

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

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Note for the media WHO/29
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WHO TO HOLD SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

GENEVA -- All parties with an interest in the upcoming second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG) on 5-10 November 2007 are invited to present their views to a web-based public hearing organized by the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO again encourages individuals, civil society groups, government institutions, academic and research institutions, the private sector and other interested parties to contribute to the open hearings between 15 August and 30 September.

The web-based public hearing provides an opportunity for everyone, including the general public, to propose solutions aimed at fostering innovation for the creation of new medicines and health products against diseases that disproportionately affect poor and marginalized populations.

Contributions received between 15 August and 30 September will form part of the documentation to be considered and discussed at the November meeting.

The six-week web-based public hearing will run from 15 August until 30 September. Beginning 15 August, contributions can be submitted via the dedicated website in any of the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

For instructions and to submit contributions, please visit the following website: http://www.who.int/phi/public_hearings/second/ For those without access to the Internet, submissions can be sent by fax at: +41 22 791 48 89.

Submissions must not exceed five A4 pages. Contributors are encouraged to provide a summary of their comments, which must not exceed 500 words.

For more information, please contact:

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All press releases, fact sheets and other WHO media material may be found at: www.who.int.