Brochure for Speakers

FIRST WORLD LOCAL PRODUCTION FORUM
Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies

21 TO 25 JUNE 2021
For over two decades, there has been an increasing emphasis on the importance of local production and related technology transfer in the context of promoting equitable access to medicines and other health technologies. Progress in innovation and access has been made; however, many challenges remain, and new challenges have emerged, such as the lack or unaffordability of new health products and the lack of sufficiently trained personnel.

The World Local Production Forum: Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies (WLPF) is a global community comprising foremost government leaders, technology experts, industry, the international community and other stakeholders under the auspices of WHO for public health impact.

The WLPF is a regular forum for the global community to engage, dialogue and collaborate on opportunities and mechanisms for the promotion of local production and technology transfer as part of health technology programmes in line with global health needs. The WLPF aims to call Member States’ attention in aligning the production of health products as essential long-term infrastructure akin to food, water and energy as safeguards to protect national, regional and global security. It also aims to translate the spirit of the first interagency statement on promoting local production into practice. This first WLPF will be convened virtually and includes plenaries, panel discussions, presentations and participatory discussions amongst invited speakers and Forum attendees.

Objectives

- Provide a global platform to discuss challenges in promoting local production and technology transfer to improve access to quality, safe and effective health products and technologies, and to safeguard global, regional and national health security
- Identify priority health technologies with greatest need for transfer to LMICs to address e.g. shortages, high prices, monopolies, etc.
- Explore mechanisms and opportunities to promote/facilitate the transfer and local production of high priority technologies in LMICs
- Identify key areas of training that support capacity building for local production and technology transfer
- Promote partnerships and business linkages in the areas of technology transfer and local production
- Provide recommendations and actions for implementation by stakeholders
21 June

13:00-15:15 (CEST)
OPENING REMARKS **

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Mariângela Simão
Assistant Director General, Access to Medicines and Health Products, WHO

Tedros A. Ghebreyesus
Director General, WHO

CHAIR

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Director General, WTO

Li Yong
Director General, UNIDO

Lia Tadesse
Minister of Health, Ethiopia

Jutta Urpilainen
Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission

Henrietta Fore
Executive Director, UNICEF

CEST: Central European Summer Time. Please verify your local time. ** Translation available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
13:00-15:15 (CEST)
PLENARY SESSION: ACCELERATING LOCAL PRODUCTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION**

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Soumya Swaminathan
Chief Scientist, WHO
CHAIR

Budi Gunadi Sadikin
Minister of Health, Indonesia

Marco Pontes
Minister of Science and Technology, Brazil

Sandile Buthelezi
Director General of National Department of Health, South Africa

Isabel Durant
Acting Secretary General, UNCTAD

Hala Zayed
Minister of Health and Population, Egypt
The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

**Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter**
H.E. Ambassador
CHAIR

**Emmanuel Mujuru**
Chairperson, Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations
SETTING THE SCENE

**Rafael Díaz-Granados**
Executive Director, Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA)

**Julieta Loustau**
Undersecretary of Industry, Ministry of Productive Development, Argentina

**James Droop**
Senior Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

**Stephen Karingi**
Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, UNECA

**Rungpetch Sakulbumrungsil**
Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, on behalf of the Government of Thailand

**Jicui Dong**
Unit Head, Local Production and Assistance Unit, WHO
14:15-15:30 (CEST)
SESSION 2: GETTING REGULATORY SYSTEMS PANDEMIC READY

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Mojisola Adeyeye
Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration, Nigeria
CHAIR

Murray Lumpkin
Deputy Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CHAIR

Rogério Gaspar
Director, Regulation and Prequalification Department, WHO
SETTING THE SCENE

Emer Cooke
Executive Director, European Medicines Agency and Chair, International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities

Kim Ganglip,
Minister, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Republic of Korea

Janet Woodcock
Acting Commissioner, US Food and Drug Administration

Delese Mimi Darko
Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Food and Drug Administration

Rubina Bose
Deputy Drugs Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, India

Margareth Ndomondo-Sigonda
Head, African Union Development Agency-New Partnership For Africa’s Development

