

El Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

San José, Costa Rica, April 1st, 2020
DP-P-027-2020

Excellencies,

I am writing this open letter in reference to the article: “Five world leaders: No time for geopolitical turf battles,” published on March 31, 2020 in the Financial Times. In the article you, as leaders of Germany, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Singapore and Jordan, call out for a global alliance to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Costa Rica has listened to your call, and we stand ready to fully join you in this unprecedented venture. It is only through enhanced cooperation and solidarity that we can support the acceleration of research, and the development of treatments and vaccines to tackle the common enemy that humanity confronts at present. An enemy that we must jointly vanquish.

In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the proposal formulated by my country to the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a global pool for rights to technologies for the detection, prevention, control, and treatment of the pandemic. This proposal aims to establish a voluntary Emergency Technology Intellectual Property Pool (TIPP) to accelerate scientific discovery, technology development, proof of safety/efficacy/quality, and broad sharing of the benefits of scientific advancement and its applications based on the right to health.

Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier
President of Germany

King Abdullah II
King of Jordan

Mrs. Halimah Yacob
President of Singapore

Mrs. Sahle-Work Zewde
President of Ethiopia

Mr. Lenín Moreno Garcés
President of Ecuador

El Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

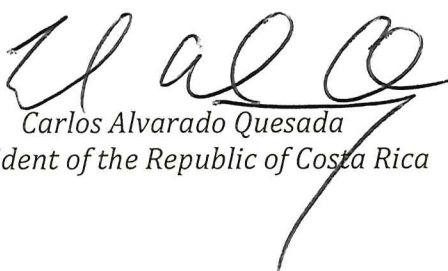
Since health is a global public good, we respectfully request you and the rest of the international community to voice support to our proposal to the World Health Organization to develop an initial concise Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the intent to share rights in technologies funded by the public sector and other relevant actors, and reach out to WHO Member States, non-profit institutions, industry, and others, to sign such agreement.

This initiative would enable countries or generic drug makers worldwide to manufacture and sell medicines at much lower prices than are currently available on the market. Providing equitable access to treatment is crucial in order to face and rebut this eminent threat to humanity. The Costa Rican initiative has been endorsed by the Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanon Ghebreyesus, and Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS). However, we call upon more countries and organizations across the globe to publicly express their support to this vital endeavor.

We will be glad to contribute to any and all efforts for the implementation of this proposal as well as others referred to in your call.

This Presidency, our Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology and Public Health, as well as our Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva are ready to cooperate with your joint efforts. We have responded to calls for action and would value aiding you in the efforts.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurance of my highest consideration.


Carlos Alvarado Quesada
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

