in 2025. It is thus key that the work required on the above positions be formalised and socialised prior to this key meeting for industry.

Further to the strategic engagements with GAVI and UNICEF referred to above, we also met with the WHO Global Access team responsible for Policy & Strategy in the Department of Immunization, Vaccines & Biologics --> we had similar conversations about representation and the need for Africa and our needs to be taken into account in the prioritisation of vaccines for global approval, procurement - to this end AVMI has now been invited to be an Industry Observer in the WHO Technical Advisory Group for Market Access for Vaccines. This group also publishes expanded data on global and country procurement of vaccines. The secretariat will share the link to this data with you shortly.

In my capacity as Board Chair, I was asked to represent industry on the Strategic Advisory Board of RVMC (Regional Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative), an initiative by CEPI and WEF. As a result of this, I had the fantastic opportunity to join a panel on the sidelines of UNGA79 on sustainable demand creation,



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which was workshopped with high level stakeholders over the course of the morning. A formal outcomes document will follow, however it was a great opportunity to remind all those present that Africa is a continent of opportunity and that the world can no longer afford to say "no" or "Only if" to Africa, a continent that will likely house the largest and youngest population in the coming decades. We continue to see "only if" even with mpox, and we continue to be on the receiving end of donations. Whilst these are helpful in the short term, the narrative has to change, and we have to become the masters of our destiny which, in addition to unlocking continental demand, requires an enabling ecosystem, significant investment in R&D and partnerships between AVMs and product development organisations.

As many of you will be engaging with key stakeholders over the coming months - here's a reminder of AVMI's key priorities:

- Appropriate formal African industry representation - African challenges require African solutions delivered by African Leaders
- Securing volume commitments to procure African vaccines are required in the form of a continental PPM as well as country and multilateral purchases, to drive sovereignty, security and accelerate sustainable technology transfers - aligning political will to policy at a national level is key, as is support from partners such as UNICEF
- Addressing barriers, such as the various national, regional, continental and global regulatory bottlenecks is critical to building an enabling ecosystem
- Funding for R&D and partnerships between product development organisations and AVMs are key to the continent owning it's own assets in the longer term

Finally, we look forward to welcoming Rogerio Gespar (WHO Director Regulation & Prequalification) and key stakeholders in the regulatory space and to seeing all of you who will be attending the WHO PQ workshop for African manufacturers on 7/8 October. This is yet another key moment for us as industry and I urge you to make the most of the time with the team.

Until next quarter,

Farrah
AVMI Board Chair
