



Press Release - Cipla

6<sup>th</sup> November 2006

***FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOHA DECLARATION –  
14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2001***

The Doha Declaration of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2001 was a historic event. All the seven points formulated after a process of considerable diligence were mindful of the public health problems faced by the developing and least developed countries of the world. Its focus included HIV/AIDS, T.B., Malaria and other epidemics. However, unfortunately, even five years later its provisions have not been implemented.

The impact of non-implementation of the initial Doha Declaration will certainly be felt throughout the third world. **Cipla** was the first company worldwide in 2001, to radically bring down the price of anti-AIDS triple combination drugs from US\$ 12,000 per patient per year to below US\$ 1 per day. Over the past 5 years this has had a significant impact on the treatment of HIV/AIDS. As of today, approximately 1.3 million HIV positive patients are being treated by anti-retroviral drugs, of which approximately one third i.e. 400,000 are on **Cipla's** medications, the cost of which today is well below US\$ 150 per patient per year for the first line triple drug regimentation.

**Cipla** strongly believes that access to medicines is a fundamental human right. **Cipla** has consistently articulated this belief at various public forums in the past. To be more emphatic, "What's the use of developing life-saving medicines if you can't make them affordable to the patient?"

Currently, **Cipla** continues to make available most of the HIV/AIDS drugs that were invented prior to the WTO Agreement on patents (1995), at affordable prices. However, patents are likely to prevent **Cipla** from producing affordable versions of the most recent HIV drugs available in the world, such as atazanavir, darunavir or tipranavir. Indeed, the WTO mandates that these medicines shall be patentable in every country. In effect this means that **Cipla** can no longer develop any generic versions of new and emerging medicines for a dreaded disease like HIV/AIDS.

Thus, five years after the Doha Declaration, the world has not upheld its promise to the poor and diseased. The obstacles posed by the globalization of patents is still blocking access to medicines at affordable prices. Worse, whereas the Doha Declaration called for the WTO agreement on patents to be implemented in a manner conducive to access to medicines, in reality India was pressured last year into broadening the scope of patents and narrowing the scope of compulsory licensing - well beyond its obligations under the TRIPS agreement.

**Cipla** recognizes the fact that intellectual property has to be suitably rewarded, but the third world countries including India cannot afford a monopoly in health care. It is imperative that the original Doha Declaration of 2001 be passed in its original form, with a clause of compulsory licensing of all valid patents for all essential drugs required in the third world under payment of a nominal royalty to the originator. Unless this is done, newer drugs developed for HIV such as the integrase inhibitors and newer protease inhibitors will never be freely available at equitable prices. As a company that contributes towards making life better for everyone and follows a humanitarian approach to diseases prevalent, essentially in the third world, **Cipla** would very much like to see the world take a positive stand and urgently implement the original Doha Declaration.

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