

Statement

UNAIDS commends Merck ATRIPLA decision

Geneva, 16 February 2007 – UNAIDS commends Merck's decision to register ATRIPLA in developing countries. The registration of ATRIPLA, a once-daily single tablet regimen for treatment of HIV infection in adults, exemplifies the joint efforts of two research and development leaders, Merck Co. and Gilead Sciences to make essential medicines available to those in need.

UNAIDS also welcomes the Merck's decision to make ATRIPLA available at differential prices and encourages the pharmaceutical industry as a whole to intensify their efforts to rapidly increase the affordability and accessibility of high quality medicines and technologies in low and middle income countries.

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UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN system organizations to the global AIDS response. Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Based in Geneva, the UNAIDS secretariat works on the ground in more than 80 countries world wide. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at www.unaids.org