

ESCAP-led Thematic Solution Forum on Social Protection and Health: South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Enhance Capacity to Produce and Deliver vaccines

Tuesday 13 September 2022, 9.00-10.15 hours (75 minutes), UNCC CR-3 and online (Hybrid format)

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the centrality of a range of factors including trade, transport, logistics, and Intellectual Property, among others, in tackling public health crises. Open trade in vaccine inputs and capital goods as well as the smooth transfer of knowledge and know-how are direly needed to ramp up vaccine production, while transportation and logistics are critical for effective distribution of vaccines across and within countries.

In responding to and recovering from the global pandemic, South-South and triangular cooperation has also played a central role and has been proven more relevant than ever to overcome this unprecedented crisis and build back better, owing also to the stark inequalities between and within countries in health systems as well as access to vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics.

As co-host of the Global South-South Development Expo to be held from 12 to 14 September 2022 (jointly with UNOSSC and the Government of Thailand), ESCAP in collaboration with the UNDP and WHO will convene a Thematic Solution Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to boost readiness to produce and deliver vaccines on 13 September 2022 from 10.30-11.45 hours at the United Nations Conference Centre and online. (*Note: Zoom link to be provided by UNOSSC for all Thematic Solution Forums (chat function will be disabled by default).*)

Objectives

- Underscore the tremendous potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to help countries in the global south scale up responses to global crises such as COVID-19 and develop solutions tailored to their needs and context
- *Highlight the range of cross-border issues that affect affordable and equitable access to essential vaccines and present possibilities for regional cooperation to enhance such access*
- Serve as preparatory discussion ahead of the launch of the ESCAP Development Account project (15th Tranche) on Regional Integration and Cooperation to Promote Affordable and Equitable Access to Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics in Asia-Pacific
- Provide a platform for countries in Asia-Pacific and beyond to deepen their engagement in SSTRC to strengthen their health system resilience and boost readiness to produce and deliver vaccines

Expected outcome

Receive inputs from experts and relevant stakeholders on regional solutions to enhance affordable and equitable access to essential health products in preparation of the ESCAP Development Account 15th Tranche project and finalization of the Lab to Job synthesis report and future dissemination work for this project.

Target Participants

Policymakers, industry experts from multiple sectors including health, relevant international organizations, academia, GSSD participants

Tentative Agenda

Opening (5 minutes)

Opening remarks (TBC)

Presentations (30 minutes)

- **Professor Anthony So (Johns Hopkins University)**- “Towards a Regional Approach to Ensuring Vaccine Access as part of Pandemic Preparedness and Response”, synthesis paper based on the ESCAP-WHO Lab to Jab project
- **Prof. Padma Gehl Sampath (Harvard University)**- “Regionalizing Pharmaceutical Production and Innovation” by Fredrick Abbott and Padma Gehl Sampath, prepared for the UNDP

Panel discussion (20 minutes)

Moderator: Rupa Chanda, Director TIID

Prof. Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora, Executive Director, The INCLEN Trust International

Dr. Nakorn Preamsri, Director, National Vaccine Institute (NVI), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Interaction with audience and experts (15 minutes)

Concluding remarks- key takeaways and way forward (5 minutes)