

ICBA Statement on the Importance of Global Cooperation and Resilient Biopharmaceutical Supply Chains

For the future of innovation and, most importantly, for the benefit of patients and citizens globally the International Council of Biotechnology Associations (ICBA) calls for continued strengthening and expansion of trade, regulatory, and scientific partnerships with global partners. Only through robust global cooperation can we build a resilient, innovative, biopharmaceutical and biotechnology ecosystem that benefits citizens everywhere.

Maintaining open and predictable trade is not merely an economic priority; it is a global public health and societal imperative. Disruptions to global biotechnology supply chains can have profound short- and long-term consequences for patients and citizens worldwide, underscoring the urgent need for sustained international cooperation and openness.

Biotechnology innovation and supply chains are inherently global, highly layered, and complex - spanning research, development, manufacturing, skills, distribution and storage/inventories across multiple countries. This global interconnectedness not only fosters exceptional national innovation strengths and capacities, fueling both economic growth and security, but also expands access to a wide range of health solutions beyond the limitations of domestic expertise or capabilities. However, the beneficial and essential interdependencies of biotechnology supply chains also creates vulnerabilities where disruptions can affect access to healthcare, including existing treatments and new innovations, as well as food supplies and intermediates across multiple sectors. It also disrupts the broader cycle of scientific discovery and weakens the vital skills base for a successful economy.

Building resilience and redundancy into global supply chains requires a coordinated international effort. Global partnerships are essential to this effort and benefit each participating country. Through international collaboration, early-stage R&D is accelerated into innovation to benefit patients and citizens worldwide; supply chain vulnerabilities are reduced and costs shared; unnecessary duplication is minimised; and countries can secure diversified and reliable sources of critical inputs. These partnerships also help protect intellectual property, know-how exchange and sharing of best practices, which is fundamental to sustaining thriving innovation ecosystems at country level.

The global biotechnology sector depends on the contributions of both small and large companies, with small innovators playing a particularly critical role in early-stage research

and development as well as the critical aspect of de-risking innovative products and novel technologies. Strengthening global cooperation is essential to ensure these companies can continue to advance new therapies and products. Interruptions to global trade, whether logistical, regulatory or geopolitical, disproportionately affect small innovators, delaying scientific progress, reducing the availability of finished products, and slowing the development of novel therapies.

Deeper regulatory cooperation with like-minded countries is equally important. Harmonizing regulatory standards and streamlining processes through global collaboration enhances efficiency, strengthens supply chain resilience. This ensures that safe, effective treatments reach patients without delay and supply chains across sectors are robust.