



Fostering R&D and Promoting Access to Medicines

Agenda

Bellagio, Italy 22-26 October 2007

Monday 22 October 2007

- 19.30** Dinner
- 21.00-22:00** Welcome and introduction by the organizers

Tuesday 23 October

- 8.30-9.00** Opening of the Dialogue and presentation of participants
Pedro Roffe
- 9:00-12.30** **Introductory Session – Taking Stock**

Facilitator: Pedro Roffe

Resource Persons: Ellen 't Hoen and Carlos Correa

Discussant: Syed Ali Asad Gillani

The introductory session will examine what has happened in the multilateral context on IP and health. It will track the history of the debate from the UK Commission on IP and the WHO CIPIH to the current IGWG process. Moreover, it will identify various proposals for bolstering R&D and improving access to medicines. Participants will be invited to address, among others, the following set of questions:

1. What progress has been made to date in advancing an international IP policy that is supportive of public health?
2. What are the main elements of the latest draft strategy and plan of action in the IGWG? What other elements should be included?
3. Which proposals on R&D financing and access could be most useful in addressing the two fundamental problems of providing medicines for diseases affecting the developing world and making them affordable?
4. Which proposals hold the greatest promise for being operationalised?

15.00-19.00 Exploring New Paradigms for Health R&D

Facilitator: Ambassador Alberto Dumont

Resource Persons: Aidan Hollis, James Love, Peter Brown

Discussant: Shaidah Asmall

This session will look at some initiatives aimed at providing economic incentives for innovation to combat some of the world's deadliest diseases. It will look specifically at Prize Funds, Advanced Market Commitments, the Medical R&D Treaty, and the International Finance Facility (IFF).

1. What are the various Prize and R&D Fund proposals?
2. What is the essential difference between a prize fund and an advanced market commitment?
3. What is the IFF and how can it be operationalised?
4. What are the pertinent issues in implementing such mechanisms?
 - a. Level of funding
 - b. Sources
 - c. Relevant criteria
 - d. Administration
5. What should the relationship be to such mechanisms and the IP system?

Wednesday 24 October 2007

8.30-9.00 Summary and highlights of first day's deliberations: Gina Vea

9.00-12.30 Maximising IP-Related Mechanisms

Facilitator: Francisco Rossi

Resource Persons: Warren Kaplan and Pedro Roffe

Discussant: David Vivas-Eugui and Ahmad-Al-Ghazawi

This session will examine existing opportunities to improve access and promote innovation. It will examine how patent pools may be utilised to facilitate the production of medicines for developing countries. Additionally, it will examine current flexibilities in the patent system how they may be implemented and better utilised at the domestic level.

1. What are the various types of patent pools and what incentives do title holders have to contribute to a patent pool?
2. What are the issues surrounding implementation of a patent pool?
3. What steps can be taken to advance implementation of TRIPS flexibilities with regard to patents and test data protection?
4. What other mechanisms within the IP system can be used to bolster R&D and increase access?

15.00-19.00 Achieving Global Drug Access and Research

Facilitator: Ambassador Nicholas Thorne

Resource Person: John Barton

Discussants: Ron Marchant and Alberto Alvarez Saavedra

This session will explore opportunities for bolstering innovation and increasing access both within the WHO, as well as in other fora. It will explore the possibility of a sector-specific deal on pharmaceuticals and broach a number of issues, including regulatory barriers, differential pricing, and counterfeit drugs. Additionally, it will take up the issue of technical and political feasibility of all of the proposals under discussion and explore elements that might comprise an encompassing agenda on research and action for pharmaceutical innovation and access.

1. What are some of the potential components for a broader sector agreement in pharmaceuticals?
2. What are some of the potential costs and benefits for each set of stakeholders in such a sector agreement?
3. In light of all of the proposals under discussion, which proposals should be addressed within the context of the IGWG? Which ones should be addressed elsewhere? Where?
4. Which mechanisms are most likely to receive broad political support and engagement by all sectors?
5. Which mechanisms have already been applied at the national or regional level? What lessons can be learned?
6. What should be the role of international organisations (WHO, WTO, WIPO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNITAID) in designing, establishing, and advancing such incentive mechanisms at the global and local level? What should be the role of other stakeholders, including developing countries?
7. How can we more effectively engage the private sector in these discussions, including pharmaceutical companies, the insurance sector, private distribution services, and private hospital services?

Thursday 25 October 2007

8.30 What have we accomplished so far: a summary of the first two days

9.30-16.30 The way forward: Working Groups

16.30-18.00 Conclusions