## T-Reduce

#### Interpretation: The aff must permanently reduce IPR on medicines.

#### Reduce implies permanency

Reynolds ‘59 – Judge (In the Matter of Doris A. Montesani, Petitioner, v. Arthur Levitt, as Comptroller of the State of New York, et al., Respondents [NO NUMBER IN ORIGINAL] Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, Third Department 9 A.D.2d 51; 189 N.Y.S.2d 695; 1959 N.Y. App. Div. LEXIS 7391 August 13, 1959, lexis)

Section 83's counterpart with regard to nondisability pensioners, section 84, prescribes a reduction only if the pensioner should again take a public job. The disability pensioner is penalized if he takes any type of employment. The reason for the difference, of course, is that in one case the only reason pension benefits are available is because the pensioner is considered incapable of gainful employment, while in the other he has fully completed his "tour" and is considered as having earned his reward with almost no strings attached. It would be manifestly unfair to the ordinary retiree to accord the disability retiree the benefits of the System to which they both belong when the latter is otherwise capable of earning a living and had not fulfilled his service obligation. If it were to be held that withholdings under section 83 were payable whenever the pensioner died or stopped his other employment the whole purpose of the provision would be defeated, i.e., the System might just as well have continued payments during the other employment since it must later pay it anyway.  [\*\*\*13]  The section says "reduced", does not say that monthly payments shall be temporarily suspended; it says that the pension itself shall be reduced. The plain dictionary meaning of the word is to diminish, lower or degrade. The word "reduce" seems adequately to indicate permanency.

#### Violation: They only reduce during pandemics.

#### Standards:

#### 1] Ground — lets aff de-link from DAs by justifying specific instances a] raises the bar for entry into debate, that independently kills debate b] losing core neg ground incentivizes a race to the margins — we don’t get depth of education.

#### 2] Predictable limits – explodes limits by forcing neg to prep against every possible timeframe which is impossible – the AC has infinite prep, the NC has 4 minutes - unpredictable affs mean that NCs can’t utilize reactive positions — killing all neg ground and destroying fairness..

#### Voters:

#### Fairness – Debaters wouldn’t participate in the activity if it isn’t fair – outweighs education - fairness controls the internal link - you can’t learn if you don’t participate.

#### Paradigm issues:

#### 1] DTD

#### B] DTA encourages strategic abuse.

#### 2] Competing interps — norm-setting is key to resolving future debates

#### 3] Jurisdiction — the judge can only vote on args that are about the resolution – prevents intervention.

#### A] the plan represents the entire aff

#### 4] T before theory – norm-setting in the cointext of the res has larger pre-fiat implications

#### A] applies to more rounds since everyone is debating the res

#### B] norms from T can be applied to several resolutions since they often share the same grammar.

## T-Prevent

#### Interpretation: The affirmative debater must defend reducing intellectual property protections for substances that treat diseases. To clarify, they may not defend substances that prevent diseases.

#### Violation: They defend vaccine doplomacy.

#### Medicines treat diseases

Webster (Merriam Webster is America's leading and most-trusted provider of language information, accessed on 6-30-21, Merriam Webster, "Definition of MEDICINE,” https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/medicine)// ww pbj

Definition of medicine 1a: a substance or preparation used in treating disease cough medicine

#### Treatment is different than prevention

Pflanzer 20 (Lydia Ramsey Pflanzer is a healthcare editor for Business Insider. She joined Business Insider in 2015 after graduating from Northwestern University, 4-29-2020, accessed 6/30/21, "Scientists are racing to discover ways to treat and prevent coronavirus. Here's the difference between a treatment and a vaccine.," Business Insider, <https://www.businessinsider.com/whats-the-difference-between-a-vaccine-and-a-treatment-2020-4)//ww> pbj

