

(1) Richard Nelson, who is the Henry R. Luce Professor of International Political Economy at Columbia University.

"I am not going to write a detailed review of the CPTECH proposal. I will say the following. First, in my view the statement points to a real and serious problem with the present set of regimes for supporting medical R and D, and the current regime for inducing the development of pharmaceuticals is particularly problematic. Further, I agree with the implicit position of the statement that the current regime is protected and supported by both ideology and interests, and that gaining serious reform will not be an easy thing. But second, I see no particular virtues in going for an international treaty in which countries agree that the system needs reform. In many countries, particularly the US, interests and ideology likely would block the signing of such a treaty. And even if a number of countries signed, enforcement would be virtually impossible. Thus in my view pushing the idea of getting a treaty is not particularly promising. And it probably diverts attention from a variety of other things that actually might be doable."