

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: I think we have to redesign the governance of the international arrangements, the international institutions. We have to recognize that we share one planet and that there are basic principles of fairness and equity that we have to adhere to; that the kind of hypocrisy that has characterized the past really cannot be sustained. It's one of the great things about openness and transparency. ... These things have brought out in the open. One of great achievements of the last five years is that people have seen, become aware of some of the feelings of the way things were done in the past, recognize that excessively strong intellectual-property protection meant that people in countries like South Africa were being condemned to death because they would not be able to get access to AIDS drugs. And that was changed in Doha (site of the 2002 World Trade Organization meeting, in Qatar). But it took a massive global protest to do it.

When I was in the White House ... (as chairman of President Clinton's) Council of Economic Advisors, discussions of these intellectual-property regimes were going on. We thought that what was being advocated in the Uruguay Round was unbalanced. We thought it didn't pay enough attention to the users, both the users in the developing countries and the users in the academic community, and that as a result, not only would there be these kinds of inequities that people had been talking about, but even the pace of innovation might be slowed down. But the agreements that were made were dictated by the corporate and financial interests. Those interests who want a stronger protection dominated. There was not a balanced discussion. And the consequences of that have now been made clear. And so the good news is that as we've seen these inequities, there is an outcry around the world, not only from the South, who recognizes, who's lived with this for decades, but also from well-intentioned people in the North who have said, "How can we accept this?"