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**High-level segment on “Harnessing science, technology, and innovation to
accelerate progress on the SDGs and addressing COVID-19”**

Briefing on Tech Access Partnership (TAP) by

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Remarks at the CSTD Meeting 10 June 2020

Hon Ministers

Ms Shamika Sirimanne – Director of UNCTAD's Division on Technology and Logistics

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Chairperson,

It gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to present the Tech Access Partnership, a new initiative of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries in partnership with UNDP, UNCTAD and WHO.

The Technology Access Partnership (TAP) was launched on 12 May 2020 as a global technology sharing platform that facilitates technology transfer of essential health technologies available on open source or voluntary basis that are required for the COVID-19 response. The TAP platform facilitates technology transfer, access and capacity building to boost local production of health technologies.

The motivation behind the creation of the TAP platform was the evident challenges that countries, developed and developing currently faced in regard to access to essential medical equipment including personal protective equipment, diagnostic kits and medical devices including ventilators and oxygen concentrators.

With the disruptions in the supply-chains of these critical medical technologies and demand outstripping the supply exacerbated by the fact that at the beginning of the pandemic, a number of countries [\(47\)](#) implemented measures restricting exports of these essential products or sub-products critical to the fight against COVID-19. We are happy to learn that the majority of these export restrictions have since been removed.

It therefore became very clear that boosting local productive capacity in developing countries is an urgent necessity for the immediate and future response to COVID-19 and strengthening of public health security in Developing Countries in line with SDG 3.

At this point, TAP is focused on 3 categories of technologies:

- a. Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), including masks, face shields, gown and gloves
- b. Diagnostics devices and kits, as well reagents, swabs, cartridges and virus transportation medium

c. Medical Devices, ventilators and oxygen concentrators/related technologies

In this context and in relation to governments, TAP provides a coordinated multi-sector approach that aims to strengthen health and development systems, while bolstering public and private sector responses to establish a strong base for post COVID-19 socio-economic recovery. The platform is available to all users including governments, private sector technology seekers or technology providers that seek to make available their technology, data and other specifications.

Furthermore, the TAP platform also serves to;

- Support local production of key technologies and strengthening of supply chains
- Acquire information and data on available technologies that are compatible with technology seekers capacities.
- Provide access to a range technical expertise, including on public health and regulations, engineering, manufacturing and from other TAP partners
- Connect manufacturing companies with Financial institutions for potential funding of local manufacturing repurposing initiatives.

TAP is focused on both supporting developing countries respond better to the immediate crisis and also supporting their post Covid-19 socio-economic recovery. This approach is aligned with the broader UN Development System's approach to the COVID-19 response, as outlined in the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. Moreover, TAP is responsive to the overall Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

I thank you for your attention