Vaccines are used to prepare the body's immune system to fight off infections. They work by giving the body a small taste of what the virus is like so that way it can produce antibodies that fight off an intruding virus, ideally keeping people from falling ill. Some vaccines protect better than others, and they're typically administered across broad populations. There are vaccines for some infectious diseases, like the flu, smallpox, measles, and chickenpox. But others, like HIV and hepatitis C, don't have vaccines that protect against them. Vaccines that protect against two other deadly outbreaks, MERS and SARS, have yet to be approved after the outbreaks subsided. There are more than 70 potential coronavirus vaccines in the works, with a number in early human trials. Drugmakers are looking into ways to produce the billions of doses that might be needed to suppress the pandemic. Read more: There are more than 70 potential coronavirus vaccines in the works. Here are the top efforts to watch, including the 16 vaccines set to be tested in people this year. FILE - In this March 2020 photo provided by Gilead Sciences, a vial of the investigational drug remdesivir is visually inspected at a Gilead manufacturing site in the United States. Given through an IV, the medication is designed to interfere with an enzyme that reproduces viral genetic material. (Gilead Sciences via AP) FILE - In this March 2020 photo provided by Gilead Sciences, a vial of the investigational drug remdesivir is visually inspected at a Gilead manufacturing site in the United States. Given through an IV, the medication is designed to interfere with an enzyme that reproduces viral genetic material. (Gilead Sciences via AP) Associated Press Treatments, on the other hand, are meant to do just that: treat COVID-19, helping patients sickened by the virus survive and recover more quickly. Treatments for disease are there to lessen symptoms and ultimately improve the outcomes of a particular disease. Sometimes, medications can be used preventatively. For instance, patients with high cholesterol might be prescribed a medication called a statin to prevent heart attacks. Some potential coronavirus treatments are being studied to see if they can prevent people from contracting the virus in the first place. For COVID-19, researchers are testing everything from antimalarial medications to antivirals, to even common heartburn medications in hospitalized patients with the hopes that more patients will survive severe forms of the illness and potentially recover faster. Some are looking at ways to use patients' own bodies to fight the virus with antibody treatments.

#### Vaccines specifically are different from medicines

Immunize BC 20 (Immunize British Colombia is a collaborative project of the BC Ministry of Health, the BC Centre for Disease Control (an agency of the BC Provincial Health Services Authority), the regional health authorities (First Nations Health Authority, Fraser Health, Interior Health, Island Health, Northern Health and Vancouver Coastal Health), the BC Pharmacy Association and the Public Health Association of BC. Our mission is to improve the health of British Columbians by continuing to reduce the number of vaccine-preventable diseases, along with the illness, disability and death that they cause, What are vaccines?, Date last reviewed: Thursday, Mar 19, 2020, accessed on 6-30-21, <https://immunizebc.ca/what-are-vaccines)//ww> pbj

Vaccines are products that protect people against many diseases that can be very dangerous and even deadly. Different than most medicines that treat or cure diseases, vaccines prevent you from getting sick with the disease in the first place.

#### Standards:

#### [1] Limits – they explode the topic to include tons of substances that prevent disease rather than treat them like soap, medical supplies, or food and make it so there is *no* unified neg generics. The aff still gets the core of the topic lit: they get medicine, innovation, and global inequality. Explosion of aff ground makes neg prep burden impossible, either killing neg ground or forcing the neg to read generics that barely link, always letting aff win. Force the 1AR to read a definition card with a clear list of what’s included and excluded – otherwise, vote neg since they can’t put a clear limit on the topic. Our interp solves – it establishes a clear bright-line for that gives the neg a chance to predict and prepare for every aff ahead of time. At best, the aff’s extra-T still links to all our offense since they can get extra-T advantages to solve disads and defend whatever they want, magnifying limits.

