

**Comments – Draft Global Strategy and Plan of Action  
(A/PHI/IGWG/2/2 of July 31, 2007)**

Novartis considers itself a full partner with the WHO and its Member States in the quest for improving healthcare overall in developing countries. As such, we take an active interest in the work of the Intergovernmental Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG) and appreciate this opportunity to participate in the second public hearing sponsored by the IGWG.

In the comments which follow, Novartis wishes to reflect on our experience in informing the IGWG and urge that the draft global strategy and plan of action be redirected in a number of respects so that attention and resources are properly focused on patients – those who will benefit directly from the increased efforts to combat the spread of Type II and Type III diseases in developing countries. As outlined in our previous submission to the IGWG, many of Novartis' activities contribute to the expansion of capacity building and fulfillment of health needs in developing countries, which are important and necessary complements to our research-based work. We expect to continue building on such cooperation in the developing world in the future. Inasmuch as chronic diseases affect developed and developing countries alike, and much research and development is already devoted to the treatment of such diseases, we believe the IGWG plan should focus only on Type II and Type III diseases.

Haller, Tracy — Novartis