



Workshop
“Current Trends in Intellectual Property Policy and Public Health”
June 29th, 2005

The Center for the Study of Developing Countries (CSDC) Cairo University, the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held a National Dialogue on “Current Trends in Intellectual Property Policy and Public Health”, which aimed at gathering all stakeholders involved in the field of IPRs and health in Egypt to allow for an open discussion and creative exchange of ideas in a way that helps supporting sustainable development.

Taking into consideration the presentations, the comments and questions made during the dialogue, we came to some recommendations that aim to lead us in forthcoming discussions and symposiums in the field of intellectual property rights and public health:

- The importance of taking concerns related to public health into consideration when negotiating intellectual property rights on a bilateral, regional and multilateral level. These negotiations should generally take the conditions and needs of the Egyptian society into account.
- Importance of a permanent task force that helps Egypt to make utmost use of current International Agreements.
- Support the role of civil society in providing a suitable environment that ensures the citizens' right to medicine.
- Encourage the Egyptian private sector to invest in drug development.
- Investigate options for the provision of health insurance to all Egyptians.
- Intensifying a scientific research policy, with medicine at its core.
- Benefiting from new developments in the field of scientific research.
- The need for fundamental reform in the way we develop medicines so as to achieve sustainable development.
- Stimulating research centers in developed countries to support needs in developing countries.
- Using strategic analysis in developing research systems.
- Collecting all research done on the impact of the TRIPS Agreement on public health.
- Re-studying the text of the Agreement in order to make greater use of the Agreement's flexibilities.



- The importance of signing Material Transfer Agreements in order to protect and control ways in which organic material is used within and outside of Egypt.
- The importance of considering the human dimension when intellectual property law is formulated and implemented.
- Settling the conflict between intellectual property agreements and human rights agreements.
- Investigating mechanisms for international cooperation related to the links between human rights and intellectual property agreement, given that public health is part of human rights.
- The importance of developing a “National Database” to describe and register all vital resources that are considered part of national wealth, such as rare medical plants. This should be done in a way that ensures the right of state, society and individuals to benefit from their national wealth even if they are not able to make use of it.
- Analysing the status of the health sector in Egypt, including the country’s wider health policy and national medicine prices.
- Studying both the social and ethical effects of implementing national legislation and international agreements in the field of intellectual property rights.
- The need for an assessment on the impact of changes in medicine prices on medicine supply as well as the underlying reasons that lead to fluctuations in drug prices.
- Investigate options for a comprehensive treatment policy for the Egyptian citizen.