



DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROGRAMME (DIIP)

Monthly Update

November 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The South Centre and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India, renewed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications.



- A delegation from the South Centre comprised of Prof. Carlos Correa, Dr. Germán Velásquez, Dr. Viviana Munoz Tellez and Mr. Nirmalya Syam visited New Delhi, India, from 20-25 November 2017 and met relevant ministries and departments of the Government of India to further strengthen collaboration. The delegation met senior officials from the Centre for WTO Studies, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

PUBLICATIONS

- New Research Paper by Dr. Germán Velásquez titled **The International Debate on Generic Medicines of Biological Origin**, *Research Paper 78*, South Centre, November 2017. Published in English and Spanish.

The debate on generic medicines is not new. What makes it different today is that attacks levelled against biological



products are couched in ever more “technical” and abstruse language that confuses even the World Health Organization (WHO). Innovative biological drugs, that have been introduced on the market in the past 20 to 30 years, make up, in terms of numbers, no more than 2 per cent of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines but, in terms of cost, account for 15 per cent to 20 per cent of national drug expenditure. The high price of biological drugs stems mainly from two new factors: first, a change in the pharmaceutical industry’s approach to price-setting and, secondly, the introduction of additional barriers to the entry of generics into the market. In any debate on the impossibility of producing “identical” drugs, it should be made clear that what is at stake is not identical products but therapeutic equivalents. What matters to the patient, after all, is whether or not the drug can prevent, cure or mitigate the effects of the illness.

The paper is also available from <https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-82-november-2017/>. The Spanish version is available from: <https://es.southcentre.int/documento-de-investigacion-82-nov-2017/>.

Background Notes

- South Centre Comments on the updated Road Map for the Global Framework for Development & Stewardship to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance revised as of 19 October 2017.
- Comments on the World Health Organization’s 13th General Programme of Work (GPW) 2019-2023.
- Background Note on the Twentieth Session of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property.
- South Centre and Third World Network Background Note on the WHO Member State Mechanism on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products.

South Centre News on AMR

- **WHO Advice: Stop using antibiotics in healthy animals to prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance.** *South Centre News on AMR* 10, 7 November 2017. Available from: <https://www.southcentre.int/south-centre-news-on-amr-10-7-november-2017/>.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- 2 November, South Centre Working Lunch on *WHO Member State Consultation on Global Development and Stewardship Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)*.
- 15 November, South Centre Working Lunch in preparation for the *WHO Executive Board (EB) Special Session on the draft thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW)*.
- 22 November, South Centre Meeting on *Research and Development for Public Health in India*, New Delhi, India.

- 24 November, South Centre Working Lunch in preparation for the *Twentieth Session of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)*.
- 27 November, South Centre and Third World Network Meeting in preparation for the *6th Meeting of the Member State Mechanism (MSM) on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products*.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL EVENTS

- 9-10 November, *WHO Informal Member State Consultation on the Global Framework for Development and Stewardship to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance*. Dr. Viviana Munoz, Ms. Mirza Alas and Dr. Germán Velásquez participated and made statements on behalf of the South Centre.
- 21-23 November, *1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the Indian Society of International Law and the WHO, in New Delhi, India. Prof. Carlos Correa, Dr. Germán Velásquez, Dr. Viviana Munoz and Mr. Nirmalya Syam participated in the conference on behalf of the South Centre. Dr. Carlos Correa spoke about the failure of the current model of R&D based on IP incentives and the need for a sustainable and public health oriented alternative system in a plenary discussion on TRIPS, the UN High Level Panel report on access to medicines and benefit sharing for access to medical products. Dr. Viviana Munoz spoke on innovation in new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics in a parallel session on alternative models of R&D-industry-academia collaboration.
- 22-23 November, Fourth special session of the WHO Executive Board. *Special session on the draft thirteenth general programme of work*. Ms. Mirza Alas attended.
- 24 November, *International Investment Law and Policy Speaker Series of Columbia University*, held in New York, USA. Prof. Carlos Correa attended and made a presentation on “Intellectual Property as a Protected Investment: Implications of *Eli Lilly v. Canada*”.
- 27-28 November, *Fleming Fund Delivery Partners Event* in London. Dr Viviana Muñoz participated and gave a presentation of South Centre programme on antimicrobial resistance. Mr. Vice Yu, Deputy Executive Director and Ms. Mirza Alas also participated.
- 27-29 November, *International Trade and Health Conference 2017*, held in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Germán Velasquez participated as a keynote speaker.

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