

Outcomes from the 2nd World Local Production Forum

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Resolution WHA74.6 on Strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access

Adopted at the 74th World Health Assembly (2021) with >100 co-sponsoring Member States

Signals the important role of local production as a strategy to increase timely access and strengthen health security during pandemics and in peacetime

Urges Member States and WHO to continue efforts in strengthening local production and tech transfer in a holistic, strategic and collaborative manner



World Local Production Forum

Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies

Why is there a need for the World Local Production Forum (WLPF)?

COVID-19 pandemic visibly demonstrated the state of the global health architecture (e.g.):

- Insufficient and over-concentrated production capacity
- Vulnerable global supply chains
- Inequities in access

As more countries and partners embark on local production and technology transfer, there is a great risk for overlap/duplication of efforts

In resolution WHA74.6. a global platform to promote local production and technology transfer is requested

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/world-local-production-forum>

World Local Production Forum

Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies

What is the WLPF?

WHO initiative and sustainable platform **for Member States and the global community** of industry, academia, UN agencies, international organizations, civil societies, etc.

WLPF will **foster** global coordination, synergies & partnerships, **catalyze** collective action and **shape** the strategy & direction of local production and tech transfer globally

Local Production and Assistance Unit is the WLPF Secretariat



First World Local Production Forum (Jun 2021)



Some key takeaways (e.g.):

Consideration of sustainability & partnerships are critical

Diversification in technologies, products & locations are key in pandemic preparedness

Implementation of Recommendations of the First WLPF :

1. Established the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Local Production and Technology Transfer of Health Products (TAG-LPTT)
2. Encouraged industry engagement in the WLPF, e.g. CEO Forum in the 2nd WLPF
3. Continuing strategic, collective efforts & commitment in strengthening local production by all actors (MS, industry, partners, etc.)

2nd WORLD LOCAL PRODUCTION FORUM

Galvanizing regional partnerships
for sustainable local production
and equitable access

06 to 08 November 2023
World Forum, The Hague



Current and emerging issues globally in local production and technology transfer



Inaugural CEO Forum



From the CEOs:

“Quality manufacturing is at the core of our mission.”

“The concept of local production and proximity to the patient is of utmost importance.”

Recommendations of the 2nd WLPF



2nd World Local Production Forum – Galvanising regional partnerships for sustainable local production and equitable access *The Hague, The Netherlands, 6-8 November 2023*

Recommendations

The 2nd World Local Production Forum (WLPF) in November 2023 brought together a broad global constituency committed to enhancing geographically diverse local production of medicines and other health technologies, including through voluntary transfers of technology. The forum galvanized the sharing of perspectives, policies, technical information and experience to accomplish that objective. It is important that the WLPF initiative is taken forward and the implementation of its recommendations are pursued to help build national and regional ecosystems and to strengthen capacity for local production and voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to improve timely, equitable and sustainable access to medicines and other health technologies. The WLPF will reconvene in 2025, and all relevant stakeholders are encouraged to strengthen their engagement and provide support to the WLPF and the implementation of its recommendations.

Equity: Moving forward together to enhance local production within a global ecosystem

- Enhancing access to equitably available and sustainably produced medicines and other health technologies across the globe is key to building resilient health systems worldwide. One important means is through the diversification and scaling up of manufacturing of (essential) medicines and other health technologies.
- Health equity and economic development should not be seen as mutually exclusive. Rather, successful national and regional development stimulates economic activities for the benefit of the welfare of society.
- For successful, sustainable, flexible and future-proof markets and products, a full ecosystem needs to be in place at the national, regional and global levels.
- To achieve these objectives, the 2nd WLPF has identified six interrelated elements to an ecosystem that need to be present.
 - Efficient trade and regulatory systems through reduced trade barriers, harmonization and the implementation of regulations, standards, and policies, which enlarge regional and local markets.
 - The essential components of supplies, infrastructure, skilled workforce and technologies for sustainable, quality and eco-friendly manufacturing capacity.
 - Improved access to affordable capital, incentive schemes, and financial investments for scaling up of production capacities and capabilities, procurement, and the equitable distribution of medicines and other health technologies.
 - Policies and strategies for local production developed by skilled and trained policy makers and regulatory authorities for product quality, safety and predictability.
 - Easily available information on, for example, competitive landscapes, actual production capacity, routine and crisis public procurement estimates, and market demand.
 - Utilization of existing, and development of additional, early stage R&D capacity.
- In many countries and regions, not all elements are sufficiently present in their ecosystems. Regional production will only be viable if these gaps are closed. Increased coordination and cooperation between stakeholders will be key.
- Enhancing national and regional production capacities - in the context of national, regional and global ecosystems - for effective and quality-assured essential medicines and other health technologies requires determined political will and policies, significant investments and an integrated and concerted effort, which builds on on-going initiatives.

