

Statement on UNITAID Medicines Patent Pool

Merck, in principle, supports the objectives of the Medicines Patent Pool Foundation for expanding access to HIV medicines. Merck has demonstrated its commitment to improved access to HIV medicines through longstanding efforts over many years, including differential pricing, voluntary licensing, public-private partnerships, philanthropic programs, and continued research and development efforts in HIV.

While we continue to monitor and assess the Medicines Patent Pool proposal, Merck's immediate focus is on implementing our access strategy for ISENTRESS in Low-Income countries and sub-Saharan Africa as part of our ongoing efforts to further enhance global access to our HIV medicines. Through this comprehensive, innovative strategy, Merck will bring ISENTRESS to the areas of greatest need at a significantly reduced price, while facilitating generic competition in these areas of greatest need through voluntary licenses. Merck will invest in local healthcare capacity and will maintain a local presence to provide support for healthcare providers and patients through ongoing medical education and pharmacovigilance.

Merck remains willing to meet with the Medicines Patent Pool Foundation to continue to discuss developments with the patent pool.