

Access and information needs from a public health perspective

Joint WHO, WIPO, WTO Technical Symposium

Access to Medicines, Patent Information and Freedom to Operate

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**World Health
Organization**

Access and Information in Health Systems

THE WHO HEALTH SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

SYSTEM BUILDING BLOCKS

SERVICE DELIVERY

HEALTH WORKFORCE

INFORMATION

MEDICAL PRODUCTS, VACCINES & TECHNOLOGIES

FINANCING

LEADERSHIP / GOVERNANCE

ACCESS

COVERAGE

QUALITY

SAFETY

OVERALL GOALS / OUTCOMES

IMPROVED HEALTH (LEVEL AND EQUITY)

RESPONSIVENESS

SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL RISK PROTECTION

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

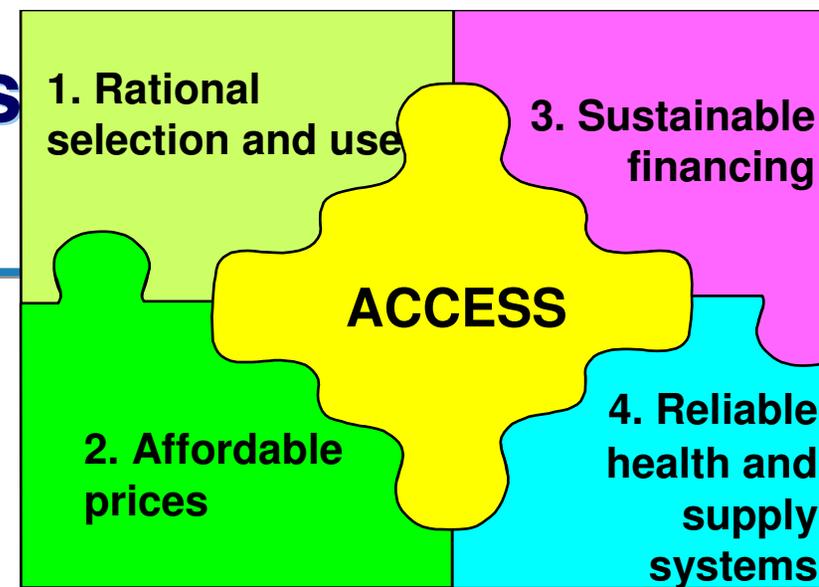
THE SIX BUILDING BLOCKS OF A HEALTH SYSTEM: AIMS AND DESIRABLE ATTRIBUTES



Access to Health Technologies

Medicines, vaccines, diagnostics....

- **Determinants of access are many....**
- **2 sets of issues in access to essential medicines:**
 - **Access to patent free medicines**
 - From public health perspective it is a bigger issue
 - **Access to patented medicines**
 - An important and growing issue



Access to Patent Free Essential Health Technology

- **Less than 20% of children with pneumonia receive the antibiotics they need.**
- **Only 39 per cent of children with diarrhea in developing countries receive the recommended treatment**
- **Diabetic patients continue to suffer for lack of insulin in developing countries. Less than 10% of those who need it are able to get in developing countries.**



Access to Patented Essential Health Technology

- **Many medicines for chronic diseases remain inaccessible to people in developing countries: cancer; CVDs;**
- **New medicines would remain inaccessible under strong and prolonged patent regime introduced by TRIPS and further reinforced by FTAs.**



Four Simple Questions Public Health Community ask about Patents on Health Technology ?

- What is patented?
- Who owns the patent?
- Where it is patented?
- For how long it is patented?

Questions are simple, answers are not



Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and IP

- **5.1 (c) "facilitate widespread access to, and promote further development of, including, if necessary, compiling, maintaining and updating, user-friendly global databases which contain public information on the administrative status of health-related patents, including supporting the existing efforts for determining the patent status of health products, in order to strengthen national capacities for analysis of the information contained in those databases, and improve the quality of patents."**



**Access to
Patent
Free
Essential
Health
Technology**

**“Access to
Medicines,
Patent
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and
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Operate”**

**Access to
Patented
Essential
Health
Technology**

"Access to Medicines, Patent Information and Freedom to Operate"

- **Joint WHO, WIPO, WTO Technical Symposium on Access to Medicines: Pricing and Procurement Practice, 16 July 2010**
- **The need for today's symposium emerged from discussions during the symposium in July 2010.**



"Access to Medicines, Patent Information and Freedom to Operate"

Objectives of the Symposium

- 1. Highlight the importance of easy access to patent information;**
- 2. Show how patent information can be used in determining the freedom to operate for improving access to medicines;**
- 3. Explore what kind of patent information is required for this purpose;**
- 4. Explore to what extent this information is available and accessible; and**
- 5. Identify information gaps that need to be addressed.**