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The time is right for coordinated action

Local production has been on the agenda for several decades, primarily in Low- and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). The COVID-19 pandemic showcased the imperative to foster national and regional production, including initiatives aimed at enhancing national and regional R&D, voluntary technology transfer, and capacity building to many stakeholders, such as governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, international financial institutions, foundations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others. The WLPF needs to maintain the momentum in moving this agenda forward in a holistic and inclusive manner.

Recommendations for follow-up

The 2nd WLPF recommends that the following 4 actions are taken in the period leading up to the 3rd WLPF, hosted by the United Arab Emirates in 2025.

- (1) Address the information gap by developing a comprehensive global and regional mapping of actors, existing and planned programmes and available resources in manufacturing and technology transfer, which work to address the gaps in manufacturing, capacity and financing. Current work in this area should be leveraged. The acquired data should be made publicly accessible and available in a global database. It should focus on the availability and geographic distribution of manufacturing capacity and real-time availability of vaccines, medicines, other health technologies, their components, and the materials and devices used to transport, store and administer the vaccines, medicines and other health technologies. It is critical the data is reliable, continuously updated and broadly available, taking account of appropriate legislations/requirements to protect confidential information and respecting anti-trust legislation.
- (2) Provide support and advice to Member States in the creation and/or strengthening of national, regional and global ecosystems, facilitating the development and maintenance of sustainable, eco-friendly, quality local production. This may include recommendations on policy coherence, regulatory systems, infrastructure, R&D and industrial production capacities, robust supply chains, and the necessary support for these elements, such as regional groupings. It should explore the potential for new forms of partnerships, such as public-private-academic partnerships, South-South cooperation and related organizational structures that may incentivize R&D and transfers of technology to enhance geographically diverse local production.
- (3) Elevate the importance of the public health agenda nationally and within governments and develop supportive public policies for a conducive financial environment, including domestic financing mechanisms, and cooperation and coordination among financial providers (e.g. development banks, national/regional banks, donors, private sector investment), which are essential for sharing investment risks. WHO will leverage existing financial instruments, e.g. a health impact investment platform, to promote and reinforce coherent approaches to local production.
- (4) Promote the establishment of a network to synchronize training resources and facilities for building private and public sector capacities in manufacturing, technology transfer, R&D, policy, optimisation of manufacturing processes, procurement, regulation and implementation. Through this network, training providers should make available classroom-based instruction (on-location or remote) and "hands-on" training at manufacturing facilities. All partners are encouraged to participate and consider training programs already established and planned. It will be essential to identify those areas where gaps in the availability of skilled and trained human resources are most significant and where the needs are most urgent, for example, addressing the lack of adequately trained personnel in the public and private sectors.

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Recommendations of the 2nd WLPF

- Address information gaps by developing a global and regional mapping
- Provide support to countries in creating and/or strengthening national, regional and global ecosystems
- Build a conducive financial environment
- Establish a network to synchronize resources and facilities for capacity building

Planned projects in the near-term

Health Products Manufacturing Support Platform (Unitaid-WHO-AUDA NEPAD)


Platform to map tech transfer & local capacities (WHO-IFC)



Third Local Production Forum will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in 2025

Thank you

For more information and updates:

 <https://www.who.int/teams/regulation-prequalification/lpa>

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 LPA_Worldwide