

Overview of the Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines

United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, on 19 November 2015, announced the appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines (‘the High-Level Panel’). The formation of the High-Level Panel is in line with the ambitions of UN Member States as articulated in the 2030 Development Agenda and in support of attaining Sustainable Development Goal 3, to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of all. It builds on the findings and recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law.

The High-Level Panel is comprised of 16 eminent, well-respected individuals with a deep knowledge and understanding of a broad range of trade, public health, human rights and legal issues associated with the promotion of innovation and access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies. The Co-Chairs are Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana and Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland. The Secretary-General has asked UNDP, working closely with UNAIDS, to serve as the Secretariat for the High-Level Panel.

Scope of the High-Level Panel

The overall scope of the proposed High-Level Panel is to *“review and assess proposals and recommend solutions for remedying the policy incoherence between the justifiable rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules and public health in the context of health technologies.”*

At their first meeting, at the United Nations in New York from 11-12 December 2015, members outlined their vision and the timeline for the work of High-Level Panel to achieve its objectives. **They agreed that their deliberations would take into account recommendations that promote research, development, innovation and access to health technologies across:**

- All diseases, in order to give full meaning to Sustainable Development Goal 3;
- All technologies recognizing that access to health entails having access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies; and
- All populations in low, middle and high-income countries, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Time-Line for the work of the High-Level Panel

Call for Contribution

On 21 December 2015, the High-Level Panel issued a **Call for Contributions** inviting stakeholders including, but not limited to, governments, the private sector, research institutions, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, legal experts and patient groups **to submit contributions that address the policy incoherence**

between, international human rights law, trade rules, and public health objectives in order to promote innovation and increased access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and related health technologies. Contributions must be submitted by 28 February 2016.

The High-Level Panel will be assisted by the Expert Advisory Group to review all contributions received and develop a shortlist of contributions for further consideration.

Stakeholder Briefings

The Secretariat will undertake briefings with governments, key international, regional, and non-governmental civil society organizations, and the private sector. **The purpose of these briefings will be to provide stakeholders with information on the context for the High-Level Panel, and opportunities to interact with the Panel’s work, including submitting contributions, and participating in the Global Dialogues.**

Date	Activity	Location
14 January 2016	CSO Briefing	Webinar
01 February 2016	Briefing for missions, international organisations, civil society and private sector stakeholders	WHO, Geneva, Switzerland
04 February 2016	Private Sector Briefing	UNAIDS, New York & via webinar
04 February 2016	Member State Briefing	United Nations Headquarters, New York

Hearings and Dialogues

Short listed contributors will be invited to participate in **Hearings** and **Global Dialogues**. The purpose of the **Hearings** is for members of the High-Level Panel and its Expert Advisory Group to interact with the short-listed contributors. **The Global Dialogues** are interactive and inclusive conversations involving stakeholders from different regions, and sectors, who will be invited to engage and provide their thoughts, ideas, and inputs on the shortlisted contributions. Dates and locations for the **Global Dialogues** are as follows:

Date	Activity	Location
9 March 2016	Hearing	London, United Kingdom
10 March 2016	Global Dialogue	London, United Kingdom
16 March 2016	Hearing	Johannesburg, South Africa
17 March 2016	Global Dialogue	Johannesburg, South Africa



Report of the High-Level Panel

The High-Level Panel will meet with its Expert Advisory Group to consider the inputs received through the Call for Contributions, the Hearings and the Global Dialogues, and to discuss the framework for the report of the High-Level Panel. In continuous interaction with its Expert Advisory Group, the High-Level Panel will develop its conclusions and recommendations. The final report of the High-Level Panel will be submitted to the Secretary-General, in June 2016.

More information on the High-Level Panel can be found at: <http://www.unsgaccessmeds.org>

