

# WTO AGREEMENTS & PUBLIC HEALTH

A joint study by the WHO and the WTO Secretariat



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## FOREWORD

1

### **FOREWORD BY GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND AND MIKE MOORE**

As the world becomes increasingly integrated, it becomes less and less possible for different policy areas to be handled independently of each other. The linkage between trade and health has been the focus of much debate: real concerns should be dealt with and any misunderstandings should be clarified based on sound evidence and rigorous analysis.

We consider this joint study by the WHO and the WTO Secretariat a useful and timely initiative in this regard. It illustrates that there is much common ground between trade and health. Another important message is that health and trade policymakers can benefit from closer cooperation to ensure coherence between their different areas of responsibilities.

In both the WHO and the WTO questions of trade and public health feature high on the agenda, and significant advances have been made in the recent past. The endorsement by the international community of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health is a very visible expression of governments' commitment to ensuring that the rules-based trading system is compatible with public health interests.

The multilateral trading system has a lot to contribute to increase global welfare. In addition, the expertise and work of other organizations are needed to find effective solutions. In our common pursuit of sustainable human development, the WTO and the WHO are important partners. We are honoured to present this joint study on WTO Agreements and public health, the first of its kind. It is an encouraging testimony of our good and growing cooperation.





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