



Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Director-General's Office
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne, 154
Case postale
1211 Genève 2
Switzerland

14 December 2022

Dear Dr Okonjo-Iweala,

RE: The urgent need to agree to expand the WTO June 2022 Decision on COVID-19 vaccines to cover tests and therapeutics.

We are a global alliance of more than 160 organizations and experts from across the world, writing today to urge you to act on behalf of the interests of the hundreds of millions of people across the developing world facing COVID-19 without access to treatments or even tests. We are very concerned about the lack of Decision at the TRIPS Council meeting on the 6th of December and the proposed delay on this urgent matter until June 2023. Each day of delay means more infections, more deaths, and greater difficulties for the global economic recovery.

The WTO has the power and opportunity to help developing countries control the virus by expanding the June 2022 Decision on vaccine intellectual property to cover tests and therapeutics by the 17th December 2022 deadline agreed by WTO member countries.

The WTO played an important role in the global response to the HIV crisis through the Doha declaration; a landmark WTO agreement that established that public health supersedes commercial interest. This step forward was made possible by WTO members coming together to negotiate in good faith to reach such a compromise.

During the COVID-19 crisis, however, wealthy countries shamefully used the WTO to prioritize the commercial interests of their pharmaceutical companies over the health of people in poorer nations. Despite warm words from many Western leaders, there was no evidence of solidarity at the WTO.

COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are vital for controlling the pandemic and preventing hospitalisations, loss of life, long-term health consequences, and economic disruptions. However, access to these life-saving medical technologies remains grossly



inadequate in developing countries, as pharmaceutical companies prioritise high prices and profits in rich markets.

In June 2022, WTO members issued a Decision applying only to COVID-19 vaccines that clarified some WTO intellectual property rules. We, the People's Vaccine Alliance, believe that despite its significant limitations, the Decision could still help to diversify manufacturing and improve affordable access if extended to tests and treatments. This is the case because, in contrast to COVID-19 vaccines, technology transfer and a full waiver of intellectual property barriers are not necessary for generic medicine producers to make and export ample supplies of affordable treatments and tests.

Put simply, after failing the world in June of this year, the WTO is getting a second chance to make a meaningful impact in the fight against COVID-19 before the end of 2022.

It has been almost three years since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. Hundreds of millions of people remain unvaccinated in developing countries, facing the disease without treatment or protection. The pandemic remains a constant threat to people's lives and livelihoods, and still, developing countries lack affordable access to COVID diagnostics and therapeutics. Hundreds of new treatments are in the pipeline with scores in final trials, but they will remain out of reach without action from the WTO.

Developing countries and civil society across the world are looking to you to show leadership and to show that you have their best interests in the forefront of your mind. We urge you to publicly resist the deliberate attempts from rich nations to delay negotiations beyond 2022. Any delay would be a damaging blow to the WTO's credibility.

We urge you to use your influence to ensure that a decision is made to expand the June 2022 COVID-19 Decision to cover therapeutics and diagnostics by the deadline of 17th December 2022 in order to ensure that current and potential future treatments and tests become available and affordable for all.

Respectfully,

The People's Vaccine Alliance

AbibiNsroma Foundation
Access to Medicines Ireland
ActionAid
ActionAid International
Africa Japan Forum



African Alliance

Ahadi Achievers Empowerment CBO, Ahadi Achievers Empowerment CBO

Alan Rossi Silva, Staff Attorney at the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA)

Amira Herdoiza , Executive Director Kimirina

Amnesty International

Anne Marie Collins, EqualHealth

Annette Gaudino, Activist

Annie Namala, Convener, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

APCASO

Asia Russell, Executive Director, Health Global Access Project (Health GAP)

Asociación de Mujeres Gente Nueva (AMUGEN)

Asociación de mujeres VIH Santa Micaela

Beckie Malay, PRRM

BMS World Mission

Cadre de concertation des ONG et Associations actives en éducation de base au Burkina Faso

Catherine Dimitroulias, President of the Association of Women of Southern Europe AFEM

Centre for Health Equity Zimbabwe

César Artiga, Presidente de Asociación Generaciones de Paz (ASDEPAZ)

CIEDUR

Citizens Trade Campaign

Civil Society SDGs Campaign GCAP Zambia

Coalition for People's Right to Health

Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA)

Diarmaid McDonald, Director, Just Treatment

Dini Andriani , Manager Program

Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality

Dr Marlise Richter, Researcher

Dr Patricia Ranald, Convener, Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network

Dr Rasigan Maharajh, Chief Director of Institute for Economic Research on Innovation

Dr Tinashe Goronga, Center for Health Equity Zimbabwe

Dr Jonathan Nkalubo, Equal Health - Uganda Chapter

EL GADDARI Abdelhalim, Programs director

Empower India

Engr(Dr.) Janet Adeyemi, National President at Women in Mining Nigeria

EQUALHEALTH

EqualHealth Global Campaign Against Racism

GCAP Ghana

GCAP Italy

GCAP Sri Lanka-SDG Networks, Secretary General

George Carter, Founder/Director, Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)



Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
Global Humanitarian Progress Corporation GHP Corp
Global Humanitarian Progress GHP Corp, Luz Marina Umbasia
Global Justice Now
Graham Dutfield, Professor of International Governance, University of Leeds
Halley Movement Coalition, Director
Hani Serag, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch
Harry Prabowo, Asia Pacific Network of People living with HIV (APN+)
Health Global Access Project
Human Rights Watch
Indonesia AIDS Coalition
Initiative for Social and Economic Rights
INSAF Delhi
International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSSED)
International Youth Alliance for Peace Guarantee Limited
Jahid Hossain Khan, Grameen Development Society (GDS)
Javier Pablo Anamaria , Referente nacional Alterno de ITPC LATCA
Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network - Africa (JENA)
Judy Taguiwalo, Citizens' Urgent Response to End COVID-19, Spokepersoj
Justice is Global
Karimi Kinoti, Interim Policy & Campaigns Director, Christian Aid
Karin Slowing Umaña, Coordinadora de Investigación LaboratorioDeDatosGT
Keikantse Phele , Keikantse Phele
KHANA/Cambodia, Executive Director
Kristine Yakhama , Africa Diabetes and Hypertension Association Kenya
Labila Sumayah Musoke, Program Officer at the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights
Lankaplus Organization
Lídice López, corresponsales Clave, Corresponsales Clave
Lois Chingandu, Acting Executive Director, Frontline AIDS
LUTTE NATIONALE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE "LUNACOP/GCAP-RDC"
Luz Marina Umbasia, GHP Corp
Magatte MBODJ, Executive Director
Manuel Machado, Misión Salud
Marije Versteeg, Senior Global Health Advocate at Wemos
Mario Gomez, Executive Director, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka
Mariam Amjad Khan, Program Manager at AwazCDS-Pakistan
Martin Drewry, CEO of Health Poverty Action
Michael Switow, Founder & Executive Committee member, ONE (SINGAPORE)
Mrs Edna Dafe , Projext Director., Women's Board-ECS



Mtra María Angela Elías Marroquín, Universidad de El Salvador
Namusobya Salima, Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)
National Association of Non Governmental Organisations,
National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal
National Fisheries Solidarity Movement [NAFSO]
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Networking Community HIV and AIDS Southern Africa, Executive Director
NGO Federation Of Nepal
Nigeria Network of NGOs
NILUFAR BANU PhD, Executive Director. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad
Noakhali Rural Development Society (NRDS)
Noé Ivan Flores Sosa , Asociación Hondureña Contra la Tuberculosis
Observatori DESC
Olayinka Joseph ADEBAJO, Executive Director at One Voice Initiative For Women and Children
Emancipation
ONE (Singapore)
Oumar SOW, National coordinator Gcap- Sénégal
Oxfam
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum,
Partners In Health,
Pauline Muchina, American Friends Service Committee
People's Vaccine Alliance Bangladesh
People's Vaccine Alliance - Asia
People's Vaccine Alliance Africa
Peter Owiti , Global Covid Community Board
Philip Kalio, Executive Director at Support Initiative for Sustainable Development (SISDEV)
Physicians for Human Rights
PODER Project on Organization, Development, Education and Research
Prof P. Vassie Naidoo, University of KwaZulu-Natal [People's Vaccine Alliance, Professor from
the University of KwaZulu Natal
Prof. Brook K. Baker, Northeastern U. School of Law
Prof. Dr. Jorge Bermudez, MD, DSc, Senior Researcher in Public Health, National School of
Public Health/Fiocruz, Brazil
Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)
Pst. Ayotunde Okelana , Executive Director/Cleannation Foundation
Public Citizen
Public Eye
Raditya, Executive Director at Rumah Cemara
Rajesh Didiya, National TB network
Rajiv Dua, Chief Executive



Ratikant Behera, FSDCA (Foundation for Sustainable Development and Climate Action)
Raz Mohammad Dalili, Executive Advisor Sanayee Development Organization SDO
Reshma Shakya, Advocacy and Communication Officer
Rethink Trade, Director
Richard Stern , Independent
Right to Health Action, Policy team member at Right to Health Action
Rights Initiative
RISE TO INSPIRE AFRICA INITIATIVE
Roman Rafael Vega Romero, People´s Health Movement - PHM
Ronald Céspedes Barriga, Presidente de la Red Latinoamericana GayLatino
Rossella Miccio, President of EMERGENCY
Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, The New School
Salud por Derecho
Sarojini N, Founder, Sama Resource Group for Women and Health
Sbongile Nkosi, Co-Executive Director
SEATINI - South Africa
Serendipity Healthcare Foundation
Sharad Onta, Country Coordinator, People's Health Movement Nepal
Shihab Quader, Head of International Projects at Yunus Centre
Shirin Syed, Research Fellow, American University Washington College of Law
Soe Naing, Executive Director, Alliance Myanmar
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication(SAAPE)
Steve Lambert, Co-founder and Co-Director at the Center for Artistic Activism
STOPAIDS
SUNFO-Peoples Vaccine campaign, Director General
Suruwat, Executive director
Terence Dias, Admin Officer of Noakhali Rural Development Society (NRDS)
The Rock of Hope Eswatin
Trade Justice Education Fund
Tumukunde Initiative Rwanda
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM)
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines UK
URUGUAIAN Network PLHiV REDLAC
Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group, Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group
Vanessa Japtha, Advocacy Manager
Vinayaraj V K, Dr
Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
War on Want
Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS
Zia ur Rehman , AwazCDS-Pakistan