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Good afternoon everyone, thank you for this invitation.

I am so sorry I cannot be present in person, but I wanted to reach you at least in this form, with a video.

The theme you have chosen is very important. We know how topical it is, especially on this day.

The anti-Covid vaccine must be recognised as a global common good everyone has the right of access without discrimination, according to that principle that we know very well, which is the **universal destination of goods**.

Pope Francis reminded us of this during an audience, when he said "it would be sad if this vaccine became the property of this or that nation and was not universal for all".

States are therefore called upon to promote an equitable distribution and dissemination of vaccines among countries around the world, so as to allow each country, at least initially, to succeed in vaccinating the most fragile and vulnerable population groups.

We are faced with a moral imperative. As Pope Francis has reminded us, care must be designed with priority for those who need it most, namely the elderly, health workers, the most fragile and vulnerable, the poorest, the forgotten.

This is an **operation of justice**.

We know how the virus has affected the whole world, but how the people who have suffered the most are the most fragile and the poorest. Studies, now considered reliable, tell us that the virus has affected mostly the poorest part of the population, either because they are the ones who do the jobs for which they have been exposed to the virus the most, or because there are more people living in their homes.

And so if the poorest have been the most affected, they are the ones who must first receive treatment, must have access to vaccines.

The world is still facing a shortage of vaccines against Covid. There is a lack of adequate production capacity to meet worldwide demand for the vaccine. To this end, and because the vaccine is a good for all, it is universally desirable - I would say imperative - to proceed first of all with a temporary suspension of intellectual property rights on Covid technologies, drugs and vaccines. This would make it possible to increase production worldwide and to obtain fair and timely access, convenient for all countries, even those furthest away and even those we do not even know.

There are a number of things that can be done **in the short term**, such as

- the sharing of existing projects, including vaccines;
- the diversification of production capacity;
- identifying and resolving all bottlenecks in production (understanding where the process is blocked);
- the pacification of trade and transparency across the entire value chain, and therefore, for example, vigilance over prices and the fact that companies do not charge different prices depending on the bargaining power of those who are buying; no higher prices for those who can least afford it.

But we also need to promote greater efficiency in the use of capacity and in global distribution. It is not just about suspending patents, it is also about transferring technologies so that vaccines are produced in more parts of the world. This would amplify existing capacities. An important commitment, as we said, is to watch prices, and all this is for the short term.

But what can we do **for the long term**?

In the long term, it is important to move away from an entirely Western view of vaccine production and design. We know that one of the problems today is the cold chain. In many countries we do not have sufficient facilities to transport and store vaccines that require very low temperatures.

So, if we want to think about the future and think about it for the whole world, perhaps we need to invest in innovation and research that will allow us to have so-called 'versatile' vaccines, there are several calls for this, so that it will be easier to produce and distribute them everywhere. This is also an imperative.

We need innovation and research funds for all this.

What can each of us do?

Each one of us can inform ourselves, do our best to make this happen.

Fortunately, the international community is beginning to open up in this direction.

It is a positive sign, a sign of hope, a sign of awareness of the fact that in the context of a pandemic - as I have already said and I will say it again - private interests cannot be put before the health of each and every person in the world. Not least because no one is safe until everyone is safe.

Thank you and enjoy your work.