

## PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

# MEDICINES PATENT POOL

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Merck has demonstrated its commitment to improved access to its medicines through longstanding efforts over many years, including differential pricing, voluntary licensing, public-private partnerships, philanthropic programs, and continued research and development efforts in areas of high public health need.

Merck believes that the commitment of all stakeholders, including governments, donors, civil society, and industry, is needed to address the multiple issues impacting access to healthcare. In certain instances, Merck may work with multi-lateral mechanisms when they offer additional opportunity to enhance access beyond those of Merck's ongoing access strategies in the areas of greatest disease burden and where governments have the least ability to finance healthcare.

One example of this is in pediatric HIV treatment, where multi-sector efforts are needed to facilitate development of appropriate combination formulations and to promote manufacturing and supply of these pediatric formulations.

Merck has engaged with the efforts of multiple stakeholders, including with PEPFAR and with the UNITAID, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) and Medicines Patent Pool Foundation led multi-stakeholder Pediatric HIV Treatment Initiative (PHTI) which seeks to increase access to pediatric HIV treatment through the development of improved or new pediatric formulations of HIV medicines. In support of this initiative, Merck entered into an agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool regarding licenses on the pediatric formulations of raltegravir.

Merck will assess the potential for engagement in similar multi-stakeholder mechanisms based on the nature of the access challenges, the commitments of partners, and the potential for meaningful impact.