

On September 2016, the UN Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines released its report that was adopted by consensus and recently endorsed by the Secretary General. UNDP and UNAIDS secretariat served as the Panel's secretariat. The report advances important recommendations. The South Centre, in a statement released in September this year, endorsed the report and called on governments, the United Nations entities and others including the World Trade Organization, to take action on the report's recommendations. We also commend the engagement of UNAIDS in this landmark process.

The HLP report recommends that *“Governments and the private Sector must refrain from explicit or implicit threats, tactics or strategies that undermine the right of WTO members to use flexibilities. Instances of undue political pressure should be reported to the WTO Secretariat during the trade policy review of members. WTO Members must register complaints against undue political and economic pressure which includes taking punitive measures against offending WTO Members.”* The South Centre supports this recommendation, recognizing that many countries, as exemplified by the recent case of Colombia, face unjustifiable barriers in making effective use of flexibilities to promote access to medical technologies that are allowed under international intellectual property rules.

The South Centre also supports the recommendations of the HLP report to explore and invest in new mechanisms that delink the costs of research and development (R&D) from the end prices of health technologies, to promote innovation and affordable access— including negotiations for a binding R&D Convention.

The South Centre also supports the HLP report recommendations on disclosure of results of publicly-funded research, and strengthening governance, accountability and transparency to promote innovation and ensure access to health technologies.

The South Centre therefore recommends that the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board:

- *Welcome* the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines; and take immediate action to support Members States to implement the recommendations relevant to them;

- *Instruct* the UNAIDS to explore new mechanisms that delink costs of R&D for end prices of health technologies for HIV/AIDS treatment and ensure their affordable access; and
- *Reaffirm* the critical importance of addressing intellectual property-related factors that impact on the availability and affordability of treatments for HIV/AIDS.