

Access to Covid-19 vaccines, treatments ▶ and technologies

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COVID-19 response resolution (May 2020 WHA73.1)

- **CALLS FOR** the universal, timely and equitable access to, and fair distribution of, all quality, safe, efficacious and affordable essential health technologies and products, including their components and precursors, that are required in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a **global priority**, and the **urgent removal of unjustified obstacles** thereto, consistent with the provisions of relevant international treaties, including the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and the flexibilities within the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health;

COVID-19 response: Report by the DG (EB148/16 - Jan 2021)

- ▶ The Secretariat provides support to Member States to assess their readiness to deploy new COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics effectively and efficiently as they become available. The Guidance on National Deployment and Vaccination Planning is intended to help countries to develop their plan for introduction of COVID-19 vaccine (Para 19)
- ▶ The Secretariat is further providing support to Member States in fast-tracking actions to ensure continued delivery of essential health services in the context of COVID-19, with a particular focus on providing integrated support for ensuring that Member States are ready to introduce vaccines while protecting against health systems being overwhelmed and supporting continuity of essential health services (Para 20)

ITEM 14.4 The public health implications of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

- ▶ The Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya protocol) has three main objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources + transfer of relevant technologies**

ITEM 8. Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

- ▶ Ensure vaccines, treatments and technologies become a global public goods
- ▶ Diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics must be available at an affordable price and accessible to all
- ▶ Need to foster transparency and the transfer of technology
- ▶ R&D: prioritize, promote, build and improve R&D capacity
- ▶ **Fairer drug pricing → delinkage of product price from research and development**
- ▶ **Managing intellectual property to contribute to innovation and public health**
- ▶ Improving delivery and access

ITEM 7.B IMPROVING THE TRANSPARENCY OF MARKETS FOR MEDICINES, VACCINES, AND OTHER HEALTH PRODUCTS (EB148/9)

- ▶ Renewed political commitment remains essential if countries are to make progress towards transparency of markets for health products
- ▶ Successful collaboration requires increased efforts to mobilize resources and strengthen capacity

Current state of play

- ▶ COVID-19 knows no border and poses a global public threat
- ▶ Vaccine nationalism: bulk of the vaccines bought by rich nations through direct bilateral deals with pharmaceutical companies to vaccinate its population
- ▶ Vaccine hoarding does not help in ending the pandemic - might even prolonge the pandemic
 - ▶ New outbreaks / virus strand/ virus mutation in excluded areas or population may easily spread and cause more harm
- ▶ A global pandemic need a global recovery and requires solidarity and equitable access to vaccines and therapeutics

Why WHO has warned countries against Covid-19 vaccine nationalism

The New Times · Yesterday



WHO tells rich countries: stop cutting the vaccines queue

Reuters · 4 days ago



Expectation of WHO Watch from the EB

- ▶ Call on WHO to uphold and continue to implement its constitutional mandate as the leader in global health governance
- ▶ Member State: provide the necessary support, ensure solidarity; help protect and save lives through vaccine sharing to vaccinate vulnerable population around the world
- ▶ Solidarity as global response to ending the pandemic: COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) - call to action to share COVID-19 health technology related knowledge, intellectual property and data
 - ▶ C-TAP needs to be strengthened to have binding commitments from pharma to share technology, and not only a voluntary framework

Expectation of WHO Watch from the EB

- ▶ WHO has supported the proposal for a TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 medical products - it is now about agreeing to the waiver which is essential to ensure the scale up of manufacturing capabilities in LMIC (vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics medicine)
- ▶ CSO: monitor, advocate for the right to health for all

What's not on the agenda of the EB

- ▶ C-TAP initiative
- ▶ ACT-Accelerator (COVAX)
- ▶ MS are not asked to give guidance on these initiatives of which WHO is a part of

Thank you for your attention!