



# Fair Pricing Forum 2021

**Meeting Report** 

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# Acknowledgements

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WHO would like to express special thanks to members of the two technical preparatory working groups, as well as the speakers, panellists and participants who provided rich contributions to the Forum. These contributors can be found in Annexes to this document.

## **Executive summary**

#### **Overview**

The third biennial Fair Pricing Forum was held online on 13-15 and 20-22 April 2021 to continue the tradition of encouraging dialogue among various stakeholders, with the following objectives:

- i. To share countries' experiences, including from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in ensuring affordability and transparency of prices and costs of health products
- ii. To advance discussion and knowledge on approaches and system factors pertaining to the pricing and R&D of pharmaceutical products for enhancing affordability, transparency, and innovation, and achieving health sustainable development goals
- iii. To increase support for countries to achieve more affordable and fairer access to pharmaceutical products during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

In total, more than 850 people from 125 Member States participated in the Forum and pre-Forum webinar.

#### Main themes from the Forum

- Transparency is essential for improving access to current and future innovations to inform and enforce
  pricing and innovation policies, as well as ensure accountability
- Collaboration across countries can facilitate affordable access by leveraging collective positions, joint technical assessments and decision-making, and sharing market information
- Interest is growing for the public sector to play a greater role in ensuring affordability and driving innovation
- Stakeholders must clarify definitions and metrics of affordability to facilitate global discourse on access
- Further policymaking is needed to ensure affordable access to medical devices and in vitro diagnostics, with unique and complex market features compared to medicines/vaccines markets

#### **Next steps**

Additional work is needed to accelerate access to effective health products and ensure prices are affordable to health systems and patients. This includes making better use of the collective power of countries, investing in innovation to meet public health needs, determining the true value of health products, and efficient regulatory processes and legal tools to improve early access and affordability. Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic in accelerating development and access can contribute to longer-term solutions to many of these challenges.

Specific areas for further stakeholder action are highlighted throughout the document. Key WHO activities planned before the next Fair Pricing Forum in 2023 include:

- Create a knowledge hub for stakeholders to reach experts, share views and information on how to improve availability, pricing, and affordability of health technologies with increasing impact on access
- Launch an updated electronic tool, MedMon, designed to monitor availability and prices of health products in countries, as open access and available to all
- Support the development of national or regional price monitoring systems
- Strengthen capacity building of national policy makers by hosting further webinars and trainings

### **Overview**

### **Background**

In 2019, World Health Assembly resolution WHA72(8) Improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products requested the WHO Director-General, among other requests, "to continue WHO's efforts to biennially convene the Fair Pricing Forum with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss the affordability and transparency of prices and costs relating to health products".

The 2021 Forum was held under this mandate to continue the tradition of encouraging rich dialogue among various stakeholders, following the first Forum in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) in 2017, and the second Forum in Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2019.

### Forum objectives and agenda

The Forum agenda was informed by three objectives:

- To share countries' experiences, including from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in ensuring affordability and transparency of prices and costs of health products
- ii. To advance discussion and knowledge on

The Forum was organized with the support from the Government of Argentina. Two preparatory working groups of experts contributed to the contents of the agenda, including two discussion papers.

#### At the Forum

The Forum was held online on 13-15 and 20-22 April 2021. In total, more than 850 people from 125 Member States registered to participate in the Forum and pre-Forum webinar. Over the event, more than 150 speakers, panellists and moderators contributed to 14 plenary sessions, parallel sessions, and pre-Forum webinar, as illustrated below.

Figure 1: Fair Pricing Forum 2021 in numbers



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