#### [2] Precision – not defending the text of the resolution justifies the affirmative doing away with random words in the resolution which a] means they’re not within the topic which is a voter for jurisdiction since you can only vote affirmative on the resolution and this debate never should have happened, b] they’re unpredictable and impossible to engage in so we always lose

#### Drop the Debater –

#### [1] sets a precedent that debaters wont be abusive

#### [2] DTA is the same since you drop the aff

#### Voters:

#### [1] Fairness – constitutive to the judge to decide the better debater, only fairness is in your jurisdiction because it skews decision making

#### [2] Education – the only portable education from debate that we care about

#### DTD:

#### [1] it drops the whole AC so dta is the same thing.

#### [2] deters future abuse since wins and losses determine the activity’s direction.

#### Competing Interps:

#### [1] reasonability on t is incoherent: you’re either topical or you’re not – it’s impossible to be 77% topical, links to all limits offense

#### [2] functionally the same as reasonability – we debate over a specified briteline which is a counter interp

#### [3] judge intervention – judge has to intervene on what’s reasonable, creates a race to the bottom where debaters exploit judge tolerance for questionable argumentation.

#### No RVIs

#### [1] illogical for you to get offense just for being fair – it’s the 1ac’s burden

#### [2] baiting - rvi’s incentivize debaters to read abusive positions to win off theory

## Spec

#### Interpretation: affirmative debaters must delineate what intellectual property they reduce in the 1AC plan text.

#### Four types of IP that are vastly different.

Ackerman 17 [Peter; Founder & CEO, Innovation Asset Group, Inc; “The 4 Main Types of Intellectual Property and Related Costs,” Decipher; 1/6/17; <https://www.innovation-asset.com/blog/the-4-main-types-of-intellectual-property-and-related-costs>] Justin

Intellectual property protection isn’t as simple as declaring ownership of a particular product or asset. In most countries, there are four primary types of intellectual property (IP) that can be legally protected: patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. Each has their own attributes, requirements and costs.

Before narrowing your focus on which form of protection to use, know that these forms of protection are not mutually exclusive. Depending on what you’re doing, you might be able to use a “belt & suspenders” approach and apply multiple forms of protection, or one approach might be the most sensible. Read the descriptions below to get some of the basics.

Used to protect inventive ideas or processes – things that are new, useful and nonobvious - patents are what most often come to mind when thinking of IP protection. **Patents** are also used to protect newly engineered plant species or strains, as well.

Procedure For most companies, patents result from the following stages: Conceptualization Typically, innovation teams work to address a common problem facing their organization, industry, or the world at large when developing their idea. When they’ve arrived at a solution or concept, they’ll draw up plans and gather the resources necessary to make it a reality. Prototypes or drawings can be created to provide a more accurate description of the end product or process. Invention Disclosure An internal review process often occurs with every invention. The innovation team consists of internal counsel and an invention review panel of varying disciplines. The reviewers assess, rate, rank, score, and highlight potential flaws in the supporting documents and descriptions for the invention, which are then addressed by the inventor. These reviews can and often do take place multiple times for a single invention. Patent Application If the invention is deemed meritorious enough for the pursuit of patent protection, some organizations prepare their own provisional or nonprovisional patent applications. Others will farm this stage out. There may be more tweaks as an application is prepared, and then submission to the appropriate patent office and the prosecution stage begins (the back & forth with the government patent office). Typically it is outside counsel that manages this process and related docketing activities. Docketing is the overarching name for activities that include management of paperwork and meeting filing deadlines specified by the government patent office. Because the application process is often very complicated, patent offices highly recommend working with experienced patent attorneys to handle this process. Maintenance Once a patent is approved, it has a finite lifetime. Patent holders are responsible for maintaining and tracking the usage of their patents and paying the appropriate periodic government renewal fees. If a given technology or other patented asset is collecting dust, you might not want to renew it. Instead, you can try and sell, license or donate it. Conversely, if a patented asset is performing well through product sales or licensing activities and its life is getting shorter, you might think about innovating ahead and maintaining competitive momentum. Costs Costs will vary depending on the country or countries where you file an application, and can run into tens of thousands of dollars depending on the invention’s complexity, plus attorney fees. Maintenance fees over the lifetime of the patent can run into thousands more per patent, per country where patent rights have been granted. You have to keep your eyes on these costs.

