

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 121 States, 6 intergovernmental organizations and 8 non-governmental organizations made statements under this agenda item: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), South Centre (CS), American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Health and Environment Program (HEP), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) and Third World Network (TWN).

2. The following Delegations and Representatives invited His Excellency Mr. Duong Chi Dung, Ambassador of Viet Nam, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, to forward the expression of their condolences to the Government and people of Viet Nam on the passing of its President: Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), Indonesia (on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group), Kazakhstan (on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus, and Eastern European Countries), Lithuania (on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States), Switzerland (on behalf of Group B), El Salvador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries), Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), South Centre (CS), American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA),

International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC) and Third World Network (TWN).

3. Delegations and Representatives also thanked the Director General for all his work and untiring efforts in the cause of IP, together with the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the Assemblies meetings.

4. The Delegation of Morocco, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that developing countries, including those in the African Group, recognized the importance of intellectual property (IP) as a driver of economic development, given that modern economies founded on invention and creativity should be underpinned by an effective IP system in a rapidly changing world. Accordingly, international, regional and inter-regional cooperation, as well as capacity-building in developing countries, were tools needed to tackle IP challenges, especially in Africa. The Group thus welcomed the draft agreements concluded between WIPO and various African intergovernmental organizations, in particular the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI). Such legal instruments would enable these two organizations to propose and undertake joint technical assistance programs for the benefit of their member states within the scope of their activities and respective mandates, particularly in the area of cooperation. The Group reiterated its support for WIPO and the technical cooperation activities it carried out for its Member States, including those in the African Group. It hoped that such activities would be strengthened, diversified and expanded so that it could benefit from the services rendered by the Organization to its members. The Group held the view that the most sensitive issue to be dealt with by the Assemblies and the Organization, as noted by the Director General, was norm-setting. While significant progress had been made towards understanding Member States' problems and positions, convening diplomatic conferences on some topics was – for political reasons – a rather labored and at times fraught process. The Group was convinced that the current IP regime did not adequately protect traditional knowledge (TK), genetic resources (GRs) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) and underscored the need for legally binding international instruments in that regard. It sincerely hoped that those instruments would be finalized quickly to make the system more transparent and effective, stimulate research and innovation and help to ensure that the benefits of using such assets were shared fairly and equally, with the ultimate aim of convening a diplomatic conference at the 2019 WIPO General Assembly. The Group considered that matter a priority and wished the Assemblies to recognize that the various issues under discussion should not be ranked in order of importance. Regarding the Design Law Treaty (DLT), the Group reaffirmed its support for an inclusive instrument that took into account the concerns quite legitimately raised by its members and a large number of developing countries. Indeed, the issues of effective technical assistance, capacity-building and disclosure were of paramount importance to developing countries. The Group was disappointed that negotiations on the DLT at the 2017 Assemblies had effectively been postponed until the current series of meetings but was determined to participate constructively in discussions on that agenda item in the spirit of the decision taken by the 2015 Assemblies. It also emphasized the need to effectively protect broadcasting organizations and reiterated its support for convening a diplomatic conference on that matter at the earliest opportunity. The Group believed that the allocation of seats on the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) and the WIPO Coordination Committee was currently imbalanced and should accurately reflect WIPO's membership and the size of each of its regional groups. It would continue to contribute constructively to consultations in that regard with a view to reaching a consensus. The Group regretted that negotiations had not given rise to any decision on the establishment of the four remaining External Offices, despite their importance. It stressed the urgent need to find a solution to that issue, however difficult and complex it may prove, and reiterated its commitment to the entire process. The Group was convinced that such matters could be dealt with favorably provided the delegations strove for goodwill, compromise and consensus. Understanding one another's priorities and concerns was vital if progress was to be

made. Flexibility was key to advancing international common interests and finding a middle ground.

