

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable  
Standard of Physical and Mental Health

Dear Sir,

The AIDS Institute is a national public policy research, advocacy, and education organization whose mission is to promote action for social change. In our more than 15 years of existence, we have been staunch advocates for policies and programs that benefit people living with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and Hepatitis. A priority for this organization is patient access to care and treatment. As a member organization of the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO), we have been monitoring the proposals put forth by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property (IGWG) of the World Health Organization. During the open public comment period on the draft legislation that was put forth by IGWG, we submitted comments reflecting our position on the proposed recommendations. As a patient advocacy organization, our sole interest is the welfare of people (patients) living with sickness and disease around the world. I have attached our comments for your review and consideration.

The AIDS Institute supports efforts to increase patients' access to lifesaving medicine, but shares the concern of many in the patient advocacy community that approach under consideration as it relates to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRS) would have the adverse effect of hampering research and development of innovative therapeutics and technology that would benefit patients and, possibly, lead to a cure for many dreaded diseases that plague the developing world.

Respectfully submitted,

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