Trademark

A trademark is unlike a patent in that it protects words, phrases, symbols, sounds, smells and color schemes. Trademarks are often considered assets that describe or otherwise identify the source of underlying products or services that a company provides, such as the MGM lion roar, the Home Depot orange color scheme, the Intel Inside logo, and so on.

Procedure Trademarks do not necessarily require government approval to be in effect; they can apply through abundant use in interstate commerce. Still, registration of a trademark affords far superior protection and is gained by filing an application with the proper government office. A trademark application requires the company or user to provide a clear description and representation of the mark and its uses in conjunction with associated products or services. As with patents, it’s a good idea to partner with outside counsel that specializes in trademark applications and/or search services so they can help ensure there is a clear path for your desired mark. Costs Trademarks are generally quite less expensive to obtain. According to the US Patent and Trademark Office, trademark registration currently costs between $225 and $325 for each class code you use per mark. Attorney and search fees are extra. There are also periodic (and relatively inexpensive) government maintenance fees for trademarks.

Copyrights do not protect ideas, but rather the manner in which ideas are expressed (“original works of authorship”) - written works, art, music, architectural drawings, or even programming code for software (most evident nowadays in video game entertainment). With certain exceptions, copyrights allow the owner of the protected materials to control reproduction, performance, new versioning or adaptations, public performance and distribution of the works. Procedure Copyrights in general attach when the original works become fixed in a tangible medium, but should be registered with the government copyright office for optimal protection in the form of damages, injunctions and confiscation. Copyright registration applications are much simpler than patents or trademarks, and typically can be obtained by the author alone. The US Copyright Office encourages use of their online application system, and requires a sample of the work to be protected and some background information about the author. Costs Depending on the type of work being protected, currently fees vary between $25-$100 in the US. The most frequent copyright registration sought is for one work by one author, and costs about $35.

Trade Secret

Trade secrets are proprietary procedures, systems, devices, formulas, strategies or other information that is confidential and exclusive to the company using them. They act as competitive advantages for the business. Procedure There actually isn’t a federally-regulated registration process for trade secrets. Instead, the onus is on the company in possession of the secret to take necessary precautions to maintain it as such. This is an ongoing, proactive process and can include clearly marking relevant documents as “Confidential,” implementing physical and data security measures, keeping logs of visitors and restricting access. The issuance of nondisclosure agreements or other documented assurances of secrecy can also be employed. One of the first defenses typically put up when you assert that someone misappropriated your trade secret is that you failed to adequately treat it as a trade secret. Costs Though there are no official registration costs, there are costs associated with taking appropriate precautions and security measures. You must weigh the competitive significance of your secrets against the cost of protecting them.

#### Violation: They do not spec.

#### Negate:

#### 1] Shiftiness- they can redefine what intellectual properties the 1ac defends in the 1ar which decks strategy and allows them to wriggle out of negative positions which strips the neg of specific IP DAs, IP PICs, and case answers. They will always win on specificity weighing.

#### CX can’t resolve this and is bad because A] Not flowed B] Skews 6 min of prep and pre-round prep C] They can lie and no way to check D] Debaters can be shady.

#### 2] Real World- policy makers will always specify what the object of change is. That outweighs since debate has no value without portable application. It also means zero solvency since the WTO, absent spec, can circumvent aff’s policy since they can say they didn’t know what was affected.

#### This spec shell isn’t regressive- it literally determines what the affirmative implements and who it affects

#### Fairness – debate is a competitive activity that requires fairness for objective evaluation. People would not participate if the space was not fair. Outweighs and controls the internal link to fairness since without participation topic education is mooted.

#### Drop the debater – a] deter future abuse, b] set better norms for debate and c] we indict the entire advocacy – dta makes no sense.

#### Competing interps – [a] reasonability is arbitrary and encourages judge intervention since there’s no clear norm, [b] it creates a race to the top where we create the best possible norms for debate.

