



April 9, 2021

Senators  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC

**RE: Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights waiver at the World Trade Organization**

Dear Senators,

Greetings from the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN), a faith-based, non-partisan coalition of 29 US-based religious communities of men and women. Inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, we seek to educate and advocate for just relations with Africa and to work in partnership with African peoples.

As an advocacy organization, we are deeply concerned about the global impact of COVID-19 especially on the African continent. Today, we are reaching out to request that you join the effort by Senators Sanders, Warren, Brown, and Baldwin urging President Biden to support the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights waiver at the World Trade Organization that will enable the acceleration of the global production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Pope Francis in his recent Encyclical reminds us that we are “all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all” (Fratelli Tutti, n. 32). In this spirit, we ask you to join your colleagues in support of this waiver to save people’s lives and livelihoods not only in the United States, but also around the world.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Nelson Adjei-Bediako".

Rev. Nelson Adjei-Bediako, SMA  
Executive Director

Cc:

Senator Richard Shelby  
Senator Tommy Tuberville  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Daniel S. Sullivan,  
Senator Mark Kelly  
Senator Kyrsten Sinema  
Senator John Boozman  
Senator Tom Cotton,  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Alex Padilla,  
Senator Michael Bennet

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senator Rand Paul  
Senator Bill Cassidy  
Senator John Neely Kennedy  
Senator Susan Collins  
Senator Angus King  
Senator Ben Cardin  
Senator Chris Van Hollen  
Senator Edward J. Markey  
Senator Gary Peters  
Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Thom Tillis  
Senator Kevin Cramer  
Senator John Hoeven  
Senator Rob Portman  
Senator Jim Inhofe  
Senator James Lankford  
Senator Jeff Merkley  
Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Bob Casey Jr.  
Senator Pat Toomey  
Senator Jack Reed

Senator John Hickenlooper  
Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Senator Christopher S. Murphy  
Senator Tom Carper  
Senator Chris Coons  
Senator Jon Ossoff  
Senator Marco Rubio  
Senator Rick Scott  
Senator Raphael Warnock  
Senator Mazie Hirono  
Senator Brian E. Schatz  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator Jim Risch  
Senator Tammy Duckworth  
Senator Dick Durbin  
Senator Mike Braun  
Senator Todd C. Young  
Senator Joni Ernst  
Senator Chuck Grassley  
Senator Roger Marshall  
Senator Jerry Moran

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
Senator Tina Smith  
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Senator Roger Wicker  
Senator Roy Blunt  
Senator Josh Hawley  
Senator Steve Daines  
Senator Jon Tester  
Senator Deb Fischer  
Senator Ben Sasse  
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto  
Senator Jacky Rosen  
Senator Maggie Hassan  
Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Bob Menendez  
Senator Martin Heinrich  
Senator Ben Ray Luján  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Senator Chuck Schumer  
Senator Richard Burr

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator Tim Scott  
Senator Mike Rounds  
Senator John Thune  
Senator Marsha Blackburn  
Senator Bill Hagerty  
Senator John Cornyn  
Senator Ted Cruz  
Senator Mike Lee  
Senator Mitt Romney  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator Tim Kaine  
Senator Mark Warner  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Shelley Moore Capito  
Senator Joe Manchin III  
Senator Ronald Harold Johnson  
Senator John Barrasso  
Senator Cynthia Lummis