

11.9 GSPOA on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property

We would like to emphasize that the TRIPS provisions effectively prevent LMICs from scaling up the manufacturing of therapeutics. The current patent system privileges a handful of drug manufacturers, which leads to limited production capacity. Patents and IP are a hindrance to accessing medicines because they protect manufacturers of patented products from competition and allow them to charge prices that far exceed production costs.

We support the call for a TRIPS waiver to enable collective global action to tackle barriers and rapidly scale up the production of COVID-19 medicine. The waiver will help create equitable access to Covid-19 therapeutics. by giving multiple manufacturers permission to manufacture essential Covid-19 medicines.

We call on the WHO and its partners to continue to promote technology transfer to LMICs to enable international collaboration for the production and supply of essential medical products.

We reiterate the need for the transparency of R&D to ensure that publicly funded R&D projects will result in medical technologies being treated as global public goods, rather than profit-making opportunities.

Global collaboration and solidarity are essential to tackle the virus globally because COVID-19 does not distinguish between borders. Prioritize vulnerable populations over profit and vaccine nationalism and make COVID-19 medical technologies global public goods. Access to medicine is an integral part of the right to access health care and should be viewed from a human right perspective instead of from a business approach.

Lastly, we call for the institutionalized involvement of CSOs in decision-making for access to medicine.