



## COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP)

### A dialogue with civil society organizations

#### Summary Report

**Date and time:** 27 April 14:00 to 15:45 CET

##### **Introductory remarks**

*Carlos Passarelli, UNAIDS*

Carlos Passarelli welcomed all participants and reflected on the consultation as being the second consultation in a series with the civil society.

##### **Presentation C-TAP priorities in 2021**

*Mariangela Simão, WHO*

Mariangela Simão, Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products, WHO, shared the prioritized actions of C-TAP for 2021-2022. She reminded that the C-TAP Secretariat has met with all vaccine manufacturers. She also shared that the team is developing a survey regarding incentives that will be shared with Member States to inform a discussion paper which will explore alternatives on how to engage technology and intellectual property holders. Additionally, Mariangela informed that the Secretariat is also redesigning the C-TAP website and database to promote transparency in relation to key relevant information on prioritized COVID-19 products to facilitate use in research, development, and scale-up of manufacturing production. She concluded by informing about the C-TAP communication strategy and the one-year-anniversary reboot event that will take place on 28 May.

##### **Complementarity between WHO C-TAP initiative and the Production Capacity Taskforce**

*Martin Friede, WHO*

Martin Friede introduced the COVID-19 Vaccine Production Capacity Task Force. This mechanism was launched to address three main challenges: bottlenecks of the existing supply chain, in particular fill/finish, to increase the number of facilities producing COVID-19 vaccines, and lastly, to address in the long term the need for equitable access to vaccines and to ensure regional health security. Each of these three challenges will be addressed by a different pillar. The third pillar will aim to establish hubs for technology transfer to low-and middle-income countries. Martin concluded by reminding all participants that on 16 April WHO issued a call for Expression of Interest to establish an mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub to collect interest from entities with the know-how for the production of these vaccines in establishing the process for technology transfer.

##### **CSO Contribution to support C-TAP objectives of achieving global equitable access**

*Peter Maybarduk, Public Citizen*

Peter Maybarduk, Access to Medicines Director at Public Citizen, considered the scale-up of production for COVID-19 technologies the key to ending the pandemic. In that context, he believed that C-TAP has a key role to play in the transfer of COVID-19 technologies. Peter mentioned that his organization is encouraging the United States Government to think about the benefits of sharing technology as an advantage for all countries, accelerating access to all without slowing down vaccination in high income countries. This would build resilience and manufacturing capacity for the future which can help curb variants before they get out of control. He noted that 65+ organizations in the United States have sent a letter to the Biden administration calling for a vaccine manufacturing plan for the

world to meet global needs, to collaborate with WHO and sharing technologies with C-TAP. He expected similar letters can be elevated to other governments around the world as a campaign and additional funds are going to be needed. According to Public Citizen's [assessment](#), working with engineers at Imperial College, if governments are motivated enough and put as many resources as they can, within six months 25 additional production lines could be put in place, and in another 6 months it could be possible to reach 8 billion doses of mRNA vaccines.

### **Closing Words**

#### *Ambassador Shara Duncan, Costa Rica*

Ambassador Shara Duncan started by emphasizing that health should be considered a global public global good and that Costa Rica believes the WHO should be at the front of the fight against the pandemic. She also added that unfortunately C-TAP continues to be an unused mechanism. In her opinion, C-TAP provides a multilateral solution to fight COVID-19 by boosting production capacity. C-TAP also has the potential to become a sustainable and permanent ally to fight future pandemics for which hopefully we are better prepared. Ambassador Duncan concluded by presenting the work they have been doing over the past few months. Costa Rica has been organizing several meetings among co-sponsors of the Solidarity Call to Action regarding possible incentives and about how to gather support from additional Member States. Lastly, the co-sponsors are now working on a statement they are hoping to deliver during the World Health Assembly.