

To Brazilian Minister of Health, Gilberto Occhi

CC.: Adeilson Cavalcante, Executive-Secretary;

CC.: Adele Benzaken, Director of the Brazilian Department on STI, AIDS and Hepatitis C

Amsterdam, July 27, 2018

We Civil Society Organizations from all over the world respectfully write to you, Mr. Minister of Health, to express our support of the initiative by this Ministry to lower Hepatitis C drugs prices in Brazil. As you know, there is currently a global crisis regarding access to medicines

and the time for governments to take action to guarantee the people's right to health is now. In 2014, we were faced with Gilead's US price for 12-week treatment with sofosbuvir of US\$ 84,000. How come that a disease that affects 325 millions of people around the world has its cure and people cannot access it? That has raised deep concerns in all of us that depend on a daily basis the right of people to have access to medicines.

This case is emblematic. A part of research was public-funded, several scientists from several companies worked on this development, making it collaborative and faster, bringing hope to all those who could not stand anymore a painful and mainly ineffective interferon-based treatment.

Since then, we have been restless doing our jobs to make sure that the pricing policy of one company would not impede people to access the cure of Hepatitis C. We have filled oppositions in several countries, engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogues to convince governments to not accept Gilead's price, we have exposed Gilead's policy in a number of situations and there was some good news.

Egypt, for instance, rejected Sofosbuvir patent applications and cure almost all the people with Hepatitis C in the country with generic national production. Malaysia issued a compulsory license, an absolutely legal and legit instrument, and is about to start to distribute generic sofosbuvir with a much lower price. Malaysia has managed to get Sofosbuvir and daclastavir for less than \$300 and they have already rolled out free treatment in at least 21 public hospitals. However, some countries are still locked by Gilead's monopolies and pressures. Brazil is one of them.

Although the price offered by Gilead to Brazil was almost ten times lower than the US price, it was almost 40 times higher than its cost of production. The Brazilian civil society efforts to put sofosbuvir in public domain, allowing generics into the market, are remarkable. The efforts by Brazilian national pharmaceutical industry, both public and private, developing a 100% national version of sofosbuvir

and getting the market approval are remarkable. The only sector that was not doing its part to achieve a massive price reduction for sofosbuvir was the Ministry of Health. But that changed on July 11th.

We learnt that on that day Brazilian Minister of Health, through the Department of STDs, HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis (DIAHV, acronym in Portuguese) gathered all the companies ready to supply treatment for Hepatitis C in one room in order to reach the lowest possible price to a future government purchase.

According to the information we obtained, the combination sofosbuvir (generic by Farmanguinhos) and daclatasvir (Janssen) was the lowest price offer. A purchase by the MoH with this price will represent savings of almost R\$ 1 billion, if we compare with current price offered by Gilead to the Brazilian government. The results of this meeting were important not just for Brazilian response to HepC, but also globally. They are important to the Brazilian population for obvious reasons, since with these savings the Brazilian government will finally have the opportunity to offer HepC treatment to a larger number of people and stick to the commitment to eliminate the disease from the country by 2030, without jeopardizing the whole health budget. From a global perspective, it is important to show other countries that it is possible to put the health of the people before the interests of companies and because there will be another generic supplier in the world. Finally, we welcome the Brazilian government initiative and encourage you to move forward with this purchase and guarantee the right to treatment to hundreds of thousands of people living with HepC in Brazil.

REVS+, Burkina Faso

Access to Medicines Ireland

Acción Internacional por la Salud - Perú

AIDS Access Foundation - Tailândia

All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV

ARAS - The Romanian Association Against AIDS, Romania

Coalition PLUS - France

COCQ-SIDA, Canada

Fundación Grupo Efecto Positivo – Argentina

Groupe Sida Genève - Switzerland

Health GAP - USA

IFARMA - Colombia

I-Mak - USA

Instituto para el Desarrollo Humano - Bolivia

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition - Global

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition - Middle East Northern Africa

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition - Eastern Europe and Central Asia

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition – Latin American and Caribbean

Make Medicines Affordable Consortium - Global

PF AGEP'C - Kazakhstan

RedLAM - Latin American Network for Access to Medicines - Latin American

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Third World Network - Malaysia

Treatment Action Campaign, TAC – South Africa

Treatment Action Group - USA