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23 June

13:00-14:15 (CEST)
SESSION 3: UNLOCKING GLOBAL MANUFACTURING POTENTIAL THROUGH LICENSING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Erika Martinez Lievano
Minister, Mission of Mexico to the UN in Geneva
CHAIR

Mandeep Dhaliwal
Director, HIV, Health and Development Group, UNDP
CHAIR

Mariângela Simão
Assistant Director General, Access to Medicines and Health Products, WHO
SETTING THE SCENE

Charles Gore
Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool
SETTING THE SCENE

Greg Perry
Assistant Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations
SETTING THE SCENE

Lawrence Banks
Director General, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

Sidney Yee
Chief Executive Officer, Diagnostics Development Hub, A*STAR, Singapore

Nevin Bradford
Chief Executive Officer, Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Limited, Uganda

Roger Kampf
Counsellor, WTO

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14:15-15:30 (CEST)
SESSION 4: EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CAPITAL

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

James Zhan
Director, Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD
CHAIR

Jaime Atienza Azcona
Chief, Health Financing, UNAIDS
CHAIR

Tomasz Telma
Senior Director and Head of Manufacturing, Agriculture and Services Department, International Finance Corporation, World Bank
SETTING THE SCENE

Birgit Pickel
Deputy Director General Global Health, Pandemic Prevention and One Health, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Abdu Mukhtar
Director, African Development Bank

Patrick Osewe
Director, Asian Development Bank

Maria Shaw-Barragan
Director, European Investment Bank

Ammar Abdo Ahmed
Lead Global Health Specialist, Islamic Development Bank

Fred Abbott
Edward Ball Eminent Scholar
Professor, Florida State University

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24 June
13:00-15:00 (CEST)
SESSION 5: BUILDING CAPACITY TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO VACCINES AND BIOLOGICS FOR COVID-19 AND BEYOND

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Stéphanie Seydoux
Ambassador for Global Health, France
CHAIR

Rana Hajjeh, Director
Programme Management, WHO EMRO
CHAIR

Soumya Swaminathan
Chief Scientist, WHO
SETTING THE SCENE

Matthew Downham
Sustainable Manufacturing Lead,
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
SETTING THE SCENE

Vaccine ecosystems and supply sub-session

John Nkengasong
Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Rajinder Suri
Chief Executive Officer, Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network

Patrick Tippoo
Executive Director, African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative

Hans Schikan
Special Envoy, Vaccine Production and Procurement, The Netherlands

Martina Micheletti
Director, Vax-Hub

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13:00-15:00 (CEST)
SESSION 5: BUILDING CAPACITY TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO VACCINES AND BIOLOGICS FOR COVID-19 AND BEYOND

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

**Innovation and technology transfer sub-session**

David Robinson  
Deputy Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

José Castillo  
Chief Technology Officer, Univercells

Tiago Rocca  
Manager, Butantan

Weining Meng  
Vice President, Sinovac

**Biologics sub-session**

Meng Li  
Director, Emerging Biopharmaceutical Manufacturers Network

Friso Smit  
Chairman, Utrecht Centre for Affordable Biotherapeutics
25 June

13:00-14:25 (CEST)

SESSION 6: LEVERAGING INNOVATION, AI AND THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION IN THE HEALTH PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento
Managing Director, UNIDO
CHAIR

Jacinta Wasike
Director Corporate Services, Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya
CHAIR

David Kaslow
Chief Scientific Officer, PATH
SETTING THE SCENE

Marco Aurélio Krieger
Vice President of Innovation and Production, FIOCRUZ

Marta Fernandez Suarez
Senior Director of R&D, FIND

Gerald Voss
Scientific Director, TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative

Nicholson Price
University of Michigan

George Patrinos
University of Patras

Michael Kahn
University of Stellenbosch

Dave Berry
Lead, UK Centre for Process Innovation

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14:25-15:30 (CEST)
SESSION 7: WLPF OUTCOMES**

The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Rogério Gaspar  
Director, Regulation and Prequalification Department, WHO  
CHAIR

Jicui Dong  
Unit Head, Local Production and Assistance Unit, WHO  
KEY MESSAGES PRESENTATION

Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento  
Managing Director, UNIDO

Murray Lumpkin  
Deputy Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Jacinta Wasike  
Director Corporate Services, Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya

Akthem Fourati  
Chief, Medicines and Nutrition Centre, UNICEF

Ermias Biadgleng  
Officer in Charge of the Intellectual Property Unit, UNCTAD

Ran Wei  
Senior Advisor, UNAIDS

Cecilia Oh  
Programme Advisor, UNDP

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The order of the pictures reflects the speaking order.

