



# AMERICAN RUSSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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## Summary

The American Russian Medical Association (ARMA) would like to take this opportunity to comment on the issue of public health, innovation and intellectual property protection, which is the subject of current IGWG hearing. We want to express our deep concerns about the spirit and the letter of the Draft global strategy and plan of action that has been presented by IGWG to the public recently. With growing anxiety we are watching IGWG developing the alternatives to the current private sector innovation model. And in that regard the attempts of some developing countries, like Thailand or Brazil, to use the compulsory licensing as a vehicle for arbitrarily patent breaking is especially troublesome.

ARMA members are aware and in full support of the considerable progress that has been made in recent years by governments, industry, charitable foundations, and nongovernmental organizations in funding initiatives to develop new products to fight diseases affecting developing countries, and to increase access to existing ones. However, we are opposing strongly the idea of expanding those efforts at the expense of the intellectual property rights system. It took about two hundred years to develop and fine-tune gradually the existing international IP law. Under protection of that law researches and inventors all over the world have created and developed more than 90% of all know-how acquired by the humankind in its whole history.