



DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROGRAMME (DIIP)

Monthly Update

May 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The South Centre organized an Ambassadorial Breakfast Dialogue on *Access to Hepatitis C Treatments* with Former President of Colombia, H.E. Ernesto Samper Pizano on 16 May 2017 at the InterContinental Hotel in Geneva.



President **Ernesto Samper Pizano** discussed his personal experience as a Hepatitis C survivor *and as former Secretary General of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)*. Interventions were also made by Mr. Lelio Marmora, Executive Director, UNITAID, Mr. Charles Gore, President, World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA), Pascale Boulet on behalf of Dr. Bernard Pécoul, Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi). The event was moderated by German Velasquez, Special Advisor on Health and Development of the South Centre.

The dialogue highlighted the central role of governments in prevention, innovation promotion and scaling up access to affordable HCV treatment. The need for a global response was also emphasized, involving greater collaboration among governments, IGOs, global health initiatives, manufacturers, product development partnerships, civil society and academia.

- Side Event to the 70th World Health Assembly “*The Impact of the Recommendations of United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”. Held on 24 May 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Organized by Morocco, India, Bolivia, Uganda and Venezuela, together with the South Centre, the Secretariat of the UN SG HLP on Access to Medicines, and Partners in Population and Development (PPD).



- Side Event to the 70th World Health Assembly: *Responding to the Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Perspectives of Civil Society, Intergovernmental Organizations and Developing Countries*. This event was held on 22 May 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Sponsors were Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF); Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi); Health Action International (HAI); Medicus Mundi International Network (MMI), with the support of the South Centre and ReAct Action on Antibiotic Resistance.



PUBLICATIONS

Research Papers

- Germán Velásquez, **Access to Hepatitis C Treatment: A Global Problem**, *Research Paper 77*, South Centre, May 2017. Available from <https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-77-may-2017/>.

South Bulletin Articles

- Viviana Muñoz and Mirza Alas, **South Centre Side Event to the WTO TRIPS Council highlights recommendations by the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Access to Medicines**, *South Bulletin*, Issue 99, 2 May 2017. Available from <https://www.southcentre.int/south-bulletin-99-2-may-2017/>.

Policy Briefs

- Nirmalya Syam and Mirza Alas, **Highlights of the WHO Executive Board: 140th Session**, *Policy Brief* 39, South Centre, May 2017. Available from <https://www.southcentre.int/policy-brief-39-may-2017/>.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- 1st May, Strategy meeting at the on *What Role for Developing Country Governments in the Changing Landscape of Internet Governance?* jointly organized with TDP and GGDP.
- 10 May, Working Lunch Meeting at the South Centre in preparation for the *19th session of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)*.
- 17 May, Working Lunch Meeting at the South Centre in preparation for the *70th session of the World Health Assembly* of the WHO.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL EVENTS

- 4 May, *National Seminar on the Report of the UN SG HLP on access to medicines*. Organized by the Ministry of Health of Colombia in Bogota, Colombia. Key-notes speakers: Alejandro Gaviria, Minister of Health of Colombia, Prof. Carlos Correa, and Dr. Germán Velásquez. The purpose of the seminar was to promote the dissemination of the HLP report, and analyze the recommendations in order to identify elements that can be implemented at the national level.
- 9 May, *20th session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)* held in Geneva from 8 to 12 May. Prof. Carlos Correa participated and made a presentation on 'The role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in ensuring food security by 2030'.
- 9 May, Side event to the 20th session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology (CSTD): *ChemChina + Syngenta, Bayer + Monsanto... What's next in Agribusiness Mega-Mergers? Can Governments Defend Food Security and National Interest?* Organized by South Centre and the ETC Group. Prof. Carlos Correa participated made a presentation focused on the legal doctrines (such as the 'effects doctrine' and the 'implementation theory') that may allow competition authorities of developing countries to intervene in the case of agribusiness megamergers that affect producers or consumers in their territories.

- 8-12 May, *30th Session of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Committee for Technical Cooperation*, held at WIPO Headquarters in Geneva. The DIIP Team Participated.
- 10-11 May, *Fair Pricing Forum*, organized by the WHO and the Dutch Ministry of Health, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Dr. Viviana Muñoz and Dr. Germán Velásquez participated.
- 11 May, *Special Presentation on Technological Solutions for the SDGS by the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO)*, organized by UNCTAD and the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the United Nations in Geneva at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva. Dr Viviana Muñoz participated.
- 11 May, *Briefing at the African Union* to the countries of the African Region ahead of the World Health Assembly on the recommendations of the report of the High Level Panel on Access to Medicines. Briefing was done by Mr. Nirmalya Syam and Ms. Mirza Alas.
- 15-16 May, *Policy Roundtable on the global experience with the use of TRIPS flexibilities to improve Access to high-priced medicines*, organized by WHO in Beijing, with the cooperation of TWN. Prof. Carlos Correa participated and made presentations (focused on pre-grant TRIPS flexibilities, namely patentability requirements).
- 15-19 May, *Fourth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas*, held at the Palais de Nations in Geneva. Dr. Viviana Muñoz participated.
- 15-19 May, *19th session of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)*, held at the WIPO Headquarters in Geneva. The DIIP Team participated.
- 20 May, *WHO Governance: Still many open questions*, Civil Society Strategy Meeting before the 70th World Health Assembly held at the Ecumenical Centre, Geneva. Dr. Germán Velásquez gave a presentation on the challenges for the WHO and the DG election process. Ms. Mirza Alas also participated.
- 23-24 May, *Workshop on 'TRIPS Flexibilities* organized by the Cuban Office of Industrial Property, Havana. The workshop was attended by patent examiners dealing with pharmaceuticals and by policy makers of other institutions, including the drug regulatory agency. Prof. Carlos Correa attended and made several presentations on patentability standards, exceptions and compulsory licences.

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