

Coronavirus Global Response: Joining Forces to Accelerate the Development, Production and Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics
On-line Pledging Event, 4 May 2020

Intervention of Ms Marisol Touraine
Chair, Unitaid Executive Board

Madame President von der Leyen,

Your Excellencies,

Let me first thank you, Madame President, for your leadership in organizing this conference and thank you to those who already announced additional contributions.

1. **First, I want to recall that the global threat of COVID-19 requires a global response**, because it strikes everyone, everywhere, at almost the same time. The unique partnership we launched with our key partners is the best collective and coordinated response we could hope.

To combat the virus, we certainly need vaccines. But before they become available, **we need new tools, new treatments and better diagnostics to curb the trend of contaminations and deaths, now.**

2. Second, Unitaid is the official co-convenor of the therapeutics partnership and an active partner of diagnostics and health systems strengthening pillars. **Resources to Unitaid will serve to ensure that medicines and diagnostics are adapted to everyone, everywhere, in both the North and South.** We will focus on unblocking market barriers to these products.
3. **Finally we need to ensure equitable access to these new tools** and make sure all those who need them, can access them. In that regard, **we should learn from the positive experience of the Medicines Patent Pool** in making HIV treatments available to most of those who need them and support the implementation of a global voluntary pooling mechanism for Covid19 related technologies, as proposed by the President of Costa Rica.

We count on your support to win this new fight everywhere as we, together, have succeeded in the past against other diseases.

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