



IFPMA STATEMENT

WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS, DECEMBER 06-09, 2021 DELIVERED ON DECEMBER 08, 2021 ON PATENTS AND HEALTH

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the important discussions within the SCP. We would also like to extend our congratulations on your re-election and to the newly elected vice-chairs.

IFPMA represents the leading research-based biopharmaceutical companies as well as national and regional industry associations across all five continents.

We are grateful to the Secretariat for their continued work on the topic of patents and health and technology transfer, which have enriched the debates in this Committee.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound health, social and economic impact around the world. The biopharmaceutical industry has made addressing the pandemic its top priority, devoting its resources, expertise, know-how, and intellectual assets to developing treatments, diagnostics, and vaccines at unprecedented pace, while committing to and engaging in unprecedented levels of international collaboration and coordination through initiatives such as ACT-A to ensure equitable access to products being developed.

The stable, predictable and effective IP framework has been a critical enabler. It is because of previous investment and R&D that made possible by the IP system that we were able to bring to market several safe and effective vaccines and treatments, including new antivirals and monoclonal antibodies, at record time.

The omicron variant is a sad reminder that we are still in the midst of a pandemic; there is much we do not know and much we still have to do. Technology transfer for vaccines is a highly complex process requiring a range of special skills sets and capacities. That notwithstanding, to achieve the mass scale up, companies have entered into voluntary collaborations with partners across all five continents.

Despite huge challenges of managing their own production ramp-up, companies have voluntarily engaged into 335 voluntary collaborations for vaccines and 114 for therapeutics. We are on track to produce 12 billion doses by the end of this year and 24 billion by June 2022.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for inviting us to speak on the Patent Information Initiative for Medicines or PAT-Informed at the information session on patent databases.

Thank you again.

Delivered by: Ms. Komal Kalha, Associate Director, Intellectual Property and Trade Policy