

**Roche 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 Roche 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 Roche 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:**

Roche South Africa-a subsidiary of F.Hoffman-La Roche, a leading international Pharmaceutical company...handed in its resignation as a member of the Innovative Pharmaceutical Association (IPASA)...[on 31 January 2014]. The resignation comes in the wake of a recent PR campaign as presented from Washington based Public Affairs Engagement (PAE) to IPASA, which Roche disagrees with. "Neither does Roche support this campaign nor have we given our approval. We believe it is in our interest, to resign from IPASA", said Burcak Celik, General Manager at Roche South Africa. Roche believes that access to quality healthcare is a shared responsibility requiring all stakeholders to work together. "Industry plays a vital role in access to healthcare and Roche will continue to work with many different partners to continuously and sustainably reduce barriers in access to healthcare," Celik added.