

# Statement

## UNAIDS commends efforts to lower prices for AIDS treatment in low-and middle-income countries

**Geneva, 8 May 2007** – The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) applauds the announcement made today by the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI) which puts in place new reduced prices for antiretroviral medicines in low-and middle-income countries.

“Today’s efforts, and in particular those to reduce the price of second-line drugs, are another demonstration of the commitment of the Clinton Foundation, pharmaceutical companies and UNITAID to the target of universal access for HIV prevention, treatment and care,” said Dr Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director.

The Clinton Foundation has worked with pharmaceutical companies Cipla and Matrix Laboratories and the international drug purchase facility UNITAID in a combined action to help lower costs for AIDS treatment. Today’s announcement includes commitments from the two Indian pharmaceutical companies, Cipla and Matrix Laboratories, to lower the price of seven drugs in 14 formulations across the 65 countries which are now part of the Foundation’s Procurement Consortium, as well as price reductions of second-line drugs in low-and middle-income countries.

During the past three years the prices of most first-line medications decreased by between 37% and 53% in low-and-middle income countries. Yet average prices for second-line medicines remain largely unaffordable, especially in middle-income countries where price reductions have been slower.

Innovations for first-line therapy, including a once-a-day combination pill with well tolerated medicines, offer significant advantages. However such products are currently two-to three-times more expensive than the most widely used first-line fixed-dose combinations in low-and middle-income countries.

### Contact

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UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations to respond to AIDS. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through the UN theme groups, and the joint programmes on AIDS. Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)