AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Safeguarding Africa's Health

From Commitment to Commercialization

UNLOCKING MARKETS FOR AFRICAN-MADE HEALTH PRODUCTS

AFRICAN MANUFACTURING PRE-MARKETPLACE FORUM

Report | 12 – 13 March 2026 | Africa CDC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Contents

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Africa CDC is a continental autonomous health agency of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

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Background

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, convened "The ***African Manufacturing Pre-Marketplace Forum" on 12-13 March 2026,*** at the Africa CDC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Building on the success of the second vaccines and Other Health Products Manufacturing Forum held in 2025, the Forum brought together about 100 participants including representatives from African Union Member States, National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), relevant African Union Organs, African Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, AVMA Investors, Partners and Donors.

The Pre-Marketplace Forum 2026 was conceived as a targeted, action-oriented platform to agree on concrete, product-specific measures that accelerate both the supply and uptake of near-term health products, while strengthening coordinated support for pipeline products under development. To achieve this, the Forum focused on key pillars critical to advancing Africa's health products manufacturing ecosystem, including supply readiness and timelines, demand and procurement channels, regulatory readiness and reliance pathways, financing needs and risk-sharing mechanisms, and market-shaping interventions.

This report summarizes the key findings and discussion points emerged from the Forum highlighting their implications for Africa's health products manufacturing ecosystem and outlining priority actions for the next phase of implementation.

Forum Summary

The two-day Forum combined plenary discussions and technical engagements. Day 1 featured high-level plenary sessions with interactive discussions, while Day 2 focused on in-depth technical exchanges. The Forum concluded with partner statements reaffirming support for Africa's local manufacturing agenda.

Emphasis was placed on aligning manufacturing capacity with Africa's disease burden, ensuring production priorities are guided by public health needs and informed by robust market intelligence. In this context, discussions reinforced the importance of data-driven demand planning, alignment with national programmes, and coordinated engagement with stakeholders to support sustainable production and uptake. The African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) is a new and critical tool to aggregate demand, improve affordability, and create predictable markets, with ongoing efforts to operationalize it through strengthened governance, regulatory alignment, and sustainable demand generation. There is a clear and continued role for global organisations like Gavi, UNICEF and WHO to provide financing, shape markets, procure and provide regulatory and normative guidance.

The Forum further underscored the central role of strong regulatory systems in enabling timely access to quality-assured products and sustaining the growth of African manufacturing. Advancing regulatory harmonization, strengthening reliance mechanisms, accelerating the operationalization of the African Medicines Agency and continuing efforts to streamline WHO prequalification (PQ) processes were identified as key priorities to facilitate market entry across Member States. Updates on the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) highlighted the progress towards aligning financing, incentives, and ecosystem support to scale manufacturing capacity.

Across all sessions, participants acknowledged significant progress and renewed continental momentum. However, there was strong consensus that the next phase must prioritize implementation, translating commitments into measurable outcomes through stronger coordination, clearer demand signals, including from member states, and more efficient market-shaping systems.

Key priorities that emerged from the Forum include accelerating regulatory approvals through harmonization and reliance pathways, operationalizing the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism, strengthening data and market intelligence systems, expanding access to sustainable and blended financing, and continued investment in R&D and manufacturing capacity. Leveraging instruments such as AVMA and the African Continental Free Trade Area will be critical to unlocking regional markets and achieving economies of scale.

Overall, stakeholders called for a decisive shift from commitment to execution with stronger alignment between supply and demand and a clear focus on near-term products, and the implementation of product-specific actions (such as advancing regulatory pathways, securing offtake agreements and aligning financing) to deliver tangible results towards Africa's ambition of producing 60% of its health products locally by 2040.

Forum Objectives and key takeaways

The African Manufacturing Pre-Marketplace Forum aimed to agree on concrete, product-specific actions that will accelerate the supply and uptake of selected near-term Africa-made products and strengthen coordinated support for pipeline products.

Specifically, the Pre-Marketplace Forum focused on:

- Supply readiness and timelines
- Demand and procurement channels
- Regulatory readiness and reliance pathways
- Financing needs and risk-sharing mechanisms
- Market shaping interventions.

DAY 1

Opening Remarks

The Forum was opened with remarks from the co-hosts, Africa CDC and *Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance* setting the strategic tone for discussions.

