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30 March 2016

Dear Ms. Dreifuss,
Dear Mr. Mogae,

On behalf of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), I am pleased to share the enclosed brief paper on strengthening local pharmaceutical production in Africa with the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines.

This paper summarizes the critical, cross-cutting impact that strengthened pharmaceutical production capabilities in Africa can make to improved access to innovation on the continent. Industry has an important role to play across a number of the different models that have been proposed to the High-Level Panel. We believe that a strong pharmaceutical industry able to produce quality-assured, innovative products, whether under license or within a different intellectual property paradigm, is vital if Africa is to benefit from access to new innovations addressing pandemic diseases and emerging health priorities.

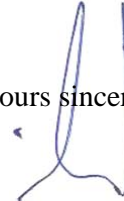
WHO, UNIDO and other partners are working with African organizations and Governments to build capacity and address the multiple barriers to developing industry. The work is ongoing and progress is being made. However, accelerating and sustaining improved access requires that robust structures for coordinated collaboration be put in place and that the international community support this agenda more rigorously.

Ms. Ruth Dreifuss
Co-Chair
Mr. Festus Mogae
Co-Chair
UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel
on Access to Medicines

This submission is made following the hearings and global dialogue held by the High-Level Panel in London and Johannesburg. We wish to suggest that as the Panel deliberates on these inputs it could consider highlighting that strengthened pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity will be an important facilitating factor for improved access to innovation in Africa.

We wish the High-Level Panel every success and look forward to continuing supporting this important work.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe R. Scholtès
Managing Director
Programme Development and
Technical Cooperation