Hugo de Jonge  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands

Mariângela Simão  
Assistant Director General, Access to Medicines and Health Products, WHO

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

CEST: Central European Summer Time. Please verify your local time. ** Translation available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Local production has obvious benefits in contributing to public health and health security, improving industrial diversification, importing technology, fostering innovation and creating skilled employment positions. However, the development of local production in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is often hindered by several challenges including low technical capacity, market accessibility and fragmentation, and lack of access to technology transfer and innovation.

To successfully advance the implementation of local production projects, it is critical to coordinate and synergize effort and resources of relevant stakeholders and partners to contribute based on their mandates and competencies. To address this need, clear roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder and partner, as well as mechanisms and frameworks that facilitate working together in a holistic, synergistic and coordinated manner, need to be established.

Several types and modalities of partnerships have also been forged across various aspects of local production with a view to supporting its continued development, facilitating technology transfer, coordinating regulatory system strengthening efforts, and fostering R&D and innovation. This session will highlight and discuss the existing forms of partnerships and uncover the most pressing issues underlying the efficiency of collaboration and the achievement of better outcomes.

Government commitment and support and conducive business, regulatory and technical environments play key roles in the development and sustainability of vibrant health product manufacturing industries. To achieve this, strong coordination and leadership among policy makers from various sectors – health, industry, trade, economy, etc. – is required with collaboration among relevant stakeholders such as the industry, development partners, academia, civil societies, the international community and others.

Consideration of each stage of the health product value chain, i.e. from R&D to the patient, should inform the building of enabling and supportive business eco-systems for sustainable local production of quality, safe, effective and affordable health products. Considering the variety of country contexts, there may not be a “one-size fits-all” approach to this. This session will explore the cross-cutting nature in strengthening local production and challenges in developing a conducive business eco-system for sustainable local production to improve access of quality health products in the country and region.

National regulatory authorities (NRAs) are responsible to ensure the quality, safety and effectiveness of health products and protect their populations from poor-quality medicines. National and regional regulatory authorities play a key role in promoting local pharmaceutical production whilst controlling the proliferation of falsified and substandard medicines through medicines evaluation, inspection, and surveillance.

COVID-19 has imposed unprecedented challenges at a global level on public health and the economy, and also on society as a whole. It has significantly disrupted the production and supply of much needed medicines, vaccines and other health products including those required to effectively respond to the pandemic itself. The COVID-19 situation highlights a need for regulatory agility in order to respond to the pandemic and to enable priority essential medicines and related health technologies to be rapidly developed, assessed and supplied with assured quality, safety and efficacy.
Access to technology is essential for the growth of local health product manufacturing industries, particularly in LMICs. It thus represents a cornerstone of pharmaceutical and other health product industries as they look to produce and supply innovative products and other technologies. It is also of key importance when considering the increasing demand for affordable biologics in LMICs and the opportunities provided with the expansion of the biosimilars market. Therefore, acquisition of technology and its diffusion into countries and regions, fosters productivity growth. The majority of developing countries, especially, rely largely on imported technologies as sources of new productive knowledge.

Technology transfer involves not only access to technology, data and processes, but also the know-how and trade secrets required to efficiently develop in-house capabilities and effectively apply the technology. Collaboration and cooperation are therefore central to the process of technology transfer, along with access to the skills required to ensure successful implementation.