"Africa benefits from strong talent and growing momentum in local manufacturing but critical gaps in regulation, financing, and market development remain."

Dr Richard Mihigo,
Senior Director for Programmes at Gavi

Dr Mihigo emphasized that while Africa benefits from strong talent and growing momentum in local manufacturing, critical gaps in regulation, financing, and market development remain. Addressing these gaps will require coordinated, multi-stakeholder action to achieve the continent's ambition of producing 60% of its vaccines and other health products locally by 2040. He reaffirmed Gavi's commitment through its LEAP approach and the USD 1.2 billion African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA), highlighting early progress, forthcoming disbursements, and the importance of regulatory compliance and capacity strengthening to ensure sustainable manufacturing outcomes.

"While strong political commitment exists, the immediate priority is translating this momentum into a viable and competitive commercial market."

H.E. Dr Jean Kaseya,
Director-General, Africa CDC

D Kaseya underscored that while strong political commitment exists, the immediate priority is translating this momentum into a viable and competitive commercial market. He emphasized the need for predictable demand, strengthened and harmonized regulatory systems, and expanded access to sustainable financing. He acknowledged the contributions of key partners, including Gavi and AVMA investors, and highlighted Africa CDC's ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, advance regulatory frameworks, and support market readiness. He further stressed that investor confidence, access to financing, and the competitiveness of African-manufactured products will be critical to success, noting upcoming high-level engagements, including the December 2026 African Union Heads of State Extraordinary Summit in Nairobi.

Introduction to Africa CDC

Sharing the overview on Africa CDC, Ms Shanelle Hall, Principal Advisor to the Director General, highlighted that, since its establishment in 2015–2016, Africa CDC has experienced steady institutional growth, with an expanding mandate aligned to evolving continental public health priorities. The presentation highlighted the critical role of African Union champions in advancing the institution's agenda, alongside significant progress achieved over the years. Recent mandate expansions (2024–2026) have supported the development of an operational model aimed at delivering an *"Africa CDC without walls"*, extending from headquarters in Addis Ababa to a stronger, more direct presence across Member States. This model enhances coordination, country engagement, and responsiveness at the national level.

Ongoing institutional strengthening efforts were emphasized, including improvements in auditing processes and budget execution. In 2025, Africa CDC conducted nine independent audits and achieved its highest financial performance to date, with record revenue and strengthened budget implementation.

Budget execution has dramatically improved with Africa CDC achieving 95% execution rate in 2025, reflecting enhanced internal capacity and financial management systems. The organization also successfully completed a due diligence assessment by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Additional assessments by other organizations are expected to be completed in 2026. The establishment of the African Epidemic Fund was highlighted as a key milestone, providing a dedicated financing mechanism to improve access to medical countermeasures and strengthen continental preparedness and response capacity.

At the 2026 African Union Assembly, Member States endorsed the transition from the New Public Health Order to the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) framework, which will guide long-term efforts toward health sovereignty, resilience, and self-reliance. In parallel, Africa CDC has significantly expanded its partnerships, with active collaborations increasing from 8 to 66.

Update on the Status of African Manufacturing of Health Products

Dr Mosoka Papa Fallah, Acting Director, Science and Innovation, Africa CDC

Dr Abebe Genetu Bayih, Coordinator, Local Manufacturing, Africa CDC

Presented by Dr Abebe Genetu Bayih, the Local Manufacturing Coordinator and Dr Mosoka Papa Fallah, the Acting Director of Science and Innovation, this session provided a comprehensive overview of Africa's health products manufacturing landscape, its evolution, current challenges, and the pathway towards achieving the ambition of producing 60% of the continent's health products needs by 2040.

Historically, Africa has relied heavily on imported health products supplied through global suppliers, with limited regional coordination of the local pharmaceutical manufacturing agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic marked a turning point, as severe supply shortages exposed the continent's dependence on global supply chains across manufacturing, procurement, and inputs. In response, local manufacturing was elevated from an industrial priority to a strategic imperative for health security, sovereignty, and resilience. Between 2012 and 2025, this shift catalyzed a transition toward a more coordinated continental approach led by continental organizations.

