



STATEMENT

IFPMA Statement at the closing of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi

01 MARCH 2024, GENEVA – At the end 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi, **Thomas Cueni, IFPMA Director-General** said:

“After much prolonged discussion, WTO Members at the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Conference did not agree to extend the TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccines to cover therapeutics and diagnostics.

“Intellectual Property is a critical enabler for the development of medicines and vaccines. It has also given companies the confidence to engage and has enabled more than 177 voluntary collaborations, including technology transfer initiatives on COVID-19 therapeutics alone.

“We encourage WTO Members to now focus on a comprehensive trade and health agenda, such as removing export restrictions, promoting trade facilitation and regulatory convergence. We look forward to continued engagement on these important issues.”

About IFPMA

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) represents over 90 innovative pharmaceutical companies and associations around the world. Our industry’s almost three million employees discover, develop, and deliver medicines and vaccines that advance global health. Based in Geneva, IFPMA has official relations with the United Nations and contributes industry expertise to help the global health community improve the lives of people everywhere.

For more information, visit ifpma.org.

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