

AstraZeneca response re alleged advocacy campaign by Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) opposing South Africa's efforts to introduce intellectual property reforms aimed at increasing access to essential medicine:

19 February 2014

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited AstraZeneca to respond to the following items:

- "South African pharma firms accused of delaying patents law reforms", Guardian [UK], 17 January 2014
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/17/south-african-pharma-accused-delay-patents-law-reform>
- "New leaked Merck missive reveals deep drug, medical device company opposition to South African patent reforms", KEI, 20 January 2014
<http://keionline.org/node/1908>
- "'Genocidal' drug patent plot angers doctors, rights groups"
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2014/01/17/genocidal-drug-patent-plot-outrages-doctors-rights-groups>
- "Leaked pharmagate emails prove big pharma involvement in scandal"
<http://www.tac.org.za/news/leaked-pharmagate-emails-prove-big-pharma-involvement-scandal>
- "TAC, Section27 and MSF react to Pharmagate"
<http://www.fixthepatentlaws.org/?p=823>

Comment to Business & Human Rights Resource Centre by AstraZeneca re alleged advocacy campaign by Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) to oppose South Africa's efforts to introduce intellectual property reforms aimed at increasing access to essential medicine:

As a research based pharmaceuticals company, we are committed to providing innovative medicines that improve the lives of patients in South Africa and appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective as a member of IPASA

AstraZeneca overall welcome and recognise the need for change of the SA IP laws. However, AstraZeneca South Africa carries some concerns with some of the proposed changes particularly on items that relate [to] patient safety . Also, we see it is particularly important to better focus importation procedures to avoid counterfeit in this region.

We would be pleased to participate [in] any discussions.