

Intellectual Property Key to Economic Recovery and Defeating Coronavirus

As people adjusted to living through a global pandemic, intellectual property (IP) played an essential—if oftentimes underappreciated—role in the creation and development of solutions to combat COVID-19.

Why it matters: Being able to measure how equipped economies are to generate and safeguard innovation and creativity is more important than ever before.

Tomorrow, [GIPC will release the 2021 International IP Index](#), which benchmarks the IP framework in 53 global markets. The 2021 Index recognizes that with a robust global IP system in place, we can harness innovation for good to control COVID-19 and restore our world to health.

Key findings from the 2021 report include:

- **Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the global IP environment continued to strengthen.** In the 2021 report, 32 of the 53 economies benchmarked had positive improvements in their scores.
- **Trade agreements continue to substantively improve national IP frameworks, including in China and Mexico.** To harness the full potential of the agreements, the provisions must be effectively implemented and enforced.
- **IP enabled the development of a pipeline of therapeutics solutions to combat COVID-19.** Both in the U.S. and around the world, vaccines and therapeutics were developed at an unprecedented speed because of the scale of public-private sector collaboration, made possible by effective IP protection.
- **Despite the positive role IP played in response to the global pandemic, countries took steps to undermine IP-enabled innovation.** From compulsory licensing legislation to the WTO TRIPS Waiver, some global markets and multilateral institutions failed to recognize IP's critical role in the discovery and delivery of effective therapeutics and vaccines.

Bottom line: As we yearn to achieve our new normal, effective IP systems will be critical to rebuilding healthy communities, getting citizens back to work, and reinvigorating the global economy.

Want to learn more? To register for tomorrow's launch event, [click here](#).

—Kelly Anderson, Senior Director, Health and Drug Policy, Global Innovation Policy Center