



Medicines Transparency Alliance: helping markets work for the poor

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MeTA numbers



- 26 key supporters (governments and organisations)
- 10 broad principles
- 7 pilot countries
- 3 essential stakeholder sectors
- 2 major commitments
- 4 areas of information disclosure
- 1 goal: **improve access to essential medicines for the 2 billion people who currently lack access**

One goal



- **improving people's health through increased access to essential medicines by poor people by:**
 - promoting better governance
 - Improving the effectiveness of the supply chain
 - ensuring more appropriate resource allocation
 - encouraging innovative and responsible business practices
 - Increasing competitive pressure on suppliers shifting some decision making power
 - Increasing the voice of patients and consumers

2 major commitments



- Development of an effective multi-stakeholder forum
 - ‘All too often, government planners, business executives, and non-profit organisations have operated at cross-purposes and failed to coordinate their efforts in ways that would achieve shared goals.’ (Gupta, R. 2007. Health International, McKinsey & Co.)
- Progressive disclosure of data in four areas
... **transparency and (mutual) accountability**

3 key stakeholder sectors



- **Public:** (ministries – not only Health; health service managers and facilities; regulatory agencies; health and welfare insurance schemes)
- **Private:** (manufacturers; wholesalers; distributors; retailers; private practitioners and services; private health insurance; investors)
- **Civil society:** (communities, patients, consumers, transparency and rights groups, media, faith-based organisations)

4 disclosure areas

- Quality
 - Availability
 - Price
 - Promotion
- Supply chain operations
 - Medicine affordability
 - Equitable access
 - Rational use



7 Pilot Countries



**... pioneers, leaders, champions – innovators!
... and an International Advisory Group**

10 Principles



- 1. Good health is crucial to human dignity and to social and economic development.**
- 2. Efforts to improve health depend on effective health systems**
- 3. Inefficient procurement, distribution, and supply of medicines, weak regulation and poor supply chain management, and lack of information can result in unaffordable/unavailable medicines.**
- 4. Urgent action is required to address these challenges.**
- 5. Public understanding could inform public debate, enhance public policy and drive improvements**
- 6. High standards of transparency can build trust and accountability .**
- 7. A multi-stakeholder approach can build understanding on how to develop greater transparency and accountability.**
- 8. Action to increase transparency and accountability should do no harm, support national development and harmonisation plans, respect the rule of law and be guided by concerns for social justice,**
- 9. We recognise the need to pilot and evaluate these actions.**
- 10. Our ultimate objective is to increase equitable access to medicines.**

26 supporters of the objective of increased equitable access to medicines



- Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
- AstraZeneca
- Co-operative Investments
- Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network
- F&C Investments
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Government of Peru
- Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Government of the Republic of Ghana
- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines
- Government of the Republic of Uganda
- Government of the United Kingdom
- Government of the Republic of Zambia
- Health Action International Global
- Indian Pharmaceutical Association
- Institute for Democracy in South Africa
- International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations
- International Pharmaceutical Federation
- Merck
- Novartis
- Partnership for Supply Chain Management
- SustainAbility
- Transparency International
- World Bank
- World Health Organization
- ...and growing ...

What is MeTA?



- An international alliance to support change.
- An alliance internationally to promote discussion and encourage change.
- Alliances within the pilot countries to focus on what can be done to increase access to quality medicines.
- Support to countries from the International Secretariat – some funds to support country work, and, upon request, technical assistance.

Congratulations



- To Ghana for being the second pilot country to launch MeTA.
- The International Secretariat offers its best wishes for the complex discussions ahead.
- The International Secretariat stands ready to try to assist Ghana MeTA in these discussions if requested.

More information



- Contact the MeTA Secretariat
 - International Secretariat, info@metasecretariat.org
 - www.MedicinesTransparency.org
 - and have your say: join in to MeTA-Dialogue – an interactive discussion group at:
www.dgroups.org/groups/MeTADialogue/index.cfm