

*San José, 23 de marzo de 2020
DP-P-024-2020*

Dear Dr. Tedros,

Costa Rica in the spirit of contributing to global actions to fight the pandemic, respectfully requests to the World Health Organization (WHO) to undertake an effort to pool rights to technologies that are useful for the detection, prevention, control and treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This pool, which will involve voluntary assignments, should include existing and future rights in patented inventions and designs, as well rights in regulatory test data, know-how, cell lines, copyrights and blueprints for manufacturing diagnostic tests, devices, drugs, or vaccines. It should provide for free access or licensing on reasonable and affordable terms, in every member country.

Given the urgency of this matter, Costa Rica proposes that the WHO develop an initial concise memorandum of understanding on the intent to share rights in technologies funded by the public sector and other relevant actors, and reach out to WHO Member States, non-profit institutions, industry and others, to sign such an MoU. The specific technologies and the terms of the assignments can be determined later, in the implementation stage of the pool, in consultation with R&D funders and rights holders.

***Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization***

We also ask that the Global Observatory on Health R&D create a database of R&D activity related to COVID-19, including estimates of the costs of clinical trials, and the subsidies provided by governments and charities.

Sincerely yours,

CARLOS ALVARADO QUESADA
Presidente de la República

DANIEL SALAS PERAZA
Ministro de Salud

cc.

Dr. Michael Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization

Dr. Bernhard Schwartländer, Chef de Cabinet, World Health Organization

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization

Dr Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão, Assistant Director-General, Access to Medicines and Health Products

Derek Walton, Legal Counsel, World Health Organization

Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer, World Health Organization

Dra. Carisse F. Etienne, Director, Panamerican Health Organization / WHO