Key milestones in this transformation include:

- The launch of the *Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM)* in 2021, later upgraded to the *Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM)* in 2024, with the goal of producing 60% of Africa's health product needs by 2040.
- The establishment of critical continental enablers by AU Heads of State, spanning regulatory systems strengthening, pooled procurement, and financing mechanisms.

- The designation of H.E. President William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya as AU Champion for African Manufacturing.
- Commitments from G20 partners to support regional manufacturing capacity.

To achieve the 2040 ambition, eight priority programmes have been identified as key enablers. Progress to date reflects strong political commitment, strengthened policy frameworks, improved regulatory capacity, increased workforce development and technology transfer, as well as increased financing. Africa's manufacturing base continues to expand, with 574 health product manufacturers identified, 27 vaccine manufacturing projects underway, and more than 20 active technology transfer partnerships.

Further updates highlighted progress across key system enablers:

- **Market shaping and procurement:** The African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) has been operationalized, initially covering 10 SRMNCH products across 10 pilot countries.
- **Regulatory strengthening:** The African Medicines Agency (AMA) has been operationalized with the appointment of the inaugural Director General; an MoU was signed by the eight Maturity Level 3 National Regulatory Authorities to advance regulatory reliance; and the capacity of National Quality Control Laboratories of Member States strengthened to perform vaccine quality testing.
- **Talent development**: the Africa CDC *Regional Capability and Capacity Networks (RCCNs)* was established to contribute to the building of a future workforce of 9,000–14,000 skilled professionals in biomanufacturing. In 2025, 231 people were trained on different topics of manufacturing by Africa CDC alone.
- **Market intelligence and business support:** Africa CDC has developed a database of African manufacturers to enhance market visibility. Africa CDC is also setting up a *Business Acumen Facility (BAF)* to support manufacturers across the value chain, from business case development to participation in tendering processes.
- **Research and Development (R&D)**: R&D remains a foundational pillar of Africa's health manufacturing ecosystem, with efforts focused on establishing regional centres of excellence and building continental capacity. Significant progress has been made between 2022 and 2025 (Table 1).

In addition, mapping of Africa's health research ecosystem identified 46 drug discovery initiatives, 370 basic and preclinical research programmes, and 209 clinical trial sites. These efforts are supported through collaborations with institutions including the University of Cape Town, CSIR, Makerere University, IAVI, and Institut Pasteur de Dakar.

These achievements reflect the rapid expansion of Africa CDC's R&D coordination, capacity building, and data-sharing capabilities, laying a strong foundation to support the continent's health product manufacturing and innovation agenda.

Table 1: Research and Development progress between 2022 and 2025

Indicator	2022	2025	Progress
Active continental research projects coordinated by Africa CDC	0	48	Initiated and scaled research coordination
Scientists engaged in the continental network	200	2,500	Expanded network capacity more than tenfold
Sequenced mpox genomes shared	<200	1,971	Dramatic increase in genomic surveillance
Operational biobank nodes	2	7	Tripled biobank infrastructure
Research blueprints published (Africa CDC)	0	3	First continental research frameworks established

African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM): Operationalizing a Continental Market-Shaping Tool

Dr Mariatou Tala Jallow, Director, APPM, Africa CDC

In 2026, APPM transitioned from a pilot project to a fully operational continental program as mandated by AU Member States. The initiative promotes and enables the procurement of African-made health products through a dual approach: improving access to quality, affordable health products, and serving as a demand-side mechanism to strengthen African manufacturing.

In her presentation, Dr Mariatou Tala Jallow, the Director of APPM, emphasized that APPM is more than a procurement platform; it is a strategic tool to shape markets, generate sustainable demand, and enhance the competitiveness of African manufacturers. The session highlighted progress in scaling APPM from a pilot initiative to a continental program, including discussions on governance, regulatory alignment, and demand generation strategies.

In 2026, APPM will focus on:

- National adoption and institutionalization: Creating ownership at the country level, driving the continental agenda, and promoting regional approaches.
- Market-shaping instruments: Leveraging tools to support and incentivize African manufacturers.

