



## DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROGRAMME (DIIP)

### Monthly Update

March 2016

#### HIGHLIGHTS

*Expert Meeting on Seeds*, co-organized with Third World Network and Oxfam Novib, held at the South Centre from 9-11 March. The meeting identified knowledge and research gaps and options for policy measures – national, regional, global – to support farmers' seed systems and sustainable agriculture.

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### *Research Papers*

- Carlos M. Correa, **The Bolar Exception: Legislative Models and Drafting Options**, *Research Paper* 66, South Centre, February 2016. Available from <http://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-66-march-2016/>.

#### EVENTS/MEETINGS

- 7 March, *Study Visit to South Centre by students from ILO Training Centre in Turin, Italy*.
- 7 March, Working Lunch Meeting on *Farmers' rights and the interrelations between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO ITPGRFA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)*. Held at the South Centre.
- 8 March, *Expert Meeting on UPOV*, co-organized with Third World Network, held at the South Centre.

#### PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL EVENTS

- 10 March, Carlos Correa was appointed *Coordinator of Friends of the Co-Chairs Group on Access Mechanisms and Payment Rates of the ITPGRFA*. The purpose of the Group is to elaborate proposals for the amendment of the Multilateral System in order to increase the revenue generated by the Treaty and benefit sharing. The Group will meet 2 times in March-June 2016.

- 14 March, *Expert group meeting for the elaboration of a 3-year strategy for Spanish NGOs working on access to medicines*, held at the Complutense University of Madrid. This meeting was followed by a large open Conference in the same University on the influence of public policies on A2M.
- 15 March, *Expert group to review IG GLOBAL strategy and position papers on Innovation and access to health technologies and medicines*. Held in Barcelona, Spain.
- 16 March, Hearing of the *Expert Advisory Group of the Ad Hoc High Panel on Access to Medicines*, held in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 17 March, *Global Dialogue organized by the Expert Advisory Group of the Ad Hoc High Panel on Access to Medicines* in Johannesburg, South Africa. The current scenario relating to access to medicines (in both developed and developing countries) and how to improve it were discussed. A presentation was made on South Centre's submission on a binding international instrument/convention/treaty on medical product R&D to be negotiated under the auspices of the WHO. The SC proposal was intended to address the misalignment between the pharmaceutical R&D model under the present trade rules and public health, in order to promote more effective and less costly innovation and increase A2M.
- 17-18 March, *UPOV Council and Consultative Committee*. The South Centre participates as an observer in the UPOV Council. On an ad hoc basis, South Centre participated in the Consultative Committee on the agenda item of the ongoing process for the "identification of possible areas of interrelations between the FAO ITPGRFA, especially its Article 9 on Farmers' Rights, and relevant instruments of UPOV and WIPO." It seeks to promote an outcome that facilitates the enactment and implementation of legislation by members of UPOV Union, WIPO and contracting parties of the FAO ITPGRFA that facilitates the full and fair exercise of farmers' rights.
- 23 March, Presentation on '*Plant Variety Protection in Developing Countries: designing a sui generis plant variety protection system as an alternative to UPOV 1991*' at a webinar organized by the CGIAR. The talk was followed by Q&A including on the role of CGIAR centres in dealing with farmers' varieties.
- 25 March, *Seminar on the Health sector: Leveraging Economic Integration among the OIC Member States* held in Casablanca, Morocco. Two presentations were made on evergreening in the pharmaceutical sector and local production opportunities and challenges in OIC Members; and on South Centre's work – the DIIP activities in particular – and recent developments in A2M negotiations.
- 30 March, joint meeting of the *Expert Advisory Group and the UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines*, in New York. The meeting considered a synthesis of the 180 submissions received and possible recommendations that the Panel may make to the UN Secretary General.
- 30 March, *Third Meeting of the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Review Group*, held in Geneva, Switzerland.