

Statement of Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on USTR Tai's statement on the TRIPS waiver

"I read with interest the statement made yesterday by USTR Katherine Tai and I warmly welcome her willingness to engage with proponents of a temporary waiver of the TRIPS Agreement to help in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. As I told the General Council yesterday, we need to respond urgently to COVID-19 because the world is watching and people are dying. I am pleased that the proponents are preparing a revision to their proposal and I urge them to put this on the table as soon as possible so that text-based negotiations can commence. It is only by sitting down together that we will find a pragmatic way forward – acceptable to all members – which enhances developing countries' access to vaccines while protecting and sustaining the research and innovation so vital to the production of these life-saving vaccines."

More

- [Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala \(https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/dg_e/dg_e.htm\)](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/dg_e/dg_e.htm)
- [COVID-19 and world trade \(https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm\)](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm)
- [TRIPS and public health \(https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/pharmapaten_e.htm\)](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/pharmapaten_e.htm)
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