



DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROGRAMME (DIIP)

Monthly Update

July 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- New Research Paper on **Intellectual Property and Access to Science** by *Prof. Carlos M. Correa*.

The boundaries between scientific and technological knowledge are nebulous in some technical fields, such as the biological sciences and their applications. This has led to the appropriation under patents of knowledge (such as on specific genes) of scientific nature, which may not only have negative effects for the further development of science and new technological contributions, but also encroach on the fundamental right of access to science.

The patenting policies adopted by some universities and other research institutions may aggravate this problem. Court decisions in the USA and Australia and some national laws (e.g. Brazil) have limited the possibility of that appropriation, which is still feasible, however, in many jurisdictions.

Other measures – such as a well formulated research exception, the limitation of the patent claims' scope, and legislation mandating open access to research results achieved with public funding – may mitigate the effects of the exclusivity granted by patent rights, but more fundamental policy changes may be necessary in order to preserve scientific outcomes in the public domain for free use and follow-on research.

This paper is available from <https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-69-july-2016/>.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

IP Negotiations Monitor

- **IP Negotiations Monitor – Issue No. 18, July 2016.** The IP Negotiations Monitor summarizes the latest developments in multilateral and regional fora where intellectual property negotiations take place, and informs on upcoming meetings and events. This



Research
Paper
July 2016

69

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ACCESS TO SCIENCE

Carlos M. Correa



issue includes coverage of developments in WTO, WIPO, WHO, UPOV, FAO, UNHCR, CBD, UNFCCC. It also gives updates on internet governance, Free Trade Agreements as well as other developments related to science, technology and innovation. The monitor is available from: <https://www.southcentre.int/ip-negotiations-monitor-18-july-2016/>.

Background Notes

- Background Note, **Possible Activities in WIPO on IP and Transfer of Technology**.
- Background Note, **The UN Sustainable Development Goals Relevant to WIPO's Work**.

SouthNews Articles

- Adriano Timossi and Viviana Muñoz Tellez, **Human Rights Council Adopts Historic Resolutions on Access to Medicines** SouthNews, 4 July 2016.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- 11 July, *Lunch Seminar on New Technologies: Synthetic Biology*, held at the South Centre. Presentation by Edward Hammond of Prickly Research and TWN.
- 11 July, *Lecture on IP and Development*, IP in the Multilateral System course, Summer Programme on International Organizations, Law and Diplomacy, American University Washington College of Law. Presentations by Dr. German Velasquez, Dr. Viviana Muñoz and Nirmalya Syam.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL EVENTS

- 11-14 July, *FAO Working Group on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS)*. Dr Carlos Correa participated and submitted the report of the FoCC Group that he chaired. The Working Group considered a draft text submitted by the co-chairs. It discussed, in particular, whether there would be a single or multiple access system.
- 31 July, Presentation on *Perspectives on Public Health* at the Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) Swiss Chapter, in Lausanne, by Nirmalya Syam and Mirza Alas. The presentation provided an overview the South Centre's work on public health and discussed complementarities with the work of UAEM.

www.southcentre.int