APPM's initial priority health products span multiple areas including:

- SRMNCH: Essential medicines including oxytocin, misoprostol, magnesium sulphate, amoxicillin, zinc citrate, levonorgestrel IUD, heat-stable carbetocin, ergometrine, labetalol, and clomiphene.
- Medical countermeasures to protect again priority diseases: Supplies for mpox, cholera, Ebola/MVD (including stockpiles), alongside African-produced diagnostics, syringes, Ringer's lactate, and vaccines funded by AU Member States.
- NCDs and high-burden diseases: Insulin (with two African manufacturers expected by 2025), ARVs (three WHO-prequalified manufacturers), lenacapavir (in the pipeline), and bed nets with additional manufacturers under development.

This strategic approach positions APPM as a central mechanism for aligning African manufacturing capacity with continental health priorities while creating predictable markets to accelerate local production and commercialization.

The session concluded with a panel discussion emphasizing the need to accelerate market access for African manufacturers through stronger regulatory alignment, full operationalization of the APPM, improved data sharing, and coordinated production and procurement strategies to create predictable demand and support commercialization.

Participants also highlighted the importance of sustained financing, strengthened R&D and technical capacity, and balanced quality assurance approaches, alongside enhanced collaboration with the African Medicines Agency (AMA).

In closing, speakers underscored that collective action and alignment across stakeholders are essential to advancing the manufacturing agenda. Teamwork, sustained investment in R&D, and a continued focus on both near-term priorities and long-term targets were identified as critical success factors. The importance of expanding the product scope to include reagents and medical devices was also highlighted as part of a comprehensive approach to strengthening Africa's health manufacturing ecosystem.

Aligning Market Signals with Africa's Disease Burden and Product Needs

Dr Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele, Senior Adviser, Vaccine Manufacturing, Africa CDC

This session which was moderated by Dr Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele, Senior Adviser, Vaccine Manufacturing, Africa CDC, brought together Africa CDC Heads of Departments and technical experts from Africa CDC and AMP Afrique to explore the linkages between Africa's disease burden and programmatic priorities, and the practical realities of local manufacturing of diagnostics, vaccines, essential medicines, and other health commodities. Speakers included Dr Yenew Kebede, Ag. Director, Laboratory Systems, Africa CDC; Dr Alima Essoh, Director, AMP Afrique; Dr Landry Tsague, Director, PHC, Africa CDC; and Prof. Yap Boum II, Deputy Lead, IMST (virtual). The session highlighted the need to align Market Signals with Africa's disease burden and Product Needs. Priority product categories discussed were related to HIV, malaria, NCDs, vaccine-preventable diseases as well preparedness for health emergencies.

Emphasis was placed on generating predictable market signals for African manufacturers through improved demand forecasting, stronger health system integration, and alignment with national and continental public health programs. Regulatory and validation mechanisms, quality assurance, and robust pharmacovigilance were also identified as essential for building confidence in African-produced health products.

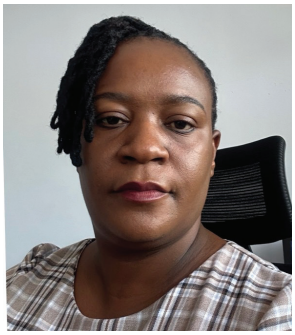
The discussions highlighted several key areas of emphasis. There is a clear need to prioritize medical countermeasures relevant to emergency preparedness, including preventive vaccination and diagnostic tools for diseases such as cholera and mpox, as well as yellow fever and measles diagnostics. Participants also underscored the importance of robust volume estimation, both for routine use and emergency response, particularly for diagnostics, which should undergo validation and regulatory approval prior to manufacturing scale-up.

On vaccines, the session emphasized the need for African manufacturers to provide detailed product characteristics, ensure WHO prequalification, and consider pricing implications in relation to existing products and optimization of vaccine portfolios (e.g., IPV/Pentavalent versus Hexavalent). Similar considerations apply to HIV and malaria products, where alignment with current country's use, treatment protocols, and affordability are critical.

Overall, discussions reinforced the importance of data-driven demand planning, alignment with national programmes, and coordinated engagement with stakeholders to support sustainable production and uptake.

