



WHO, WIPO, WTO Workshop on Innovation in, and Access to, COVID-19 Technologies Intellectual property licensing, technology transfer, and sharing of know-how and clinical trial information

Summary of the key issues

On September 27, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) jointly organized a [Workshop on Innovation in, and Access to, COVID-19 Technologies](#). The workshop focused on intellectual property licensing, technology transfer, and sharing of know-how and clinical trial information. It aimed at strengthening the capacity of policymakers and experts in the members of WHO, WIPO and WTO to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This capacity-building activity was conceived to help members update their knowledge and understanding of how intellectual property (IP), know-how and technology transfer work in actuality.

The activity was agreed in a June 15, 2021 [meeting among the Directors General of WHO, WIPO and WTO](#), in which they underscored their commitment to universal, equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other health technologies.

Realizing global equitable

innovation ecosystems is a sustainable solution and a challenge. Focused international collaboration, in particular with international organizations and development banks, can influence innovation capacity building for the benefit of all.

WIPO is committed to effective pandemic response and to IP as a tool for sustainable development that helps build lasting innovation ecosystems, including legal frameworks, human capital, business sophistication and markets . to enable the creation and acquisition of technology and know-how. Technology transfer is a collaborative process among equal partners that involves multiple stakeholders and, often times, international organizations.

Human capital is an important component of innovation and technology transfer. WIPO offers standard and customized programs to upgrade IP licensing and technology transfer skills in developing countries. Where research capacity might be limited, collaborative arrangements can support technology development and local ownership.

Different types of technology transfer contracts and their contractual relations lead to different outcomes. For example, sales of medical goods and services are not IP licenses. Sales do not directly serve poverty alleviation, economic development, education, or innovation, but in the appropriate context may serve public health. Licensing and collaborative development agreements may engage indigenous research and development (R&D) and create opportunities for manufacturing and distribution channels in developing countries. The panel looked at types of technology licensing agreements and their characteristics. True technology transfer enables the use and further development of technology. Consistent investments that foster capacity building in developing countries, including research institutions, innovation infrastructure and manufacturing capacity, is an added challenge

Finally, the panel reviewed mechanisms and initiatives to strengthen domestic innovation ecosystems, such as specific infrastructure initiatives to generate impact at the local level using local capability. All panelists agreed that there is a great need to ensure that health technologies reach people who need them. Any arrangement for technology transfer ought to be fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory. Solutions need to be intentional

