

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, PROFIT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ANTIRETROVIRALS IN THE UNDER-SERVED MARKETS: MERGING INTO A MULTI- PRONGED, INCENTIVE-BOUND VOLUNTARY LICENSE STRATEGY

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Summary

This contribution explores fitness of a multi-pronged, incentive-bound WHO-mediated voluntary license strategy for attuning together research, innovation, profit and equitable access to antiretrovirals in the under-served markets. Model potentials were investigated through examining: 1) the predictable effect on current regulatory practices (TRIPS rules and TRIPS-plus measures), 2) the expected benefits, either in terms of equity or safeguard of the generic and brand name manufacturers's interests, 3) the interplay dynamics with drug trading policies of deeply concerned countries (China, India, European Union, United States, Brazil, South Africa and Thailand), 4) the suitability for helping generic plants for antiretrovirals, including home plants in Sub-Saharan Africa, undertake research & development partnerships encompassing innovation, technological catch-up, exploitation of TRIPS flexibilities, as well as raised marketing power and domestic employment increase.

This study suggests that explored strategy, though far from being the ideal solution, looks reliable to help expand, as long as it entwines with WHO's brokerage, equitable and sustainable access to appropriate antiretrovirals by resource-limited populations, while boosting know-how, technology transfer, innovation, research & development, as well as national industry plants development and penetration of the wealthy and under-served markets by generic drug enterprises.