Statement of commitment to support African manufacturing
23 June 2022
Kigali, Rwanda

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, my name is David Reddy. I am the CEO of the Medicines for Malaria Venture. I am pleased to be here today.

Just to briefly introduce MMV, we are an organization that was set up in 1999 to catalyse the discovery, development and delivery of antimalarial medications. We work in partnership with malaria-endemic countries, with the private sector, industry, academia and other partners. And over the last 2 decades, we have brought to market, as a partnership, 11 new antimalarial products that have saved collectively almost 3 million lives to date.

We are a 3-D organization, as I mentioned, focusing on that whole end-to-end gap. We are supported by a number of key donors. I would just like to quickly give credit to, first of all, our government donors: the UK, Australia, the US, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Korea, Monaco and the European Union. And also, to the Gates Foundation, Unitaid and GHIT, who have supported us over that time.

We are privileged to be able to support African-led clinical consortia that have provided key clinical data for global use and use in other malaria-endemic environments, and also the discovery of a novel clinical candidate by an African-led consortium at the University of Cape Town.

With the support of Unitaid, and encouraged by the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, in 2019, we broadened our focus on geographic diversification to include product manufacturing, supporting African countries in pursuing greater autonomy in the supply of malaria medicines, and enhancing equitable access and supply chain security for the region.

The importance of this was underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, where we saw significant inequities in the distribution of health commodities.

Today, with the support of our Board of Directors, I publicly commit our organization to forging ahead with partnerships at the national and regional levels, with the near-term goal of achieving WHO prequalification for three Africa-based manufacturers for medicines to prevent malaria, particularly in pregnant women and very young infants. These three manufacturers are from Commonwealth nations, and ultimately, we at MMV strongly endorse the vision of African manufacturers taking their rightful place on the stage of global suppliers, providing quality medicines for all.