

KEY arguments in favor of the TRIPS waiver.

Based on quotes from the Press Conference "No Profit On Covid"

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 9:00 am

Café de l'Ariana, Rue de Montbrillant 83, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

1. The TRIPS waiver is supported by global health community, well over 100 countries, numerous former heads of state and Nobel laureates, academics, researchers, the EU parliament, Members of the US Congress, as well as civil society organizations (CSOs), and Global Union federations (ITUC, PSI, and ITF) representing more than 200 million members around the world.
2. It opposed only by a few governments in the WTO who are acting as clients of Big Pharmaceutical corporations.
3. According to official figures, over 5 million people have died of Covid-19. But the reality is even worse: the Economist estimates that the death toll is actually 17 million, and the majority is in developing countries. Not just lives, livelihoods are at stake as well. It's the worst crisis since the global financial crisis, and the longer the pandemic continues, the suffering will continue.
4. The crisis has been exacerbated by is the lack of equity in treatments, diagnostics, and vaccines. Remove the legal barriers to production, so that manufacturers all over the world can address their needs. The supply constraints are artificial.
5. In poor countries, only 3% of the population has been fully vaccinated, and this mostly because of the unavailability of vaccines. These shortages facilitate the circulation of the virus and thus encourage the emergence of new variants. This needs to change urgently.
6. Africa has a 7% vaccination rate. Most countries have not received supplies. COVAX is unable to meet its deliveries, and many of the shipments have come randomly and just before they expire. We have been told to wait until March 2022 to get their first or second shot, even health workers have not been protected.
7. Today only 1 in 4 health workers in Africa have been vaccinated. 103 countries will not make the mark of 40% vaccination by the end of this year.
8. Vaccine apartheid created the conditions under which this new Omicron variant was able to flourish.
9. Blocking the TRIPS waiver is not only condemning huge numbers of people to illness and death, but also undermining national responses to Covid in developed countries. None of us are safe until all of us are safe - and the best way to achieve that is agree the TRIPS waiver.
10. Developing country manufacturers are capable of supplying vaccines all over the world. They have WHO pre-qualification.
11. It took only a few hours to shut down the world economy because of the Omicron variant. But for more than a year, the countries in the rich north will not take on the Pharma industry.
12. Global Supply chains are just that - they do not function if workers do not have access to vaccines. We call for action now to enable workers across the world, populations, and communities, to have access to vaccines.
13. A few multinational corporations are profiting from vaccines largely developed by public funds, and they have the backing of a few powerful countries.
14. Due to patents, we pay twice for the COVID vaccines: first through public funding of the research and development of the vaccines, then again through payments of high prices for the doses.
15. It's been said that pharmaceutical corporations need patents so they can make profits so they can invest in research & Development. We know that's not true for the Covid vaccines which were largely funded by public research funds. It's also not true in general, because in reality, Big Pharma acts rationally within the capitalist system to maximize shareholder value, that is, to maximize stock prices. And that is done by NOT investing in new products which are not likely to be highly profitable, but rather by acquiring organizations, engaging in stock buybacks, share buybacks, and other financial manipulation. This is called financialization - financialization of the pharmaceutical industry.
16. The TRIPS waive would facilitate increased production of vaccines and reduce the misgivings that many have regarding the pharmaceutical industry, which reaps huge profits from products which are essential for our health.
17. Back in April 2020, the President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen said that the "Covid-19 vaccine shall be our universal common good". Over 380 organizations call EU citizens to sign the 'No Profit on

Pandemic' petition, with the aim to introduce a legislative proposal to the European Commission to make it stick to its promises and remove all patent barriers on Covid-19 technologies.