



UNCTAD World Investment Forum satellite event

UNCTAD/WHO joint webinar on Pandemic preparedness beyond COVID-19: Investing in vaccines production and supply for LMICs

3 March 2021, 14:00-16:00 CET

The current pandemic has highlighted the exposure of low and middle-income countries (LMICs) to global vaccine supply shortages, despite efforts by the industry to increase manufacturing capacity, including in large developing countries. This challenge extends well beyond COVID-19. Routine vaccination programs need to be maintained in LMICs to avoid increased mortality especially among children. Building productive capacity in developing countries for vaccines beyond COVID-19 could make an important contribution to equitable access and pandemic preparedness in LMICs. Increased global cooperation is essential to achieve this goal.

UNCTAD in partnership with WHO intends to build a coalition of stakeholders to promote long-term investment in vaccine manufacturing capacity in developing countries beyond COVID-19-related vaccines. In preparation of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum in October 2021,¹ the discussion at this event will focus on the following question:

Can long-term availability and supply of vaccines be improved by investing in additional local production capacity in LMICs?

- Who can be expected to invest in additional capacity?
- What incentives and mechanisms are necessary to de-risk and make the investment sustainable?
- How can international support and partnership for scaling up productive capacity be promoted?

The results of this discussion will feed into UNCTAD policy recommendations and technical cooperation activities for LMICs, under the aegis of UNCTAD's new *Invest in Health Initiative*. The Initiative seeks to untap the potential of foreign investment in LMICs' health care value chain, targeting *inter alia* local productive capacities for drugs and vaccines. The event thereby links into SDG 3, Target 3(b) (access to essential medicines and vaccines), SDG 9, Target 9(b) (domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries) and SDG 17, Targets 17.16 and 17.17 (international cooperation and partnerships).

¹ <https://unctad.org/meeting/7th-world-investment-forum>

PROGRAM

- **Opening**
 - UNCTAD's new *Invest in Health Initiative*: **James Zhan**, Senior Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD
 - WHO's support of local production in LMICs to improve access: **Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão**, Assistant Director General for Access to Medicines and Health Products Division, WHO

- **Roundtable**: How to promote long-term investment in vaccine manufacturing capacity in LMICs beyond COVID-19
 - Government and policymakers
 - **Nakorn Prensri**, Director, National Vaccine Institute, Thailand
 - **John Nkengasong**, Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Vaccine manufacturers
 - **Suresh Jadhav**, Executive Director, Serum Institute of India (SII)
 - **Amadou Alpha Sall**, Administrateur Général, Fondation Institut Pasteur de Dakar
 - **Patrick Tippoo**, Executive Director, African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (AVMI)
 - Development finance institutions and investors
 - **Abdu Mukhtar**, Director, Industrial and Trade Development Department, African Development Bank (AfDB)
 - **Victoria Goodfellow**, Managing Director, Lion's Head Global Partners
 - **Matthew Downham**, Sustainable Manufacturing Lead, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
 - **Subir Kumar Basak**, Senior Specialist, Life Sciences, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
 - **David Robinson**, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
 - Providers of technology and know-how
 - **Manuel Batz**, Director Middle East and Africa, Merck KGaA, Germany
 - **Kate Antrobus**, Chief Investment Officer, Univercells
 - **Martina Micheletti**, Department of Biochemical Engineering, University College London / Penny Carmichael, Policy Advisor, The Vaccine Manufacturing Research Hub (Vax-Hub)
 - Moderators:
 - **Christoph Spennemann**, Officer-in-Charge, Intellectual Property Unit, UNCTAD,
 - **Jicui Dong**, Unit Head, Local Production & Assistance Unit, Regulation and Prequalification Department, Access to Medicines and Health Products Division, WHO.