



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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Dr Jorge Bermudez
Executive Secretary
UNITAID
c/o World Health Organization
20, avenue Appia
1211 GENEVA

Dear Dr Bermudez *Caro Jorge*

The Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria welcomes the 30th September announcement of the National Institute of Health (NIH) of the United States offering to share with the Medicines Patent Pool, supported by UNITAID, their patent rights for darunavir, one of the antiretrovirals needed in treatment programs.

Global Fund recipients are paying extremely high prices for darunavir, amounting up to US\$10,000 per person per year, in countries not benefiting from a reduced price. This high price for just one drug in a multiple drug regimen shows how dramatically HIV treatment costs could increase as more countries will need this and other new antiretrovirals. Voluntary licenses through the Medicines Patent Pool offer a sustainable solution to ensure production and procurement of needed medicines at affordable prices.

This announcement is a first step and opens possibilities for licensees to engage in production of co-formulations, which can simplify treatment and increase adherence.

We urge all public institutions and pharmaceutical companies to follow the measures taken by the NIH, and to share without delay their patents on this and other antiretrovirals with the Medicines Patent Pool, in order to facilitate access to these treatments at the lowest possible price for countries in need.

We congratulate UNITAID and the Medicine Patent Pool for this first agreement with NIH and hope that there will be other similar announcements soon.

Yours sincerely *abm201*

Professor Michel Kazatchkine
Executive Director