#### No RVIs – a] illogical, you don’t win for proving that you meet the burden of being fair, logic outweighs since it’s a prerequisite for evaluating any other argument, b] RVIs incentivize baiting theory and prepping it out which leads to maximally abusive practices

#### No 1ar theory –

#### 1] Time skew – Forces me to answer the shell, which distracts from substance – substantive clash is k2 education and 1ar theory distracts from it.

#### 2] Judge intervention – I only have 1 speech to answer it and no 3NR which means that the judge has to intervene and decide if my answers were good enough after taking into account to 2ars lies.

#### 3] Reciprocity – I only have once chance to respond after it is introduced while they have two chances

#### 4] Persuasive spin in the 2ar appeals to judges more ows on judge psychology bc they will always win that debate

#### 5] DTA Solves – they can indict the arguments that are abusive and I have strategic options to respond

## WTO Aid CP (1:10)

#### Counterplan: The World Trade Organization ought to -

#### 1] Increase covax support

#### 2] Prioritize trade facilitation

#### 3]Commit to aid for LDC’s

#### 4] Invest in pandemic preparedness

#### Humanitarian aid is the most effective method of pandemic response in the global south – ensures short-term vaccine equity and long-term infrastructure.

[Violeta Gonzalez](https://www.devex.com/news/authors/1581504) 8-1-2021, "Opinion: 4 ways to promote vaccine equity through trade," Devex, https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-4-ways-to-promote-vaccine-equity-through-trade-100457