Regulatory Support: Accelerating and Streamlining Regulatory Pathways to Support Local Manufacturing

Victoria Prudence Nambasa (African Medicines Agency, AMA)



Caroline G. Samatanga (Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela (CEO, South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, SAHPRA),

Dr Alireza Khadem (Unit Head, WHO Prequalification

This session convened key stakeholders in the regulatory ecosystem, including Victoria Prudence Nambasa (African Medicines Agency, AMA), Caroline G. Samatanga (Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, representing the Chair of the Regulatory Reliance MoU), Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela (CEO, South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, SAHPRA), and Dr Alireza Khadem (Unit Head, WHO Prequalification).

The session highlighted the urgent need to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) as local manufacturing expands. Currently, only two African countries hold Maturity Level 3 (ML3) status for vaccine producing, underscoring a substantial gap in regulatory readiness necessary to support sustainable manufacturing growth.

A central priority identified was ensuring the high quality of African-manufactured products and harmonizing regulatory requirements across the continent. AMA emphasized that its role is to coordinate and strengthen NRAs, not replace them, promoting regulatory harmonization among Member States. A five-year strategy has been developed to guide this work, complemented by an information-sharing platform currently under establishment.

On regulatory reliance, ML3 NRAs are operationalizing a framework through a steering committee, with a draft guidance outlining collaborative processes for regulatory reliance. The primary goal is to reduce the time-to-market health products, with early adoption already demonstrating notable reductions in registration timelines.

The WHO Prequalification (PQ) process is being streamlined, with a flexible approach under development for African vaccine manufacturers which will ensure suitable prioritisation for regulatory reviews; two manufacturers have already submitted dossiers for a pilot parallel review by the NRA and WHO PQ.

Finally, the Africa Pharmaceutical Products Manufacturing catalogue is under development, with quality assurance requirements being finalized in collaboration with AMA, providing a foundation for consistent regulatory standards and market access across the continent.

Overall, the discussions highlighted that strengthened and harmonized regulatory systems are foundational to enabling efficient market entry and sustaining the growth of African manufacturing.

African Vaccine Manufacturing Acceleration (AVMA)

This session provided participants with an update on the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA), Gavi's up to USD 1.2 billion, ten-year incentive-based financing mechanism launched in June 2024 to support the development of commercially viable vaccine manufacturing on the continent.

Since its launch at a high-level event co-convened by the African Union, Gavi, and the Government of France, AVMA has generated substantial engagement across the sector. Eighteen formal Expressions of Interest have been received from African manufacturers, significantly exceeding the initial target of five.

The session highlighted AVMA's current implementation status and near-term trajectory. The first milestone payment, for fill-and-finish manufacturing, is on track for 2026 eligibility, with manufacturers expected to secure WHO prequalification for between five and eight vaccines by 2030. Thirteen technology transfer partnerships are underway, backed by substantial financing commitments from the development of finance institutions and other sources.

The session also addressed the broader context in which AVMA operates. Vaccine development and licensing timelines remain a substantial constraint on near-term disbursements, with delays in achieving National Regulatory Authority Maturity Level 3 status, a prerequisite for WHO prequalification. Participants noted that these delays reflect structural challenges across the ecosystem rather than deficiencies in the AVMA instrument itself, and underscored the importance of coordinated support from Africa CDC, WHO, AMA, and NRAs to accelerate progress.

Looking ahead, the Secretariat noted that the majority of AVMA disbursements are expected during the Gavi 7.0 strategic period (2030–2035), consistent with the instrument's ten-year design. In the near term, the focus is on ensuring that manufacturers approaching WHO prequalification have the regulatory, technical, and commercial support they need to realise their first payments and establish a track record in international procurement markets. The session concluded with a discussion of proposals to programme additional pledges received above the original USD 1 billion Board-approved ceiling, which were to be explored in greater depth in the Day 2 investor deep dive.

DAY 2

The formal agenda of the 2nd day of the Pre-marketplace Forum consisted mainly of a deep-dive roundtable with Member States & NRAs focusing on market readiness for Africa-made health products.

The side event convened Member States, AU organs, National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), continental institutions, private sector manufacturers, and development partners to assess Africa's readiness to scale the production and uptake of locally manufactured health products. The focus was on two critical dimensions: demand readiness (procurement, financing, and uptake) and regulatory readiness (harmonization and accelerated approvals).

A central conclusion emerged: Africa's challenge is no longer only manufacturing capacity, but whether markets, policies, and regulatory systems are prepared to absorb and scale locally produced health products.

Market readiness remains constrained by limited visibility into manufacturing capacity and product portfolios, undermining procurement planning and market confidence. Small and fragmented markets continue to face affordability and volume challenges, reinforcing the need for pooled procurement and demand aggregation. In addition, policy misalignment between national protection measures and continental trade objectives restricts intra-African trade. While targeted incentives, such as tax exemptions, local procurement preferences, and access to finance, have proven effective, their application remains uneven. Current manufacturing is also concentrated in low-complexity products, highlighting the need for greater regional specialization and diversification.

Regulatory readiness remains a critical bottleneck to market access. Existing regulatory reliance mechanisms, although effective, are underutilized, resulting in duplicative reviews and inspections that delay product approvals. Greater adoption of reliance approaches where products are assessed once and recognized across multiple countries is needed to accelerate timelines. Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) inspections remain a key constraint, requiring joint approaches and mutual recognition. Delays are further compounded by weak dossier quality and limited regulatory capacity within industry alongside systemic challenges such as insufficient human resources, fragmented digital systems, and outdated legal frameworks.

Cross-cutting challenges continue to undermine progress. Policy incoherence across procurement, trade, and industrial strategies weakens alignment with continental objectives, while insufficient market intelligence and data transparency limit effective planning and investment decisions. Addressing these barriers will require stronger coordination and sustained high-level political engagement to drive reforms beyond the technical level and ensure a coherent, continent-wide approach to market development.

Priority Actions and Immediate Next Steps to Advance Africa's Health Products Manufacturing Agenda:

Advancing Africa's health manufacturing agenda requires coordinated priority actions and near-term implementation steps. Strengthening market intelligence through a continental platform on manufacturing capacity, product pipelines, and demand forecasts is essential to improve planning and investment decisions, while expanding pooled procurement will help aggregate demand, enhance affordability, and create predictable markets.

Accelerating market access will depend on operationalizing regulatory reliance through joint reviews, shared assessments, and coordinated GMP inspections led by AMA and NRAs. At the same time, aligning national procurement, trade, and industrial policies with continental objectives is critical to removing existing barriers, alongside sustained investments in regulatory systems, including workforce capacity, digital infrastructure, and legal frameworks. Supporting industry readiness through improved regulatory compliance, quality systems, and transparency will further strengthen the ecosystem. In the next 6–12 months, priorities include conducting market readiness and policy alignment assessments, mapping manufacturing capacity and product gaps to guide specialization, piloting a shared regulatory repository, identifying priority products for accelerated pathways, aligning procurement cycles with regulatory

timelines and offtake mechanisms, and advancing joint GMP inspection and reliance implementation plans. Elevating these actions to African Union and Heads-of-State level will be essential to drive policy alignment and implementation.

Overall, while Africa has established a strong foundation for local manufacturing through growing industrial capacity, evolving regulatory frameworks, and political commitment, the focus must now shift to execution. Aligning demand, regulation, and policy will be key to building functional and predictable markets, reducing dependency on external supply chains, and achieving the continent's 2040 health manufacturing ambitions.

Stakeholders' Statements in Support of African Manufacturing

This session brought together key partners and stakeholder institutions to articulate their commitments and practical contributions to advancing African health product manufacturing. There was strong consensus across speakers, including representatives from the AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat, European Commission, Global Fund, WHO, Unitaid, the Gates Foundation, UNICEF, the Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative, (RVMC) and manufacturers associations, that local manufacturing remains central to Africa's health security, resilience, and industrial development. Participants emphasized that achieving the 2040 ambition requires a whole-of-ecosystem approach, combining demand certainty, financing, regulatory strengthening, trade facilitation, technology transfer, and market intelligence.

Speakers highlighted their respective contributions to enabling the ecosystem.

- AUDA-NEPAD: The prioritization of 24 products was recognized as a practical starting point, while acknowledging the need for harmonization with existing continental and partner product lists.
- The AfCFTA Secretariat underscored the role of trade instruments, including rules of origin, investment protocols, and trade facilitation, in supporting manufacturing and market access.
- The European Commission reaffirmed financial and ecosystem support through initiatives such as the Human Development Accelerator.
- Germany re-confirmed their steadfast commitment and support to regional manufacturing.
- The Global Fund outlined support for WHO prequalification readiness, regulatory harmonization, and demand pooling mechanisms.
- WHO emphasized its role in norms, standards, and capacity building,
- Unitaid presented its end-to-end investment platform supporting product development, quality assurance, and market entry.
- The Gates Foundation stressed the importance of aligning ambition with technical and market realities, supported by strong data systems.
- The Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative called for translating political commitments into investable and sustainable outcomes,
- UNICEF provided concrete procurement signals, including planned sourcing of syringes and upcoming vaccine tenders.
- FAPMA - Manufacturers, in turn, welcomed the shift toward action but called for stronger market certainty, better demand data, and improved access to financing.

Across the session, a clear set of priorities emerged: strengthening market intelligence and data systems; harmonizing priority product lists; accelerating regulatory reliance and quality assurance mechanisms; operationalizing pooled procurement and demand-side instruments; expanding financing; including for SMEs; through blended mechanisms; and leveraging AfCFTA tools to improve trade and market access.

Participants emphasized the need for stronger coordination and alignment across partners to reduce fragmentation and ensure that investments translate into actual procurement and uptake. The session concluded that while Africa has strong political commitment and growing partner support, success will depend on practical implementation, measurable short-term milestones, and sustained collaboration to transform the manufacturing agenda into tangible results.

Closing Session: From Commitment to Commercialization

This session marked the conclusion of the two-day of the African Pre-Marketplace Forum, providing an opportunity to reflect on progress, consolidate key messages, and define the path forward. The session reaffirmed a shared responsibility across Africa CDC, Gavi, Member States, regulators, manufacturers, financiers, and partners, while situating the Forum within the broader continental journey from Marrakesh to Cairo to Addis Ababa, and ahead to the upcoming AU Extraordinary Summit.

Speakers highlighted the significant progress achieved since earlier marketplace engagements, including strengthened institutional readiness within Africa CDC, growing Member State commitment, and increasing momentum around key initiatives such as the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) and the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM). The APPM was underscored as a central market-shaping tool linking political ambition with procurement and commercial pathways.

A consistent message across the session was that financing alone is insufficient; sustainable manufacturing requires a fully functioning ecosystem encompassing regulation, demand generation, pooled procurement, trade facilitation, skills development, supply chains and sustained poltiical will. Predictable demand emerged as a critical enabler, with participants emphasizing the need for clear procurement signals, market visibility, and aligned financing mechanisms to support investment and scale.

Member States were recognized as pivotal actors through their role in implementing industrial policies, regulatory reforms, and "*Buy African*" commitments. At the same time, speakers stressed that Africa's manufacturing ambition extends beyond vaccines to a broader range of health commodities, and that the continent's strength lies in its collective market of 1.4 billion people, requiring coordinated continental approaches rather than fragmented national strategies.

Participants called for translating Forum outcomes into concrete commitments and accountability frameworks in the lead-up to the Extraordinary Summit. Key priorities include accelerating the operationalization of APPM, advancing regulatory harmonization and reliance pathways, strengthening and refining AVMA and related financing instruments, and supporting Member States to implement "*Buy African*" policies. Equally important is ensuring alignment between demand, procurement, and financing, while reinforcing coordination across Africa CDC, AMA, AfCFTA, AUDA-NEPAD, and partners. Building domestic and continental capacity remains essential to reduce dependency and sustain long-term progress.

Conclusion

The African Pre-Marketplace Forum underscored a clear transition from commitment to implementation. While Africa has established a strong foundation, characterized by political commitment, emerging manufacturing capacity, and growing partner support, the next phase will depend on execution. Success will require stronger coordination, clearer market signals, robust demand-side mechanisms, and measurable short-term milestones to complement the 2040 ambition.

Ultimately, the Forum reaffirmed that African manufacturing is no longer a policy aspiration, but a shared continental agenda requiring collective action, aligned systems, and sustained accountability to deliver tangible health and economic outcomes for the continent.

5 Pillars

AFRICA'S HEALTH SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AGENDA

1. **Reformed and Inclusive Global Health Architecture**
2. **Institutionalise Continental PPPR Agenda**
3. **Predictable, Domestic, Innovative and Blended Financing**
4. **Digital Transformation**
5. **Local Manufacturing**

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