

Novartis 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 Novartis 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 Novartis 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:

The following is our response to the issue raised in your email of February 10th.

Novartis supports the broad objectives of South Africa's draft national policy on IP. We support all opportunities for dialogue with the South Africa Government on how those objectives can best be achieved through constructive changes to the IP system, while continuing to ensure that South Africa remains an attractive environment for innovation and investment.

With respect to the draft PAE campaign proposition paper, Novartis would like to be clear that it originated from a third party and that Novartis was not involved with the drafting of the document, nor did it support or approve the draft document either independently or in its capacity as a member of IPASA.

Novartis South Africa remains a committed Healthcare partner to the South Africa Government.