

DCVMN Statement on WTO TRIPS Intellectual Property Waiver

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The Biden administration's support for waiver of intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines is welcome news for many countries worldwide. It is a step in the right direction towards increasing access to pandemic vaccines and ending this pandemic.

Vaccines manufacturing is a complex process with 100's of steps required for production, testing and release, which requires specific knowledge, expertise, facilities, knowhow, etc. Unless knowledge and expertise are also transferred, large scale manufacturing of vaccines may not be feasible. We should now encourage technology transfer partnerships between innovators and manufacturers, to provide global access for COVID-19 vaccines.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an unprecedented level of collaboration between vaccine innovators and manufacturers. Technology transfer partnerships have already resulted in large scale manufacturing,

Few examples of such impactful partnerships are:

- Sinovac China with Butantan Brazil, and PT Bio Farma Indonesia, & others,
- Sinopharm China with Serbia, and PT Kimia Farma, Indonesia
- Bharat Biotech India with Indian Immunological India,
- Oxford-AstraZeneca with Serum Institute of India, SK Bio, S. Korea, Bio Fiocruz Brazil and Shenzhen Kangtai Biological Products, China
- Johnson & Johnson USA, with Biological E India, and Aspen Pharmacare South Africa
- Novavax, USA with Serum Institute of India and SK Bio, S. Korea
- Gamaleya Russia with Hetero Biopharma India, GL Rapha S. Korea, Karaganda Pharmaceutical, Kazakhstan and UNIÃO QUÍMICA, Brazil
- and many more

However COVID-19 vaccines are yet to reach several populations especially in low and middle income countries (LMICs). To enable global access more such partnerships are required and should be supported.

Let's remember to leave no one behind."

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