

President Kuczinsky: We demand sustainable solutions for access to medicines

It is urgent to declare atazanavir of public interest and grant the compulsory license

The undersigned civil society organizations salute the will of the Brazilian government, which for the second year (2015 and 2017) donates to the Peruvian government 300,000 Atazanavir tablets from the pharmaceutical company Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS). This donation favors the continuation of the treatment of people living with HIV / AIDS and represents a saving of more than US\$ 1,5 millions, money that should be used to ensure the treatment and care of many other diseases.

The donation reflects the unsuccessful results of negotiations with the pharmaceutical BMS to obtain fair prices that permit the efficient use of public resources. Therefore, the government should implement mechanisms to regulate the market and prevent price abuses.

We demand sustainable solutions from the government to ensure access to medicines for all. It is his responsibility to enable the use of the compulsory license by declaring the antiretroviral atazanavir to be of public interest, as it was the original proposal of the Ministry of Health, more than two years ago, and which is still under discussion in the Council of Ministers.

We also request the Peruvian Congress to approve the bill 275/2016-CR, to declare the drug to be of public interest, a prior step for the use of the compulsory license.

We remember as well that in the opinion of the Ombudsman's Office, the declaration of public interest of atazanavir must be approved, to guarantee the exercise of fundamental rights.

Civil society organizations and professional associations demand a decent treatment and a health system that responds efficiently when required, ensuring the efficient use of resources and the right to health for all.

Lima, June 20th of 2017