The pharmaceutical, vaccine and related local industries require significant capital investment for new build projects, extension of current facilities and other major upgrading projects, among others. Access to affordable capital is a key bottleneck in many countries and regions, despite being recognized as a major issue. Typically, commercial banks in LMICs are reluctant to finance projects due to factors including the long project timelines, regulatory-associated risks and a lack of in-house expertise allowing evaluation of pharmaceutical sector projects. Various actors have important roles to play including development banks, other international banks, local banks and finance houses, and potentially Government (including through PPP-type initiatives or other routes of investment). Governments also play a key role by signaling the sector as a strategic public and private investment priority.

In order to make a strong and compelling case to investors and attract capital, companies need to develop a sound business and financial case, especially for both new build and upgrading projects. They typically require significant sums of capital, with larger projects often requiring consideration of syndicated deals with multiple investors working together. Innovative finance mechanisms such as blended finance instruments can also play a key role in the expansion of a sustainable local health product manufacturing base.

Of importance, Governments can create an attractive finance environment, providing the right conditions to encourage investment in the sector and with due consideration of the public goods perspective. Regional dimensions are equally important, especially in creating attractive markets which offer a more compelling business case for local manufacturers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has focused attention on global vaccine manufacturing capacity. It is widely recognized that there is an essential and immediate need to improve worldwide access to COVID-19 vaccines, ensuring equitable availability across developing and developed countries with no one left behind. Without making COVID-19 vaccines available to all people in all countries, there is a clear risk of, in particular, unvaccinated regions providing a fertile breeding ground for variants which will impact these territories and spread back into other areas, thus prolonging the global health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Nowhere is safe until everywhere is safe.
The pandemic has also brought attention of the global community to the importance of ensuring there is additional global vaccine manufacturing capacity in place to mitigate against future pandemic events. There are also concerns relating to the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing surge and capacity utilization on the short- and medium-term availability of routine vaccines, biologics and other critical pharmaceutical products. A contributing factor to this issue is the supply chain problems associated with the unprecedented demand on consumables, reagents and materials required for the manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines.

Taken together, these challenges and constraints represent a major focus of the global vaccine and biologics manufacturing community and related stakeholders.

A related topic is that biologics and biosimilars are of growing importance to LMICs. Countries are looking to improve access to these products in order to offer a greater range of cutting-edge treatments across a wide variety of diseases, over and above the more traditional pharmaceutical options. There are increasing opportunities for local manufacture of biologics. Also of note, they may also have a role to play in ensuring sustainable manufacturing capacity for vaccines, due to common manufacturing processes and innovations opening up the possibility of switching between biologics and vaccine production within facilities.

**25 June**

13:00-14:25 (CEST)

**SESSION 6: LEVERAGING INNOVATION, AI AND THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION IN THE HEALTH PRODUCTS INDUSTRY**

Technological innovation plays an increasingly critical role in advancing public health. Despite the availability of many effective treatments and diagnostics for a wide range of existing health problems, there remains an ongoing search for new health products to address remaining areas of unmet medical need and also to ensure that LMICs have equal access to modern innovative products.

The health product development life cycle is generally long and complex, and it is often difficult to quickly develop and deploy innovative medicines and other health products. Over the past several decades, there has been a substantial growth in research and development (R&D) spending by the pharmaceutical industry, but this has not proved to be commensurate with industry output as demonstrated by the low innovation and approval of new molecular entities.

Advancements in bioinformatics and artificial intelligence (AI), offer the potential to transform the pharmaceutical industry and its capacity to deliver new drug discoveries with improved efficiency, safety and quality. Additionally, digital health websites, other related platforms, and mobile apps have been increasingly adopted to expand access to data for patients, providers, caregivers, and the medical professional community.

14:25-15:30 (CEST)

**SESSION 7: WLPF OUTCOMES**

In session 7, a presentation will be given which summarizes the key messages and outcomes of the individual preceding Forum sessions. Session 7 aims to highlight clear and actionable recommendations to support and enhance LMIC production of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and related health products. This session therefore provides the vital opportunity to summarize and consider the key points arising during the WLPF sessions, and future actions to be taken.

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WORLD LOCAL PRODUCTION FORUM
Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies