# French President and African Leaders Launch $1 Billion Vaccine Production Project in Paris



French President Emmanuel Macron and several African leaders have launched a $1 billion project in Paris to accelerate vaccine production in Africa. The African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator aims to address disparities revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw Africa struggling to access essential vaccines and treatment tools while wealthier nations secured large quantities.

Scheduled against the backdrop of upcoming French legislative elections on June 30 and July 7, the initiative also seeks to prepare Africa for future pandemics. The World Health Organization (WHO) and various advocacy groups support the project, which will provide financial incentives to vaccine manufacturers in Africa.

South Africa was the only African country with any vaccine production capacity when the pandemic began. The Geneva-based alliance Gavi plans to make $1 billion available over the next decade to enhance Africa’s manufacturing base and improve global vaccine markets. The project will also tackle issues like technology transfer and the creation of an African medicines agency.