[redacted]

Vertex has worked for more than 20 years to design, discover and develop medicines to treat the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis (CF), transforming the treatment of this disease by significantly improving lung function and quality of life, decreasing pulmonary exacerbations and hospitalizations, reducing lung transplants and extending life expectancy. Vertex invested more than $10 billion to develop these medicines, which are suitable for more than 90% of people living with CF. We aim to make our CF medicines available to as many people with CF as possible around the world, and we have made remarkable progress to this end with our CF medicines today treating more than 65,000 people living with CF across 60 countries on six continents, representing approximately 2/3 of diagnosed people with CF worldwide[1].

Your inquiry does not appropriately reflect these achievements and demonstrates a lack of understanding of drug development, pricing, reimbursement and global access.

Furthermore, your reporting is rife with inaccuracies and misleading statements. For instance, your statements regarding manufacturing costs, drug pricing, tax, and the discovery, development and accessibility of Vertex medicines are either patently false or misleading.

We would like to clarify several points that you have misrepresented in your inquiry:

- The price of our medicines is based on their innovation and the value they bring to the CF community, caregivers and healthcare systems. The reimbursed prices quoted in your inquiry are inaccurate. Further, reimbursed prices are not set unilaterally by the innovator, but confidentially agreed with the health authorities in each country, taking into consideration the medicines' broad clinical benefits, the number of CF patients, a country's ability to fund innovative medicines, and other factors.

- The production costs quoted are inaccurate. In addition, the price of these medicines is not determined by the production costs, but by the investment made in their development, the risk undertaken, and their value to patients and the health care system. Further, it is our revenues from existing products that fund our ongoing research into other serious diseases, and which have allowed us to achieve significant breakthroughs in the treatment of these diseases.

- People with CF in Estonia, Hungary and Cyprus do indeed have sustainable access to Kaftrio. In Poland, people with CF 12 years and older have access to Kaftrio, and children under the age of 12, have access to Kalydeco, Orkambi or Symkevi.

- We continue to rapidly advance additional regulatory and reimbursement discussions to expand access to our medicines geographically and to younger and broader populations. We recognize the urgency of getting these medicines to patients, which is why we are pleased that most of the reimbursement agreements for Trikafta/Kaftrio have been signed quicker than the industry average in the respective countries.

- In World Bank-defined lower income countries, we initiated a pilot donation program to make Trikafta/Kaftrio available at no cost to people with CF or to the healthcare system. Currently, the pilot includes 12 eligible countries[2] across four continents. We are in the process of expanding to additional countries.

- All of our approved CF medicines were discovered and developed by Vertex in Vertex laboratories. Vertex has invested over $10 billion dollars overall into research and development for CF.

- As a U.S. public company, we appropriately comply with all financial disclosure requirements in the U.S. and other countries where we operate. As disclosed in our SEC filings, Vertex paid billions of dollars in income taxes during the period 2018-2023. Additionally, Vertex's non-GAAP corporate tax rate of 20-21% is well above the OECD minimum global tax rate of 15%.

- Over the past ten years, we've invested more than 70% of our operating expenses back into R&D so that we can continue our journey to cure CF AND to transform other serious diseases. We have enrolled thousands of people with CF in hundreds of clinical trials, and we remain relentless in our pursuit of new medicines for all people with CF, as well as for other serious diseases such as sickle cell disease, beta thalassemia, genetic kidney diseases, pain management and type 1 diabetes.

1 https://www.vrtx.com/medicines/cystic-fibrosis-facts-and-figures/

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