

Proposed Board Resolution on Proposed Agreement with Novartis on Nilotinib

The Governance Board of the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) thanks the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) and members of the Scientific Advisory Panel for their report assessing the final results of negotiations between MPP and Novartis on a proposed licence agreement (“Agreement”) for nilotinib, a treatment for chronic myeloid leukemia. The Board has reviewed the EAG report and the proposed Agreement between MPP and Novartis. The Board agrees with the EAG's assessment that the proposed collaboration is consistent with the MPP's mandate as defined in its Statutes.

The Board also notes that the EAG was unable to reach consensus on whether the proposed Agreement represents an improvement over the status quo. The Board agrees that there is risk in moving forward with the proposed Agreement in that it may set too low a bar for future MPP licences in cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly given the fact that the proposed Agreement would have limited impact.

However, the Board stresses the importance of demonstrating that the MPP model can make an impact in NCDs, and views this as a potential important first step forward in this field. The Board hopes that moving forward with the proposed Agreement will encourage Novartis and other potential licensors in NCDs to license other important medicines to treat NCDs and with a broader geographical reach.

The decision to approve the licence was reached through majority vote, following thorough discussions among Board members.

In accordance with the EAG's recommendation, the Board stresses that this Agreement be viewed as an exploratory test case and should not be viewed as a benchmark for future licences in the field of NCDs.