

CIVIL SOCIETY LETTER
SUPPORTING PROPOSAL BY INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA ON WAIVER FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TRIPS AGREEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTAINMENT AND TREATMENT OF COVID-19

Dear Members of the World Trade Organization,

We the undersigned organisations call on all WTO Members to strongly support the adoption of the decision text proposed by India and South Africa in their proposal for Waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID19 (Waiver Proposal).

When COVID-19 was declared to be a pandemic, there was overwhelming consensus that to curb the spread of COVID-19, there was an urgent need for international collaboration to speed up product development, scale up of manufacturing, expand the supply of effective medical technologies and ensure everyone, everywhere is protected. There were even calls including from several Heads of State for COVID-19 medical products to be treated as global public goods.

Seven months into the pandemic, there is no meaningful global policy solution to ensure access. Instead, there is an inequality of access to critical technologies that are needed to address the pandemic. Many countries, especially developing and least developed countries struggling to contain COVID-19 have experienced and are facing acute shortages of medical products, including access to diagnostic testing.¹ Furthermore, wealthy nations representing only 13 percent of the global population have locked up at least half the doses of five leading potential vaccines.²

In this pandemic, the pharmaceutical industry is entrenching monopolistic intellectual property (IP) controls over COVID-19 health technologies that restrict scale-up of manufacturing, lock out diversified suppliers, and undermine competition that results in lower prices. A few companies, such as Astra Zeneca, have pledged not for profit prices during the pandemic, and yet by maintaining control over these technologies, can unilaterally declare the end of the pandemic and increase prices to maximise profits, even if it undermines international efforts to save lives.³

The COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) launched by WHO (to voluntarily share knowledge, IP and data), has been rejected by the pharmaceutical industry.⁴ Instead, companies continue to sign secretive and restrictive licensing agreements. Secret licensing agreements for remdesivir, a medicine that was developed with substantial public funding, are restricted to a few manufacturers of its choosing, thereby preventing low- and middle-income population. Unsurprisingly, there have been global shortages of the medicine, with many developing countries unable to access it. In light of the effectiveness, we are deeply concerned that such an approach for a safe and effective therapy will

The

16. International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
17. Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
18. LDC Watch
19. Médecins du Monde
20. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Campaign
21. Oxfam
22. Pan-African International
23. Peoples Health Movement
- 24.
25. Public Services International (PSI)
26. ReAct--Action on Antibiotic Resistance
27. Regions Refocus
28. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
29. Southern African Programme on Access to Medicines and Diagnosis (SAPAM)
30. Social Watch
31. Society for international Development
32. Transnational Institute
33. Transparency International Health Initiative
34. Third World Network
35. Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM)
36. Womankind Worldwide

Regional

37. Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN),
38. African Alliance
39. African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST)
40. Africa Trade Network (ATN)
41. Africa Young Positives Network (AY +)
42. Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
43. Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
44. Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+)
45. Associação Brasileira de Economia Industrial e Inovação
46. Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale (AFEM)
47. Building and Wood Workers International Asia Pacific
- 48.

66. South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
67. Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
68. The Access IBSA Project, India-Brazil-South Africa
69. The African Women's Network for Community management of Forests
70. Treatment preparedness Coalition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ITPCru)
71. Third World Network- Africa (TWN-Africa)
72. Yolse, Santé Publique et Innovation

National

73. 1:1 diet, Gauteng, South Africa
74. 100 Percent Life, Ukraine
75. Access to Medicines Ireland
76. Access to Medicines Research Group, China
77. Acción internacional para la Salud AIS, Perú
78. Action Aid Association, India
79. Actions against AIDS (Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS) Germany
80. Action Governance Forum AGF, Zambia
81. Active Citizens Movement, South Africa
82. Africaine de Recherche et de Coopération pour l'appui Au Développement Endogène (ARCADE), Senegal
83. African Centre for Biodiversity, South Africa
84. AIDES, France
85. AIDS Access Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand
- 86.

117. Breast Course 4 Nurses (BCN), South Africa
118. Breast Health Foundation (BHF), South Africa
119. BUKO Pharma-Kampagne, Germany
120. CADIRE CAMEROON ASSOCIATION, Cameroon
121. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canada
122. Cancer Alliance, South Africa
123. Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), South Africa
124. Cancer Heroes, South Africa
125. Cancer Patients Aid Association, India
126. CanSir, South Africa
127. CanSurvive Cancer Support (CanSurvive), South Africa
128. Cape Mental Health (CMH), South Africa
129. CAPRISA -

166. Drug Action Forum-Karnataka, India
167. Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
168. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Egypt
169. Ekumenická akademie (Ecumenical Academy), Czech Republic
170. Epilepsy SA, South Africa
171. Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia, Mexico
172. Environmental Management Trust, Zimbabwe
173. EQUIT Institute - Gender, Economy and Global Citizenship, Brazil
174. Equity and Justice Working Group, Bangladesh (EquityBD), Bangladesh
175. Eritrean Law Society (ELS), Eritrea
- 176.

