



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS

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Press statement

UNAIDS APPLAUDS CLINTON FOUNDATION'S AGREEMENT WITH PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES TO CUT PRICES OF AIDS DRUGS

23 October 2003- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) applauds today's agreement between the Clinton Foundation and four generic pharmaceutical companies -- Aspen Pharmacare Holdings, Cipla, Ranbaxy Laboratories, and Matrix Laboratories -- to dramatically lower the price of HIV/AIDS treatment in the developing world. This builds on the Clinton Foundation's work with the governments of several countries in Africa and the Caribbean to develop plans to strengthen their health care systems.

Today's agreement, building on previous price reductions by both research and development-based and generic pharmaceutical companies, promises to bring the annual base cost for antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS to as low as US\$140 per person per year. This is important progress towards achieving the realistic target established by the World Health Organization and UNAIDS to provide HIV antiretroviral therapy to 3 million people in the most severely affected nations by 2005.

Meeting the challenges of providing HIV therapy on this scale will require the coordination, commitment, and resources of multinational organizations, donor and recipient governments, foundations, businesses, including the pharmaceutical industry, non-governmental organizations, and people living with HIV/AIDS – each of which has a vital role to play.

Today's announcement is part of a growing global movement now underway to dramatically scale up the world's response to the AIDS epidemic, which includes the new United States Government's global AIDS initiative, the "3x5" initiative launched by WHO and UNAIDS, and the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB And Malaria.

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