5. The Delegation of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the **Asia and the Pacific Group**, stated that it should be given greater representation in the WIPO Coordination Committee, considering that the majority of accessions to the Paris and Berne Unions had originated from the Group, which was the second largest in WIPO and was one of the major sources of new IP filings globally. The Group had submitted proposals on the Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. The Delegation stated that the PBC should be open to full participation by all interested Member States and expressed the hope that a mutually acceptable solution regarding the Committee's composition would be found. The discussion on hosting External Offices should be given priority and be based on the Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices. The Group welcomed WIPO's sound financial standing and its greater focus on development, but requested that development should continue to be an integral part of all WIPO activities. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) should expedite its work on finalizing an international instrument for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would convene a diplomatic conference on the adoption of a treaty protecting broadcasting organizations and reach consensus on fundamental issues such as the scope and object of protection. In regard to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Marrakesh Treaty), the Group was ready to constructively engage with other Member States in discussions on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions for persons with disabilities, and on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives. In regard to the text of the DLT, further work was needed on technical assistance and capacity-building provisions.

6. The Delegation of Kazakhstan, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Central Asian, Caucasus, and Eastern European States (CACEEC)**, commended WIPO for its continued efforts to develop the system of protection of IP rights. WIPO's activities contributed to the implementation of modern facilities to strengthen the potential and capacity of national patent offices. CACEEC countries had been actively cooperating in this area with WIPO and patent offices of states of other regional groups. The Group called upon the WIPO Secretariat to continue to place special emphasis on programs aimed at capacity-building as an integral part of development in general. It stressed that WIPO's activities in the area of capacity-building and development needed to be balanced and, in particular, to meet the requirements of transition economies, as well as to bridge the knowledge and technology gap, to upgrade infrastructure, and to facilitate access to specialized databases. The Group recognized that WIPO had been able to implement a number of successful technical assistance projects in CACEEC countries in recent years, and stated that it highly appreciated and hoped for continued beneficial cooperation in this area. However, the Group regretted to note that CACEEC countries were under-represented in the WIPO Secretariat. It expressed its conviction that CACEEC countries possessed considerable expertise reflected in the successful operation of national patent systems and other IP activities, and that this expertise could be used to WIPO's benefit. The Group commended WIPO for its initiative to establish focal points in under-represented Member States and expressed confidence that this initiative would soon bear fruit. The Group expressed its opinion that in view of the current level of representation of CACEEC countries in WIPO, this initiative had potential for further development. It expressed its hope for beneficial cooperation with the Secretariat aimed at increasing the number of Secretariat staff who were nationals of CACEEC countries. The Group stated that CACEEC appreciated the work of WIPO committees. It welcomed the decision of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) to hold thematic sessions on the role of women in IP and the impact of technological change on various IP areas under the new agenda item "IP and Development". The Delegation commended the current work of the Organization in the normative area. Regarding the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT, the Group

confirmed its position on the desirability of holding such a conference as expressed by members of the Group on numerous occasions during sessions of the Standing Committee and the WIPO General Assembly. However, the Group stated its conviction that, prior to making the decision to convene the diplomatic conference, all differences on key issues, including disclosure requirements and the status of technical assistance provisions, should be removed. Such approach would inspire confidence in the successful adoption by the conference of an international treaty which would reflect the needs and interests of WIPO Member States. The Group expressed its hope that WIPO Member States would be able to overcome remaining differences on this issue. The Group, for its part, was willing to further constructively contribute towards the common goal. The Group stated that its members also favored more intensive work in the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) on the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations in order to be able to decide in the near future on the convening of a diplomatic conference for its adoption. CACEEC countries were convinced that the approaches of regional groups to the draft treaty could be successfully brought closer, provided that this issue would have priority at meetings of the SCCR in the near future. The Group commended the decision of the SCCR to request the WIPO Secretariat to review the modalities of the study on the protection of theater directors' rights. The Group also commended the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) as a forum for sharing information between countries from different regions on IP enforcement. Cooperation and coordination of efforts to address this global challenge at the national, regional and international levels, in particular between law enforcement agencies, was of paramount importance. It seemed advisable and highly useful to continue work in this area with the use of such mechanisms as expert missions, visits, seminars and workshops. The Group expressed its satisfaction with the ongoing work of the Standing Committee on Law of Patents (SCP) and hoped that the Committee would continue its work on the basis of a balanced program to further the development of the international patent system for the benefit of all Member States. The Group expressed its support for the work of the IGC. Countries of the Group were aware of the complexity of issues under consideration by the Committee and were hoping to achieve positive results in this field. The Group expressed its hope for a comprehensive study on the prospects to expand the language coverage of the Madrid and Hague Systems. The Group was interested in the introduction of Russian as an official language of these Systems in order to provide better access for applicants from CACEEC countries to WIPO services. Finally, the Group reiterated its sincere gratitude to Director General and all staff of the WIPO Secretariat for the excellent cooperation with the Group, their constant willingness to provide necessary assistance and commitment, in general, to the protection of IP, and the Group was looking forward to broader active cooperation within WIPO in the coming years.