As of Monday, only [1.1 % of people in low-income countries](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations) had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. This is making it harder to battle a third wave of infections, as the highly transmissible [delta variant](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1095152) spreads across many nations. In the [World Health Organization](https://www.devex.com/organizations/world-health-organization-who-30562)’s Africa region — where a [high number](https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/com/2021/E2100045-English-CoM21-Progress-in-the-implementation-of-the-priority-areas-of-the-Programme-of-Action-for-the-Least-Developed-Countries-for-the-Decade-2011-2020_Istanbul-Programme-of-Action.pdf) of LDCs are located — COVID-19 fatalities [surged 44.2%](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/342715/OEW28-0511072021.pdf) over one week in July. The coronavirus is [devastating](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/2021/major-study-on-covid-19-impact-on-ldcs-released/) many LDCs’ already fragile economies and causing poverty and inequality to rise. Without equitable access to vaccines, [global economic recovery cannot be sustained](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/gc_05may21_e.htm) and progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals will be derailed. While trade alone cannot eradicate vaccine unequity or its negative consequences for the [economy](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1091732) and [vulnerable groups](https://observatoryihr.org/news/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-highlights-social-inequality/), it has a powerful contribution to make. Here are four actions that would make an impact: 1. Increase COVAX support Vaccine equity can only be achieved if the global community eschews vaccine nationalism. High-resource countries should [ramp up donations](https://www.devex.com/news/wto-chief-to-g-20-donate-2-3b-more-covid-19-vaccine-doses-100306) through the vaccine-sharing initiative COVAX and commit to securing a swift, workable resolution to ongoing debates around [technology transfers and intellectual property waivers](https://www.devex.com/news/wto-council-offers-hope-for-trips-vaccine-proposal-100125). While countries in the G-7 group of nations have [pledged to increase their support](https://www.who.int/news/item/13-06-2021-g7-announces-pledges-of-870-million-covid-19-vaccine-doses-of-which-at-least-half-to-be-delivered-by-the-end-of-2021) for COVAX, the initiative has faced hurdles in the form of [supply bottlenecks](https://www.devex.com/news/india-crisis-puts-covax-150-million-doses-behind-schedule-99860), [export restrictions](https://unctad.org/news/export-restrictions-do-not-help-fight-covid-19), and [logistical weaknesses](https://www.devex.com/news/the-cold-chain-storage-challenge-99869). Many currently available COVID-19 vaccines have short shelf lives and must be stored at low temperatures. LDCs can only benefit from donated doses if they have fast and efficient processing at their borders, modern transportation systems, and access to cold chain infrastructure. 2. Prioritize trade facilitation Accelerating implementation of the [World Trade Organization](https://www.devex.com/organizations/world-trade-organization-wto-44694)’s 2017 [Trade Facilitation Agreement](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tradfa_e/tradfa_e.htm) is critical for helping LDCs overcome these challenges. A total of [154 WTO members](https://www.tfafacility.org/ratifications) now support the agreement, which pledges investment in the simplification and modernization of the movement, release, and customs clearance of goods globally. It also aims to help low-income countries overcome these same barriers through technical assistance and capacity building. The [Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation](https://www.devex.com/organizations/global-alliance-for-trade-facilitation-102992) has made good progress in identifying barriers to vaccine equity and introducing solutions. In [Mozambique](https://www.tradefacilitation.org/article/two-new-mozambique-projects-aim-to-ease-access-to-vaccines-medical-products/), for example, the alliance is working to digitalize pre-shipment authorization for vaccine imports — a process that can take as long as two weeks, during which vaccine doses must be kept in storage. This digitalization should help Mozambique decrease wait times, improve shipment traceability, and reduce storage and inventory management costs. Yet more work remains to help governments overcome [challenges associated with implementing](https://www.wto-ilibrary.org/trade-facilitation-and-customs-valuation/world-trade-report-2015_f2985d96-en) the Trade Facilitation Agreement, such as changing domestic legislation and involving the private sector. Lower-income countries and LDCs have flagged a need around human resources and training, legal assistance, and the acquisition of information and communication technologies. 3. Commit to Aid for Trade For LDCs to participate fairly in global vaccine supply chains — as importers or exporters of inputs and finished products — they need financial and technical assistance to strengthen their [productive capacity](https://www.devex.com/news/cepi-ceo-concerted-effort-needed-to-build-lmic-vaccine-manufacturing-100013), streamline their cross-border standards and processes, and improve their logistics infrastructure and [technological know-how](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/dgno_21may21_e.htm). The Aid for Trade initiative exists to provide that support — but can only deliver if donor countries maintain or increase their official development assistance, or ODA. Preliminary figures from the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](https://www.devex.com/organizations/organisation-for-economic-co-operation-and-development-oecd-29872) show that [Development Assistance Committee](https://www.devex.com/organizations/development-assistance-committee-dac-100607) members [expanded their ODA by $10 billion](https://www.devex.com/news/what-to-make-of-the-2020-dac-stats-99641) between 2019 and 2020, mostly as part of their COVID-19 response. However, with several government donors having reprogrammed their aid budgets to focus on immediate health priorities, [fears are growing](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/01/helping-small-businesses-build-resilience/) that their overall ODA may also be slashed — and, with this, their support for Aid for Trade. The generosity of some countries provides hope. Norway, for example, recently stepped up to help plug such gaps with [45 million Norwegian kroner](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/if_22jun21_e.htm) of additional funding for the WTO-backed [Enhanced Integrated Framework](https://www.devex.com/organizations/enhanced-integrated-framework-eif-78046), a global Aid for Trade program that aims to reduce poverty. 4. Invest in preparedness In 2019, only [$374 million](http://www.healthdata.org/sites/default/files/files/policy_report/FGH/2020/FGH_2019_Interior_Final_Online_2020.09.18.pdf) — or less than 1% — of the world’s total development assistance for health was spent on pandemic preparedness. Within months, the consequences of that underinvestment became clear. Integrating lower-income countries and LDCs into global and regional [pharmaceutical value chains](https://unctad.org/news/unctad-report-says-least-developed-countries-position-improve-access-medicines-through-local-0) is vital for ensuring the world is better prepared next time. Directing increased aid to help these countries become [producers and exporters](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-26/africa-must-build-vaccine-production-capacity-wto-chief-says) of medical equipment and vaccines has never been more needed. LDCs would not only receive more of the [vaccines and therapeutics they need now](https://trade4devnews.enhancedif.org/en/op-ed/access-denied-ensuring-vaccines-worlds-poorest-countries) but could actively contribute to the global response when the next pandemic inevitably hits.

