

His Excellency

Mr. Francis Gurry

Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization

Geneva, Switzerland

September 17, 2020

Dear Dr. Gurry:

We are writing to you to request that WIPO include information about commitments made by countries, research institutions, industry and other relevant actors to the World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) in the WIPO COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker . The COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented global challenge. The number of new infections and deaths continues to rise, and many countries that seemed to have controlled the outbreak are experiencing a resurgence. Lockdown measures have brought economic activity to a near standstill and countries face deep economic recessions.

To halt the rapid transmission of COVID-19 and reverse the trend of consequential global distress, we need to focus our collective efforts on the advancement of scientific discovery and technology development, with equitable access to knowledge, intellectual property and data for COVID-19 detection, prevention and treatment.

WHO has called on governments/Member States and key stakeholders to “take action now”. To that end, the WHO established in May the WHO Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) to realize equitable global access to COVID-19 health technologies through pooling of knowledge, intellectual property and data related to COVID-19 health technology. C-TAP will facilitate the development of vaccines, medicines and other health technologies through open-science research, and scales manufacturing capacity by ensuring that the IP, knowledge, know-how, data and technology to do so is available.

Your organization has long emphasized the importance of scientific development and embraced the promotion of innovation. The launch of the WIPO COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker is an important contribution to the advancement of our common goal to end the pandemic, as the repository provides insight into legislative and regulatory measures for access. Tracking how technology is being shared is a critical part of the understanding the IP Policy Tracker aims to build.

We therefore kindly ask you to include information about the C-TAP initiative in the WIPO Covid-19 Policy Tracker, and to provide regular updates within the on the advancement of C-TAP including commitments by countries, research institutions, industry and other relevant actors.

We suggest that the WIPO Secretariat requests each of its member states to provide information about public funding of R&D for COVID-19 technologies and that they share with WIPO the steps taken to ensure that the results of publicly funded COVID-19 innovations are licensed to the WHO C-TAP and to include this information in the WIPO COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker.

Yours sincerely,

Corporación Innovarte

HAI Health Action International

Health GAP (Global Access Project)

Knowledge Ecology International

Medicines Law & Policy, The Netherlands

Wemos

Secretariado de Cáritas América Latina y el Caribe

Salud y Fármacos