



March 25, 2020

Open letter to the G-20 Heads of State and Government

Need to collaborate to open global trade in response to COVID-19

We are writing on behalf of our respective associations of the Global Medical Technology Alliance (GMTA), which represents 30 medical technology associations around the world. The companies that are members of the GMTA's associations manufacture about 90 percent of the world's medical devices and diagnostics – such as implants, equipment, IVDs, and surgical instruments. We also produce and distribute products essential to fight COVID-19 – such as personal protective equipment, ventilators, and COVID-19 diagnostic tests. The GMTA is recognized by the World Health Organization as a non-State actor in official relations, with a secretariat in Geneva.

During this time of grave crisis over the spread of COVID-19, the GMTA offers our support to identify and implement solutions to the numerous challenges faced in most countries. We call on governments to safeguard international solidarity and ensure the unimpeded flow of critical medical technologies to patients in need. We stand ready to work in partnership with governments that are collaborating globally to address this public health crisis

Our industry is dedicated to providing patients the necessary critical medical technology to diagnose and treat this terrible virus. We are doing our utmost to rapidly escalate the supplies of the products patients need. We are pursuing creative solutions and innovative approaches to expand capacity and supplies. In our effort to ensure the highest quality and safety of our products while meeting global demands, we are asking governments to work with us to remove unnecessary constraints.

In that context, we are very concerned about the growing list of governments that are restricting exports and trade of vitally needed medical devices such as masks, ventilators, diagnostics, reagents, and other lab instruments and consumables. We urge governments to remove these export and other supply restraints as soon as possible and pledge to promote trade in these important medical products.

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During a global crisis, export restraints exacerbate supply chain disruptions that are already under severe stress. People in the poorest nations are likely to suffer most. We are also concerned that export limitations could provoke retaliation by others – either in the final product or components vital to manufacturing critical medical devices – further disrupting vital supply chains.

In this time of global crisis, we urge governments to work together to address this horrible disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ives', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Ralph F. Ives
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Jesús Rueda Rodríguez', written in a cursive style.

Jesús Rueda
Co-Chair