7. The Delegation of Lithuania, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS)**, commended the Director General for his leadership, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India for its work as the current External Auditor, and the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) and the Internal Oversight Division (IOD) for performing the important task of overseeing the Organization. The Group welcomed the National Audit Office (NAO) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the new External Auditor, while underscoring the importance that the Group attached to WIPO's oversight system. The positive financial results for the 2016/17 biennium and the continued growth in global IP services were particularly noteworthy. IP systems should be constantly improved to ensure that their use continued to grow and that users' needs continued to be met. The Group was convinced that WIPO would continue to provide such services through the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems by allocating appropriate resources for their use and promotion and by providing equal treatment to all systems. The current session of the WIPO General Assembly should devote special attention to the pending legislative agenda. The Group expressed the hope that an agreement on convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the draft DLT would be reached in the current session of the WIPO General Assembly, especially since the Group had long engaged constructively in such negotiations and the draft text finalized a few years ago was mature.

The absence of an agreement in the 2017 session of the WIPO General Assembly to convene such a conference had been regrettable. Member States should redouble their efforts in finalizing a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, taking into account the rapid developments in the field of communication technologies and ensuring that the treaty addressed the current situation in the field. In that regard, the Group favored the approach providing equal protection to transmissions of broadcasting organizations over any other medium and looked forward to participating in the development of an adequate and effective legal instrument. While External Offices performed the important task of ensuring that WIPO had a global presence, they must provide added value to the Organization. Decisions on the opening of new External Offices should be governed by the Guiding Principles adopted at the 47th session of the WIPO General Assembly and the principle of equitable geographical distribution, giving priority to regions which do not have External Offices. The Group was the only region without an External Office and Romania was the only country from the Group to apply to host one. Progress achieved during the IGC's current mandate was noteworthy and the Group reaffirmed its commitment to constructively engage in further work during the remaining three IGC sessions, with a view to the organization of a stock-taking discussion at the 40th session of the IGC. The Group was committed to implementing the Development Agenda (DA) recommendations.

8. The Delegation of **China** stressed that the Government of China attached great importance to the protection of IP and had always considered IP protection as one of the four major measures for China's further opening-up. China would continue to improve the relevant laws and regulations, strengthen IP protection, provide equal protection to the IP rights of both domestic and foreign-funded enterprises and strive to build a sound business and innovative environment. At the beginning of 2018, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of China was restructured and thereby became the sole administrator of various types of IP rights, namely patents, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and layout designs of integrated circuits. Meanwhile, the administration of copyrights had also been further optimized. Both moves had greatly enhanced the efficiency of IP administration in China. In line with its new responsibilities, SIPO had changed its name to "National Intellectual Property Administration of China" (CNIPA). While noting that China's IP work continued apace in 2017, the Delegation outlined the country's latest development in IP applications. From January to June 2018, CNIPA had received 751,000 patent applications and 3,586,000 trademark registrations. In the meantime, 23,000 PCT applications were filed, up by 6.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2017. In 2017, the total number of copyright registration reached 2.73 million. In reaffirming the stronger cooperation between the Government of China and WIPO, the Delegation highlighted that the two sides had co-organized the following two high profile events: the High Level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries along the Belt and Road in August 2018, and the High Level Forum on the Cultural and Economic Value of Film and the Role of Copyright in June 2018. WIPO and China had also jointly undertaken practical cooperation in IP and sustainable development, the establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) and other activities. China had made great efforts to promote the use of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems in the country. The WIPO Office in China (WOC) had received support from the country to maintain its effective operation. With regard to the relevant issues within the WIPO framework, the Delegation firstly reiterated its unswerving support for multilateralism and for WIPO's role as a key platform for international IP norm-setting. It looked forward to substantive progress in the norm-setting discussions in the IGC and counted on WIPO to develop rules for the protection of new technological areas, to facilitate the early convening of the diplomatic conference on the DLT, to expedite the consensus on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, to enable the early entry into force of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, and to proactively implement the Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations. Secondly, the Delegation urged all parties to strengthen cooperation with a view to jointly promoting the development of the global IP system and to foster an open, inclusive, balanced and efficient global IP order. In that regard, it expressed its opposition to any act of trade protectionism in the guise of IP protection. Thirdly, it called for the further improvement of WIPO's global IP systems and support for the

