



Resolution n°5-2020-e

Support for measures for the global response to COVID-19

Unitaid's Executive Board strongly supports ongoing global efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic in line with WHO priorities. The Board underlines its concern that COVID-19 presents specific risks and challenges for the most vulnerable populations, which may be exacerbated by barriers to equitable access to new and existing critical health technologies and products, including appropriate diagnostics and treatments, and emphasizes Unitaid's distinct competence and expertise in this area.

Recognising the urgent need to address the specific risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic for these populations, the Board welcomes and supports the Secretariat's analysis of immediate opportunities for Unitaid to support the integration of relevant additional activities and investments within its existing portfolio of Board approved projects, as presented at the 34th Special Session of the Executive Board.

The Board recognizes that unique expertise and skills are required to contribute to the global response to COVID-19 and hereby authorises the Executive Director, a.i. to commit an initial funding tranche of up to \$30 million for the expansion and reprogramming of existing Unitaid Board-approved grants currently under implementation, as proposed in Board document UNITAID/EB34SS/2020/2.

The Board also requests the Secretariat to immediately explore opportunities for Unitaid to develop additional initiatives. These should also consider issues related to price reduction for new medicines and technologies, whether via price negotiations, advocacy, or other measures within Unitaid's unique expertise. The Secretariat shall then report back to the Board, with a view to Board approval for release of a second tranche of funding.

Funding under this Resolution shall be available for commitment in accordance with this Resolution until 31 October 2020 and commitments must support activities to be carried out by or before 31 March 2021. All funding commitments shall be subject to the expedited review of the Proposal Review Committee and be focused on the addressing the public health measures outlined in the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov) Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. The Secretariat shall report regularly to the Board on the use of the funds.

Marisol Touraine
Chair of the Unitaid Executive Board

Date: 27th March 2020