



The Honorable Katherine Tai  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

July 6th, 2021

Dear Ambassador Tai,

We write to express the Wikimedia Foundation's deep thanks and appreciation for your support of the TRIPS waiver to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The administration's historic leadership on this issue has the potential to make a huge impact in ending the current health and economic crises. We look forward to working with your office and others to ensure that the United States' support for a TRIPS waiver leads to a speedy and robust final waiver agreement that can start getting shots into people's arms and save lives as quickly as possible.

We very much celebrate the administration's recognition that an effective TRIPS waiver needs to cover all forms of intellectual property standing in the way of increased production, not just a patent waiver. We also want to ensure that a waiver covers access to copyrighted works so that, for example, researchers anywhere in the world can use the most advanced research and methodologies to help find and develop treatments for COVID-19. Inequality in the ability to use knowledge products represents a major obstacle to scientific progress and thus to containing the pandemic and caring for its victims.

Likewise, while we are excited by the promise that the TRIPS waiver is moving into text-based negotiations, we are troubled by reports that World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has set a target date of December 4<sup>th</sup> for completing those talks. The United States should be pushing hard for a final TRIPS waiver agreement to be reached within days or weeks, not months or years. All actors should be moving as expeditiously as possible, with full recognition that every day of delay means that fewer vaccines, diagnostic tools, treatments and knowledge for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 are available everywhere in the world to use and build upon, even as the crisis continues throughout the world.

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.

The severity of the health and economic crises that the world still faces from the COVID pandemic cannot be overstated. Our strong hope is that countries will work to reach a final agreement by the end of July.

Again, we are very grateful for your leadership and the President's leadership in support of a TRIPS waiver, and we intend to do all we can to translate that into a quick and robust final agreement that saves as many lives as possible. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

The Wikimedia Foundation

cc: White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain

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