270. New Woman Foundation (NWF), Egypt
271. National Council Against Smoking, South Africa
272. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Sri Lanka
273. National Oncology Nursing Society of SA (NONSA), South Africa
274. National Union of Public and General Employees, Canada
275. National University of Colombia, Colombia
276. National Working Group on Patent Laws and WTO, India
277. Nepal Integrated Development Initiatives (NIDI), Nepal
278. NGO Federation of Nepal, Nepal
279. NGO's platform of Saida- Lebanon
280. Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association
281. Nikithemba NPO, South Africa
282. Non-communicable Disease Alliance Kenya, Kenya
283. Nuances, Brazil
284. Observatório de Políticas e do Cuidado em Saúde/ Pólo UERJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
285. Ongd AFRICANDO, Spain
286. Organisation des Ruraux pour une Agriculture Durable (ORAD), Benin
287. OTMeds (Observatoire de la transparence dans les politiques du médicament), France
288. Pancreatic Cancer Network of SA (PanCan), South Africa
289. Palestinian NGOs Network, Palestine
290. PAPDA, (Plateforme haïtienne de plaidoyer pour un développement alternative) Haïti
291. Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Association Eswatini, Swaziland
292. Participatory Research Action Network (PRAN), Bangladesh
293. Partnership Network Association, Kyrgyzstan
294. Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM), Zimbabwe
295. People Living With Cancer (PLWC), South Africa
- 296.
297. People's Health Movement Australia
298. People's Health Movement Brazil
299. People's Health Movement Kenya
300. People's Health Movement Nepal
301. People's Health Movement Republic of Korea
302. People's Health Movement South Africa
303. Phoenix Center for Economics & Informatics Studies-Jordan
304. Phoenix PLUS, Russia
305. Phoenix Settlement Trust, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
306. Pink Parasol Project, South Africa
307. Pink Trees for Pauline (Pink Trees), South Africa
308. Plataforma No Gracias, Spain
309. Plataforma Salud y Sanidad Pública Asturias, SPAIN
310. Pocket Cancer Support, South Africa
311. Policies for Equitable Access to Health (PEAH), Italy
312. Policy Analysis and Research of Lesotho, Lesotho
313. Positive Initiative, Republic of Moldova
314. Positive Malaysian Treatment Access & Advocacy Group (MTAAG+), Malaysia
315. Positive response for treatment access, adherence and support foundation, Nigeria
316. Prayas, India
317. Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga, NSW Australia
318. Prince MSHIYENI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, South Africa
319. Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, Northeastern U. School of Law, United States
320. Public Citizen, United States
321. Public Eye, Switzerland
322. Public Health Association of Australia
323. Rajasthan vidyut prasaran mazdoor congres intuc, Rajastan, India

324. Rainbows and Smiles, South Africa
325. Reach for Recovery (RFR), South Africa
326. Red Mexicana de acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC), Mexico
327. Rede Brasileira Pela Integração dos Povos (*REBRIP*), Brazil
328. Rede jovem Rio mais, Brazil
329. Religions for Peace South Africa
330. Republican public association "People PLUS", Belarus
331. Research Foundation for Science Technology and Ecology, India
332. Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels, Burkina Faso
333. - Mauritanie
334. Réseau PRODDDES, République Démocratique du Congo
335. Right to Health Action [R2H Action], United States
336. Sahabat Alam Malaysia, Malaysia
337. Salud por Derecho, Spain
338. Salud y Fármacos, United States
339. Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha, India
340. Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy & Public Interest Clinic, Canada
341. Sanidad española, Spain
342. Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust, India
343. Save Seeds Japan, Japan
344. Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorders Alliance (SABDA), South Africa
345. SEARCH Foundation, Australia
346. SECTION27, South Africa
347. Sisters of Charity Federation, United States
348. Social Awareness Service Organisation, India
349. Social Watch Bénin
350. Social Watch - Côte d'Ivoire
351. Social Watch Philippines
352. Sociedad española de salud publica y administración sanitaria, Spain
353. Society for Community Health, Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA),
South Africa
354. Society of Development and Care, Kenya
355. Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial SADF, République
Démocratique du Congo
356. , Republic of Korea
357. S.O.S CEDIA - Criança e Desenvolvimento Integral De Angola
358. South African Food Sovereignty Campaign, South Africa
- 359.
360. Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute, Uganda
361. Southern & East African Trade Institute - South Africa (SEATINI), South Africa
362. Speaking 4 the Planet, Australia
363. STOPAIDS, United Kingdom
364. Students for Global Health, United Kingdom
365. Sukaar Welfare Organization, Pakistan
366. T1International, United Kingdom
367. Tax Justice Network Africa, Uganda
368. TB Proof, South Africa
369. TEDIC NGO, Paraguay
370. Terre A Vie, Ouagadougou ; Burkina Faso
371. The Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) Netherlands
372. The Grail in Australia Justice Network, Australia
373. The Organization of Journalists Against Drugs and Crime in Tanzania
374. The Sunflower Funds (TSF), South Africa
375. Think Tank "Medicines, Information and Power" of the National University of
Colombia

376. Trade Justice Pilipinas, Philippines
377. Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), South Africa
378. TRANSSMART TRUST, Zimbabwe
379. Tripla Difesa Onlus, Italy
380. TRCSS (Transdisciplinary Research Cluster on Sustainability Studies) JNU
Jawaharal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
381. Treatment Action Group, United States
382. The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), South Africa
383. the South African Federation of Mental Health (SAFMH),
384. the South African Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (SANCD Alliance)
385. the Cancer Alliance including Advocates for Breast Cancer, South Africa
386. The Stop Stock Outs Project (SSP), South Africa
387. Trade Justice PEI, Canada
388. UDK Consultancy, Malawi
389. ULOA...Uganda land owners association, Uganda
390. Unions WA, Western Australia
391. Unión del Personal Civil de la Nación, Argentina
392. Union fédérale des consommateurs - Que Choisir, France
393. Vietnam Network of People living with HIV (VNP+), Vietnam
394. VREDE Foundation for Young People with Cancer (Vrede Foundation) South Africa
395. War on Want, United Kingdom
396. Washington Biotechnology Action Council, United States
397. Wemos, The Netherlands
398. We Rise and Prosper (WRAP), Uganda
- 399.