expansion of working languages for the systems so as to better serve the innovative development of all countries. In the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region China (Hong Kong SAR), the patent system would reach a major milestone soon. Expected to be in force in 2019, the original patent grant system would enable patent applicants to file standard patents directly with Hong Kong SAR. The new patent system would further develop Hong Kong SAR into a regional hub for innovation and technology as well as a regional IP trading hub. To prepare for the future development of the IP regime of Hong Kong SAR and to provide more convenient online services, the Delegation would launch a new information technology system in phases from the end of 2018 to serve the needs of different users. Besides, to cater for the needs of the visually impaired, it would work on amending the relevant provisions of the Copyright Ordinance to expand the scope of the existing copyright exceptions. The amended exceptions would meet the latest international standards. The Delegation concluded by expressing its wish to share its experiences with other parties.

9. The Delegation of Switzerland, speaking on behalf of **Group B**, stated that WIPO had made significant progress in recent years, most notably in the provision of global IP services, the steady growth in applications and the expansion of its membership. In order to adapt to the changing demands of its systems' users and to continue to implement its mandate of IP protection, WIPO must keep pace with the innovators and creators who used the IP system and with other stakeholders. While WIPO's programmatic performance and positive financial status in the 2016/17 biennium were good news, its level of income remained a concern. The main driver of WIPO's revenue was the registration of IP titles, especially through the PCT System. Demand for such services depended on the global economy and the quality and efficiency of the PCT System; continued prudent, cautious and effective management was therefore key to maintaining the Organization's positive performance in the current biennium. Group B welcomed the abundance and variety of technical assistance activities provided by WIPO to support the functioning and continuous development of IP systems in project countries. While WIPO had to fulfill its responsibilities as a specialized agency of the United Nations, it should do so in a manner consistent with its mandate; namely to protect IP. In regard to convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, it was regrettable that non-substantive issues had long deprived users of a simplified industrial design system, and the Group urged Member States to settle outstanding issues in order to convene such a conference in 2019. Progress made in recent sessions of the SCCR on convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations was welcome and the Group looked forward to continued constructive discussions. While progress made in the first three sessions of the IGC's current mandate was commendable, further work was needed to reach consensus on core issues related to TK, TCEs and GRs. In regard to the opening of new WIPO External Offices, Group B was hopeful that the current meeting of the WIPO General Assembly would find the most appropriate way forward. Such offices had to provide added value to the Organization, contribute to its strategic goals and be established in accordance with the Guiding Principles and the decisions taken at the 47th WIPO General Assembly. A well-functioning oversight system was essential to maintaining the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of WIPO and in that light the Group took the opportunity to express its appreciation to the IAOC, IOD and the External Auditor for their work.

10. The Delegation of El Salvador, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)**, after affirming that GRULAC would actively participate with its usual constructive attitude, said that it was evident from the report presented by the Director General that the Organization was being managed in a sound and transparent manner. With reference to WIPO, GRULAC attached particular importance to the Organization's development work. WIPO and its Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean had expanded and improved the technical and regulatory cooperation services provided to GRULAC countries, helping them to build and implement balanced IP systems. The Delegation thanked the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for its constant support in carrying out and ensuring technical and regulatory cooperation. GRULAC and its members had been

participating constructively in various committees and working groups and had made valuable contributions in a number of areas, including concrete proposals in the PCT Working Group to reduce fees for universities and a joint recommendation in the SCT concerning provisions on the protection of country names. On a related point, GRULAC had given its support three years earlier for the establishment of an External Office in Colombia, as recognized by the outgoing Chair of the Assemblies and by a large majority of Member States at that time. Despite the ensuing impasse on this point, the Group was hopeful and confident that a decision could be reached during the current Assemblies meetings to pave the way for a new External Office in Colombia.

