

How different stakeholders see MeTA



Dr Abu El-Samen Taher, Secretary of the High Health Council, Jordan and Chair of MeTA Jordan

"In Jordan, lots of donors fund projects and set the framework. But we feel like this is our *own* project."

Rustam Kurmanov, Director General of the Department of Drug Provision and Medical Equipment, Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

"What we are planning to achieve is, first of all, transparency in the regulatory field, including drug registration, certification, quality control and inspections. We are going to provide the population of our republic with information on the vital drugs available in our country and raise the awareness of their rights to health protection, the possible harmful outcomes of self-treatment and the danger of using low-quality, adulterated or illicitly imported drugs."

UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Mike Foster

"The Medicines Transparency Alliance is about greater transparency, reducing waste, guarding against the use of low quality medicines and preventing corruption. More people will get the medicines they need - preventing illness and saving lives."

Paul Lartey, CEO, LaGray Chemical Company, Ghana

"My interest in MeTA - in fact the interest of the industry - is to actually make all of our information available. There is a certain perception that the local industry produces sub-standard drugs. I think it would be good that transparency comes up around this, to see how we are regulated, to see the quality of the drugs we make, and if the quality of the drugs we make is not up to standard I think we need to be held to book."

Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Executive Director, Zuellig Family Foundation, Philippines

"One of the best things that happened to us is to bring together all these stakeholders round the table. Now we can transparently and openly agree to disagree, or agree to agree on certain points...there's a greater appreciation of what we have in our country from the legal perspective, from the trade

perspective, from the scientific perspective and a human rights perspective which is exactly what this is all about, helping the public to access better quality medicine."

Robin Hodess, Transparency International

"MeTA is about publishing, disclosing, and achieving greater transparency in all parts of the pharmaceutical supply chain to make information more usable by civil society organisations. So not only getting civil society organisation to the table as part of a multi-stakeholder initiative, which Meta is doing, but also enabling them with capacity building in country so that they can do things with the information, bring pressure to bear, make both the public and the private sector more accountable for their behaviour in the pharmaceutical supply chain and in health delivery more generally."

GlaxoSmithKline

"Rather than just being suppliers of medicines, we must also support governments in their efforts to strengthen health systems, developing innovative ways to deliver our medicines to the people who need them most. Our approach must support innovation, which is critical to improving access in the longer term. In 2008 our work in this area included working with the UK government on global health issues and in the development of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA)"

Catherine Nettleton, British Ambassador to Peru

"If transparency is the first principle of MeTA, then the second is a multi-stakeholder approach that brings together all the parties that can make a difference to increasing access to medicines. This means drug companies, distributors and retailers. It means pharmacists and other professionals. It means governments, regulators and technical agencies. And, crucially, it means civil society. Working together can itself help improve data collection and quality – it can open up more sources and support better scrutiny. But most importantly, it also builds an opportunity for accountability. Shared information is essential to knowing how well we are doing in achieving our aim."