

Mobilising the power of collective action against COVID-19 – An Open Pledge from Global Manufacturers of Generic Medicines

As a united group of 18 leading pharmaceutical manufacturing companies from around the world providing treatments to millions, most of whom live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), we come together, through this signed pledge to support the fight against COVID-19. We affirm our joint engagement and offer our capacity to develop and supply COVID-19 treatments – re-purposed, new, small molecules and biologics – to those in need.

We strongly believe that collaboration is the only way we can make it past this pandemic. Each of us stands ready to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 through our technical expertise and longstanding experience in manufacturing and distribution of quality-assured medicines. Previously, we have worked together by sourcing active pharmaceutical ingredients from each other and expanding distribution networks for finished formulations. However, this is the first time that we are coming together as a network to lend our strengths to a challenge that the world has not encountered before. Unprecedented problems call for unprecedented solutions.

One thread that connects us, the first signees of this pledge, is the work that we have done with the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and many other partners in making billions – precisely 15 billion doses – of life-saving HIV and hepatitis C medicines available and affordable in LMICs. MPP's model, with its transparency, non-exclusivity and proven track record, has set the gold standard for public health voluntary licensing.

We are convinced that through a transparent approach, in working together, we can offer more than the sum of our individual capacities. In our mission to fight COVID-19 and prevent millions of unnecessary deaths everywhere, we commit to SUCCESS (Sustainable Universal access through Collaboration, Coordination, Emergency measures, Scale and Speed):

1. **Sustainable:** supporting sustainable access through affordable pricing for COVID-19 treatments and working with MPP to negotiate licences for patented effective COVID-19 therapeutics, as they become available.
2. **Universal access:** complementing the efforts of the innovators, especially in LMICs, to make sure that no one is left behind.
3. **Collaboration:** leveraging our combined geographical footprint – in manufacturing and distribution – to help combat this pandemic.
4. **Coordination:** facilitating access to COVID-19 therapeutics in LMICs by working closely with international agencies such as MPP, that work hand in glove with relevant stakeholders like the World Health Organization, Unitaid, UNICEF, USAID and The Global Fund.
5. **Emergency measures:** exploring the fastest regulatory pathways to speed up access, including the use of emergency procedures during the pandemic or import waivers, as appropriate.
6. **Scale:** dedicating significant amount of manufacturing capacity needed to ensure the demand for COVID-19 therapeutics – re-purposed, new, small molecules and biologics – can be fully met.
7. **Speed:** accelerating development and delivery timelines for new treatments with technology transfer support from MPP and originators, as needed.

COVID-19 is a problem of global scale. The task before us is mammoth – treatments and technologies to fight COVID-19 must have a simultaneous global reach so each country has the tools it needs to face the pandemic. Today, we call on other leading manufacturers, suppliers and distributors of medicines from all around the world to join us in this united effort and sign this pledge so that we can work shoulder to shoulder to end this pandemic.


Signatories:

1. Adcock Ingram
2. Arene
3. Aurobindo
4. Beximco
5. Celltrion
6. Desano
7. Emcure
8. Hetero
9. Langhua Pharma
10. Laurus Labs
11. Lupin
12. Macleods
13. Mangalam
14. Micro Labs
15. Natco
16. Strides Shasun
17. Sun Pharma
18. Zydus Cadila

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