

# MESSAGE FROM UNITAID'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**When Unitaid founded MPP ten years ago, few believed the idea of a patent pool for medicines could work. The concept was ground-breaking, inspiring, and held tremendous potential to bring vital medicines to those in need. Ten years later, the impact is there for all to see.**



By working closely with partners including pharmaceutical companies – originators and generic manufacturers – MPP's voluntary licensing mechanism has led to the supply of over 18 billion doses of quality generic treatments for HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) to 148 countries. This diligent work has contributed to making quality-assured, life-saving drugs available at historically low prices, resulting in almost USD 2 billion in savings for LMICs.



Dr Philippe Duneton  
Executive Director, Unitaid



The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a light on key global health challenges such as insufficient production capacity to meet the needs of affordable life-saving tools for all people in all countries. In just a decade, MPP's model of voluntary licensing and patent pooling has proven that it can make a difference and can help overcome those issues.

Working shoulder to shoulder with MPP, we strongly believe that what has been achieved until now to facilitate access to medicines in the South can be repeated against COVID-19. Equitable access to innovative tools everywhere in the world is part of the solution to bring the pandemic to an end. MPP's potential has already gained worldwide recognition first and foremost by countries that benefit directly from MPP's work, as well as WHO, the G7, G20 and the World Economic Forum.

Building on MPP's success and recognising its potential for the future, Unitaid is proud to have renewed its confidence in this model with the recent approval of five-year financial support. Today, maybe more than ever, we need MPP's experience to help pharmaceutical companies license their rights on a voluntary basis and continue to improve access to vital medicines for people who need them the most.

We remain strongly committed to supporting MPP's assiduous work on HIV, HCV and tuberculosis. There is still much to do. Globally, around three in ten people living with HIV are not receiving treatment, only 21% of people with HCV infection have been diagnosed, and even fewer have been treated and cured, and TB kills 1.4 million people per year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further hindered progress. In this context, better access to medicines against these diseases is critical to ensure people in LMICs continue to receive quality and effective care.

Unitaid also looks forward to strengthening its collaboration with MPP on new global health innovations such as long-acting technologies. We support MPP's engagement to explore voluntary licensing opportunities for medicines on the WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines. Unitaid appreciates MPP's achievements over the past decade and looks forward to seeing MPP grow further as a key partner, working with originators, generic manufacturers, countries, donors, health agencies and civil society to improve access to affordable, life-saving products.