#### **The World Trade Organization ought to adopt a policy framework that prioritizes global innovation and expands barrier removal on the Covid 19 vaccine waiver.**

#### **The counterplan can solve for gaps in intellectual property law**

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THE WAY AHEAD A policy framework that prioritizes global innovation will require the world’s leading innovative countries to recognize that there are major problems with the current stalemate and outdated approach to IP at the international level. First, by not advocating that countries should consider the global implications of their domestic innovation policies, too many countries have been allowed to enact mercantilist practices that detract from global innovation. Second, by not advocating for core principles and policies that support innovation at the global level, leading countries allow opponents of IP to undermine the increasingly outdated and ineffective rules undergirding IP at WIPO and WTO. Third, this complacency and policy stalemate has allowed IP skeptics to define and frame the debate—IP as a barrier to progress, short-term interests are paramount, IP is unfair—when in fact these arguments should be seen for what they are: anti-innovation, anti-growth, and anti-progress. A policy framework that prioritizes global innovation will require the world’s leading innovative countries to recognize that there are major problems with the current stalemate and outdated approach to IP at the international level. If the world is going to maximize its potential for global innovation, it will need leading countries to recognize that new energy, new tactics, and a new strategy are needed to encourage more nations to do more contributing and less detracting from global innovation.155 Moving forward will require several actions, including 1) a broader reframing of IP, trade, and innovation; 2) a coherent “all-points strategy” in which committed nations and their key innovation-supporting agencies and institutions actively advocate for IP and contest the activities of the IP skeptics on virtually every front; and 3) expanding “nonagreement” cooperation. These recommendations are in addition to the ongoing role trade agreements (whether bilateral or regional) can play in improving the international framework for intellectual property and innovation (given the likely lack of progress at WIPO and WTO). If anything, as this report outlines, the role of IP provisions in trade agreements only gets more important with the increasing knowledge-intensity of modern trade and economic activity and the need for greater levels of global innovation.