UNAIDS PRESS RELEASE

UNAIDS welcomes announcement of significant price reduction in the cost of life-saving insulin for low- and middle-income countries

New initiatives to support access to health care announced at the UNAIDS Health Innovation Exchange meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 25 September 2019—UNAIDS welcomes the announcement by Biocon Biologics, a biotech company, to offer recombinant human insulin (rh-insulin) at US$ 0.10 per day (for the average 40 units of insulin that is required per patient per day) to low- and middle-income countries, a reduction of 50% from current prices. This announcement was made at an event hosted by UNAIDS to promote innovation in access to health care.

“Price should not be reason to choose between life and death,” said Gunilla Carlsson, UNAIDS Executive Director, a.i. “AIDS activism has led the way in reducing the price of life-saving medicines and saving millions of lives. Today, we are glad that the universal health coverage movement is also benefitting from the lessons learned by the AIDS response.”

More than 400 million people worldwide are affected by diabetes. Evidence shows that, as they live longer, many people living with HIV and on HIV treatment are increasingly susceptible to noncommunicable diseases.

Several other companies made new commitments in support of increasing access to health care at an event organized by the UNAIDS Health Innovation Exchange on the topic of decentralization, innovation and sustainable financing, which was held in collaboration with the Center for...

The Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence, an independent, non-profit research institute and global hub that is developing artificial intelligence solutions for social good, has committed to establishing a centre of excellence to leverage the use of artificial intelligence for global health.

ThoughtFocus, a technology services company working on the internet of things (IoT), will provide access to its IoT platform, which is optimized to serve as an affordable, reliable and efficient platform to build and extend IoT solutions for transportation, logistics, manufacturing and utilities related to health-care services. The IoT has opened up a world of possibilities in health: when connected to the Internet, ordinary medical devices can collect invaluable additional data, give extra insight into symptoms and trends, enable remote care and generally give people more control over their lives and quality of treatment.

Zenysis, a technology company, announced that it was investing US$ 3.5 million to implement data pilots in five countries over the coming three years that will help countries to make evidence-informed decisions in rolling out universal health coverage and prioritizing investments in health systems.

“The private sector has a key role to play in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Ms Carlsson. “At UNAIDS, we believe that innovation and partnerships are the future to solving many of the basic development issues that confront us daily.”

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UNAIDS
The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely...
IPCC PRESS RELEASE

Choices made now are critical for the future of our ocean and cryosphere

MONACO, Sept 25 – The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report highlights the urgency of prioritizing timely, ambitious and coordinated action to address unprecedented and enduring changes in the ocean and cryosphere.

The report reveals the benefits of ambitious and effective adaptation for sustainable development and, conversely, the escalating costs and risks of delayed action.

The ocean and the cryosphere – the frozen parts of the planet – play a critical role for life on Earth. A total of 670 million people in high mountain regions and 680 million people in low-lying coastal zones depend directly on these systems. Four million people live permanently in the Arctic region, and small island developing states are home to 65 million people.

Global warming has already reached 1°C above the pre-industrial level, due to past and current greenhouse gas emissions. There is overwhelming evidence that this is resulting in profound consequences for ecosystems and people. The ocean is warmer, more acidic and less productive. Melting glaciers and ice sheets are causing sea level rise, and coastal extreme events are becoming more severe.

The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, approved on 24 September 2019 by the 195 IPCC member governments, provides new evidence for the benefits of limiting global warming to the lowest possible level – in line with the goal that governments...
set themselves in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions limits the scale of ocean and cryosphere changes. Ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them can be preserved...

Full press release can be found [here](#).

The full report and a summary can be downloaded here: [www.ipcc.ch/srocc/download-report](http://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/download-report)

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**United Nations**

SECRETARY-GENERAL’S MESSAGE

**MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

26 September 2019

“Nuclear weapons pose a unique and potentially existential threat to our planet. Any use of nuclear weapons would be a humanitarian catastrophe. Much progress has been made in reducing the dangers, but today I fear that not only has that progress come to a halt, it is going in reverse.

Relations between nuclear-armed States are mired in mistrust. Dangerous rhetoric about the utility of nuclear weapons is on the rise. A qualitative nuclear arms race is underway. The painstakingly constructed arms control regime is fraying. Divisions over the pace and scale of disarmament are growing. I worry that we are slipping back into bad habits that will once again hold the entire world hostage to the threat of nuclear annihilation.

With last month’s expiration of the landmark Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty – or INF, the world lost an invaluable brake on nuclear war. I strongly encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to extend the so-called ‘New Start’ agreement to provide stability and the time to negotiate future arms control measures.

I also repeat my call on all State Parties to work together for a successful 2020 Review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
The Non-Proliferation Treaty remains the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents the concerns of many States about the growing threat of nuclear weapons. And the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty remains a long-overdue measure.

I once again call on all States to fully implement their commitments. I also call on those States possessing nuclear weapons to engage in the urgent dialogue needed to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and agree on near-term practical steps in nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear weapons present an unacceptable danger to humanity. The only real way to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons is to eliminate nuclear weapons.”

About the Day:

The General Assembly commemorates 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. This Day provides an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority. It provides an opportunity to educate the public - and their leaders - about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them. Commemorating this Day at the United Nations is especially important, given its universal membership and its long experience in grappling with nuclear disarmament issues. It is the right place to address one of humanity’s greatest challenges; achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/32 and subsequent resolutions, the purpose of the International Day is to further the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination. In so doing, it is hoped that these activities will help to mobilize new international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

For more information:

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