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Basel, March 11, 2014

Dear Sir / Madame,

I am writing in response to your letter of February 24 to our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Joe Jimenez, inquiring about our company's position on the recent events in the pharmaceutical industry in South Africa.

Firstly, we would like to emphasize that Novartis supports the broad objectives of South Africa's draft national policy on IP, namely a stated desire to strengthen aspects of South Africa's patent system, promote innovation, improve compliance with international treaties, and to engender confidence and attract investment in South Africa, all while improving patient health through better access to healthcare, medicine and technology.

Secondly, we support all opportunities for dialogue with the South African Government and other stakeholders on how those objectives can best be achieved through constructive changes to the IP system and continuing to ensure that South Africa remains an attractive environment for innovation and investment. Novartis South Africa is a committed healthcare partner in South Africa.

With respect to the draft PAE campaign proposal, Novartis would like to be clear that it originated from a third party and that Novartis was not involved in drafting the document, nor did it support or approve the draft document either independently or in its capacity as a member of IPASA.

We hope that this response answers the questions you raise in your letter. Should you have any further concerns in this respect, we would be pleased to address them.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Petra Laux'.

Dr. Petra Laux, MPH