

Press statement

UNAIDS WELCOMES BREAKTHROUGHS IN AIDS TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

Geneva, 30 November 2006 – The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) welcomes the announcement by the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative regarding new negotiations on AIDS treatment for children that will mean increased availability of child-friendly antiretroviral products at lower prices.

UNAIDS congratulates the Clinton Foundation, pharmaceutical companies Cipla and Ranbaxy and the international drug purchase facility UNITAID for their combined action to help provide more children with much needed pediatric treatment.

The new negotiations between the partners will see Indian pharmaceutical companies Cipla and Ranbaxy produce a ‘three-in-one’ dispersible antiretroviral tablet for less than \$60 per child per year. The agreements also mean lower prices for 19 pediatric formulations by 45% for 62 Countries and a \$50 million effort led by the Clinton Foundation with UNITAID to assist 40 countries to expand treatment to 100,000 additional children in 2007.

“This is an example of exceptional innovative partnership and concrete action that is going to make a significant difference to millions of children living with HIV,” said UNAIDS Executive Director Dr Peter Piot. “Developments in antiretroviral treatment for children have so far been sorely lacking in the AIDS response.” he said.

Contact

Beth Magne-Watts | UNAIDS Geneva | +41 22 791 5074 | magnewatts@unaids.org