United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines

16 July 2016 –The United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines will convene a press briefing on **Monday, 18 July at 10:00–10:45 in press conference room 1 at the International Conference Centre**. The press briefing will discuss the reasons for the establishment of the High-Level Panel as well as an update on its work. Speakers include:

- Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General;
- Ruth Dreifuss, Co-chair of the High-Level Panel and former President of Swiss Federation;
- Malebona Precious Matsoso, High-Level Panel Member and Director-General, Department of Health, South Africa
- Lorena di Giano, Member of the High-Level Panel’s Expert Advisory Group and General Coordinator of the Latin American Network for Access to Medicines
- Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director of Health and HIV at the United Nations Development Programme (moderator).

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened the High-Level Panel in November 2015 to address the policy incoherence between the justifiable rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules and public health in the context of health technologies. Following its call for contributions, the High-Level Panel received 182 submissions from industry, government, civil society groups, multilateral organizations and academia. In March 2016, the High-Level Panel held two global dialogues – in London and Johannesburg – where participants discussed and proposed solutions to the challenges of promoting innovation and access to medicines, vaccines and diagnostics.

Media who attend the briefing will hear more about the Panel’s establishment, an update on its work and will have the opportunity to ask questions. Further background information is available on the High-Level Panel’s website.

**WHAT:** Media Briefing on the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines  
**WHEN:** 18 July 2016: 10:00 – 10:45  
**WHERE:** International Conference Centre, Press Conference Room 1, Durban, South Africa  
**WEBSITE:** [http://www.unsgaccessmeds.org](http://www.unsgaccessmeds.org)  
**RSVP TO:** jbutler@globalhealthstrategies.com +1 917 573 1339, +27 741680860

**Note to the Editor**

The United Nations Secretary-Generals High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines comprises of 16 eminent, individuals with a deep knowledge and understanding of the broad range of legal, trade, public health and human rights issues associated with innovation and access to medicines and health technologies. The High-Level Panel is Co-chaired by Ruth Dreifuss, former President of the Swiss Federation and former President Festus Mogae of Botswana. Biographies and additional information on the High-Level Panel can be accessed from www.UNSGaccessmeds.org