

COVAX cuts 2021 vaccine forecast; Australia joins call for waiver on vaccine patents

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United Nations, September 9 (RHC)-- On Wednesday, United Nations officials said the COVAX initiative to bring vaccines to poor and middle-income nations was falling further behind its initial target of 2 billion doses this year. COVAX is now projecting about 1.4 billion doses delivered through December.

Meanwhile, vaccine equity activists are cheering moves by Australia's government to support a suspension of intellectual property rights for COVID vaccines. Australia's trade minister said this week the government now supports calls for a temporary waiver of vaccine patent rights at the World Trade Organization.

Such a move would require consensus at the WTO, where Germany and the United Kingdom are blocking the move to allow generic versions of vaccines produced by companies including Pfizer and Moderna.

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