



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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Ministry of Enterprise and
Innovation

Sweden

Opening Statement by Sweden at the 55th Series of
Meetings of the WIPO Assemblies

Text in **bold** delivered in plenary

Mr Chair,

First of all we would like to congratulate you on your election; we are looking forward to a productive meeting under your guidance. Our congratulations also extend to the vice-chairs.

This delegation fully supports the statements made by Japan on behalf of Group B and by Luxemburg, on behalf of EU and its member states.

Sweden would like to express our thanks to the Director General and Deputy Director Generals and Assistant Director Generals. We appreciate the work done and the contributions made to further the work of WIPO.

In particular, this Delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the excellent cooperation between the secretariat and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office in relation to advanced training programmes financed by the Swedish international development cooperation agency, Sida.

Since last Assemblies the three annual training programs which were organised within this collaboration between 2004 and 2014 have been evaluated by independent consultants.

The evaluated programs have had more than 700 participants from Least Developed Countries, and from low and middle income countries.

The consultants found that the training programmes have significantly contributed directly or indirectly to several sustainable and impressive outcomes at country level. These results have potentially promoted innovation, the creative industries and trade.

One important part of the evaluation was the “Conference on Advanced International Training Programmes on Intellectual Property in the Global Economy”, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference was organised by Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV) in cooperation with WIPO and with kind assistance of the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPO), to which I would like to convey my thanks.

At the conference more than 50 former participants took part and shared experiences and views with both Sida officials and WIPO officials from the copyright division, the division for Least Developed Countries and the WIPO Academy.

The result of the evaluation and the valuable input received at the conference has already been materialised in a new series of programs on “Intellectual Property for Least Developed Countries” that will be organised twice a year until 2019. These programs are funded with almost 1 million EUR annually by Sida. The first program will start in November this year.

Moreover, we are presently working on developing new training programs in relation to intellectual property.

Sweden continues to welcome and support measures leading to mechanisms that are responsive, transparent and robust over-time aiming at a more efficient WIPO. Therefore, we compliment the Director General and his team for their work in these areas. And while the organization has made great improvements, there are still challenges ahead. It is of great importance that services of WIPO improve their efficiency as well as meet customers’ needs for international protection of their intellectual property. In line with this, WIPO should

provide and develop the international legal intellectual property framework and the infrastructure, to make best use of IP as a driving force for economic development.

The work of the committees of WIPO is important. We would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to the important work done by the SCT, especially the immense work over the last years with the Design Law Formalities Treaty. We recognize the great importance and added value of harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities and procedures.

Further, Sweden would like to acknowledge the success of the Madrid System. The system plays a vital role in promoting the essence of IP – innovation and creativity.

With regard to the SCCR, we would like to extend our gratitude to the WIPO secretariat for its continuous efforts to move the issues on the agenda forward and we would like to reiterate our commitment to constructively participate in the future deliberations of the Committee.

With regard the subjects of the IGC, Sweden would like to stress the significance of the work carried out by these Committees. Sweden looks forward to establish a framework for future discussions in the IGC. Any work carried out in the IGC should be transparent and member state driven.

With regard to the CWS, Sweden would emphasize the utmost importance of efficient exchange of information for WIPO's global services. Therefore, we regret that the development of new technical standards is hampered by disagreement on non-technical matters, in particular, since there is a need to formalise agreed conclusion that has been reached by the CWS task force on purely technical matters.

Sweden is committed to further the international harmonization of patent law, and regrets that this item is not on the agenda of the SCP at the present time. Nevertheless, Sweden acknowledges the interesting discussions and sharing of views at the committee on various topics in relation to patents. Furthermore we would like to emphasize the great importance of the PCT-system and our commitment to the valuable work of the PCT working group.

Finally, Sweden look forward to continue its successful cooperation within WIPO on the development of the

international intellectual property system to the benefit of economic, social and cultural development of all.

Thank you Chair