

PROMOTING ACCESS TO MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION

INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TRADE

Public health is a global challenge, and therefore international co-operation has a high priority. The World Health Organization (WHO) is the global authority for health. But a range of other issues are involved in achieving health objectives, requiring WHO to join forces with counterparts. Two of these are the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO). This book is the first ever joint study by the three, part of their collaboration on health, intellectual property, and trade.

The book's focus is on advancing medical and health technologies ("innovation") and ensuring they reach the people who need them ("accessibility"). A huge amount of analytical and factual material is available on access to medicines and other medical technologies, and on innovation. Here, it is all brought together in one concise volume.

The book is designed to support governments and others — particularly in developing countries — who face an increasing demand to act, when governments want to increase access to effective treatments while containing costs.

The underlying theme is: policies on these issues have to be viewed together in order to make real progress.

WHO IS THE BOOK FOR?

Policy-makers inside and outside governments, international organizations and their regional counterparts. Academics and researchers. The study also strengthens the th

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Access and availability — patients unable to obtain medicines and medical technologies, and how to develop new treatments for them. There is rarely a single, isolated reason for these — far from it. The same goes for single solutions. Part of the solution is in this study: information that used to be difficult or impossible to get.