#### Multiple international bodies agree. Cross-national survey data demonstrates uniqueness, timeliness, and feasibility.

UNESCAP 7/14/21

UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). “Progress in streamlining trade procedures continues despite COVID-19 crisis, UN survey shows.” News. Press Release. Bangkok, 14, Jul 2021. [https://www.unescap.org/news/progress-streamlining-trade-procedures-continues-despite-covid-19-crisis-un-survey-shows#](https://www.unescap.org/news/progress-streamlining-trade-procedures-continues-despite-covid-19-crisis-un-survey-shows) Accessed 8/14/21. CAT

Countries across the globe are continuing to move towards a seamless and efficient trading environment, within and beyond national borders, by simplifying and digitalizing formalities in international trading, helping to sustain international trade despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey released today by the United Nations regional commissions. The United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is produced biennially by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Survey covers not only the trade facilitation measures in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, but also digital trade facilitation measures associated with the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, a UN treaty which entered into force earlier this year. The Survey also pays closer attention to sectors and groups with special needs, such as the agricultural sector, small and medium enterprises and women traders. A new module on trade facilitation during times of crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic was integrated this year. Many developing countries have made rapid progress in streamlining trade procedures, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. The Survey, covering 143 countries, shows that the global average implementation rate of trade facilitation and paperless trade measures at 65 per cent. Based on 128 common countries, it is an increase of 5 percentage points from an average of 61 per cent to 66 per cent in the last Survey in 2019. In 2021, developed economies have the highest implementation rate (82 per cent), followed by countries in South-East and East Asia (75 per cent). Pacific Islands have the lowest implementation rate (44 per cent). In the Asia-Pacific region, implementation increased by nearly 6 percentage points since 2019, with most progress made in Pacific Island Developing Economies, although they have the lowest implementation rate of all subregions. Many of the measures included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement have been largely implemented. However, implementation of measures to achieve cross-border paperless trade remains much lower than that of others in large part because these measures – such as electronic exchange of customs declaration or certificate of origins across borders – require trust and closer collaboration among countries. “Implementation of cross-border paperless trade remains a challenge everywhere, even though the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how useful it can be to exchange documents electronically to reduce physical contacts and the spread of the virus,” according to Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. “I encourage all leaders to take advantage of all available global and regional mechanisms to make progress, such as the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.” The results are available at untfsurvey.org. The global and regional reports, including detailed data analysis, will be published later this year.

## Case

#### Squo solves – the WTO is focused on ensuring fair, accessible trading conditions internationally – that ensures pharmaceutical accessibility.

Ott 21’ Haley Ott, “New World Trade Organization chief on reviving U.S. ties and addressing the COVID crisis,” CBS News interview. Published March 12, 2021. Accessed 8/10/2021; Omar E. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/world-trade-organization-wto-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-us-ties-covid-vaccine-economies-trade/.

London — Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has taken the reins as the new Director-General of the World Trade Organization at what critics are calling a crisis moment for the global body. The organization brings countries around the world together to fairly manage trade, but it's facing a rise in nationalism and protectionism, structural issues that have made it difficult to settle disputes among members, vital negotiations about sustainability that have gone unresolved for years, and an international pandemic emergency. Okonjo-Iweala, a former finance minister from Nigeria who worked for decades at the World Bank, is the first African and the first woman to hold the position of Director-General — a role that will see her, among many other things, help to facilitate agreements among the WTO's 164 member states. CBS News' Haley Ott spoke to her about the major issues facing the organization, and the world, today. The interview has been edited for length and clarity. Haley Ott: For many Americans, the first time they heard of the World Trade Organization was when former President Trump threatened to leave it. Why is the WTO important, and in a time of increasing nationalism, how do you keep it relevant? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: Well, thank you, Haley. The WTO is important because its rules underpin the multilateral trading system, meaning it provides **a forum** where **every country can** come and **discuss and negotiate trade** agreements, and also **a place for dispute settlement**. You know, in the old days, we used to have trade wars. Now we have a place where countries can come and settle disputes they have among them. President Biden has rescinded America's threat to leave the WTO, but he hasn't completely abandoned President Trump's approach to trade. He's said that his policy would prioritize Americans and American workers. Does that worry you? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: Not at all. And actually, I want to commend the United States because it never actually left the WTO. It had problems with it, but the U.S. paid its share of the budget and still remained a member. And I'm so glad that President Biden has stated that he wants to revive multilateralism and support of the WTO is one of the ways to do that. China is a member of the World Trade Organization, and it's been accused of using WTO structures to unfairly benefit itself to the detriment of some other members, including the United States. What do you say to critics who say that the WTO has been unable to ensure fair global trade in regards to China? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: Well, the WTO **was created to ensure a level playing field** among all trading nations, transparency, balance, so that the private sector can feel that when they are participating, it's fair. Now, WTO members have issues that they want to settle with each other. I think that we will work hard at the secretariat to support them so that these issues can be dealt with. **We** do **have** some **rules about making sure** that **unfair subsidies are not given**? We have to look and see, are those rules still fit for purpose in this modern age, with things evolving? Do we need to make new rules to deal with that? One of the main subjects facing the World Trade Organization today is fish, how much certain countries should be able to fish in order to keep global stocks secure. Negotiations have been going on for years, and you've stated that it's one of your goals to come up with an agreement by the end of this year. What do you say to those who say this issue of fish is a real test for the WTO on its ability to deliver on an issue that really matters to people around the world and that, if it's not able to, it as an organization may not be fit for purpose? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: I agree. It's as simple as that. You know, **it's unacceptable to have negotiations** on an issue going on **for 20 years**, and I've said 20 years is enough. **We need to get it done** because this is about sustainability of our oceans. It's contributing to the sustainable development goals that every country agreed on, including the United States. We have to look at over capacity subsidies in fishing that are leading to overfishing and illegal fishing so that our fish stocks will be renewed and sustainable, our oceans will be sustainable for our fish. You've said that trade and the WTO can help the world address the coronavirus pandemic, which has decimated economies globally. How can trade help deal with the pandemic? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: It's unconscionable that there are countries in the world, **over 130**, **who have not** even **started vaccinating** any of their people. It's in the self-interest of the whole world to have everyone vaccinated. So we can help work with manufacturers to see what more sites they can **bring it in developing countries** and emerging markets **to increase supply**. The WTO can also look at trade. How can trade help with the recovery? Are there areas where we can liberalize trade more among our members so that we can trade? And that will lift up some countries to contribute to the recovery. Some countries have suggested waiving some intellectual property rights to make new technologies accessible for manufacture around the world. Would you support that policy? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: Let me say this, Haley. People need to understand what is behind this demand. Because poor countries watched during the HIV-AIDS crisis, they could not get hold of drugs. They were too expensive. Ten thousand dollars. Unaffordable. And people died. It was 10 years before they were able to get access to produce these drugs, generics, to save lives. That memory hurts. The second issue is the fact that the H1N1 pandemic or epidemic that occurred in 2008/9, rich countries bought up all the vaccines and poor countries had no access. So that lies behind this desire to have the intellectual property waiver, **for all to have access**. Now, that debate is going on. It will be decided among members. But we need to know why it's important and we need to come to some sustainable agreement. But for now, I've advocated what I've called a third way, which is **we need to boost manufacturing** right away so that we can have increased supplies. So **it's not one or the other**. I've always said, we can walk and chew gum. Finally, it's Women's History Month. You are the first woman to be the head of the World Trade Organization and the first African person. What does that mean to you and what obstacles still need to be addressed? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: Well, it means a lot to me. I love being the first female and the first African, but I always tell people that's not the most important fact. The fact is that the WTO is facing many challenges and it needs the most competent person to help it come out of those challenges and find solutions. So that's the important thing. And, well, you know, I'm humbled that people have selected not only the first African and the first female, but someone they believe has the competence to try and deliver.