11. The Delegation of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, expressed thanks to WIPO for its continued assistance to the region, stating that ASEAN was a diverse and highly competitive player in the global economy, with a combined GDP of 2.8 trillion United States dollars, which was the sixth largest in the world and the third largest in Asia. Furthermore, ASEAN was the third largest consumer market globally (634 million people) and was working towards becoming a fully integrated community by leveraging its considerable flow and exchange of goods, services and investments. These flows had boosted overall regional trade by over 1 trillion United States dollars from 2007 to 2017 and attracted the highest volume of foreign direct investments (FDI), amounting to 137 billion United States dollars in the area in 2017. ASEAN was 51 years old and the next 50 years, which would constitute the era of the fourth industrial revolution, would be challenging. Given the current shift in the market towards technology and intangible assets, IP played a strategic role as the driver of innovation, economic growth and competitiveness in the region. That shift represented a global challenge and ASEAN was fully ready to collaborate with WIPO Member States, either through norm-setting or sharing of best practices. ASEAN members were meeting this challenge, as evidenced by the improved rankings of Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore in the 2018 Global Innovation Index. After two years of implementation of the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Action Plan, several milestones towards economic growth and development in the region had been achieved through WIPO support, including the establishment of 138 patent libraries and technology transfer offices. ASEAN was grateful to WIPO for the training provided under the TISC program. In regard to geographical indications, Cambodia had joined the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement in March 2018. ASEAN welcomed the Heads of Intellectual Property Office Conference (HIPOC) organized by WIPO in February 2018 for Southeast Asian countries, Mongolia and Iran (Islamic Republic of). The fruitful discussions and technical assistance led to the initiation of a study on the development of the regional technical assistance implementation plan with the assistance of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. That plan would ensure long-term development cooperation within the ASEAN region and assist the Group in achieving its goals of integration and exchange of IP regimes. The Delegation was grateful for the information and technical assistance offered by the WIPO Singapore Office. Through the ASEAN IPR Action Plan, the region hoped to improve the delivery of IP services to stakeholders and harness the benefits of innovation.

12. The Delegation of Austria, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and its member states**, stated that since WIPO was the central hub for global IP infrastructure, one of its core missions remained the servicing of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems. The importance of these WIPO-administered treaties was clearly highlighted by the ever-increasing number of accessions and the rising workload. Furthermore, the PCT and Madrid Union remained the major contributors to WIPO's budget. Consequently, more resources should be allocated to promoting and strengthening these core rights systems on an equal basis. To that end, the development of an international balanced system that protected all categories of IP rights was crucial to future work. Moreover, WIPO was a unique forum for discussing global IP policy items, sharing best practices and setting norms. The European Union and its member states would formally deposit its instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty during the current WIPO General Assembly. Furthermore, discussions had just been initiated in Brussels

on the legal acts allowing the accession of the European Union to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. With regard to the normative work of WIPO, the basic text of the DLT had been completed since 2014 and was ready for the convening of a diplomatic conference. The continued delay in adopting the text was unfortunate, considering the benefits of harmonizing and simplifying design registration procedures for users and WIPO members across the development spectrum. The European Union and its member states hoped that the DLT would be treated as a priority and was ready to participate in any informal discussions on the matter. The inclusion of disclosure requirements in the DLT would certainly work against the common goal of simplifying and harmonizing current design registration procedures. Regardless of the complex and extensive negotiations within the IGC, the Delegation said that the proponents of such inclusion should reconsider their proposal. The European Union and its member states also wished to see progress on a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations which was still being discussed in the SCCR. The European Union and its member states valued these discussions and expected them to yield a meaningful and inclusive treaty that efficiently addressed the current and future needs of broadcasting organizations, taking into account latest developments in technology. Moreover, the European Union and its member states recognized the unique importance of the IGC's work. In the first year of the 2018/2019 biennium, the IGC had held two thematic sessions on GRs in accordance with its current mandate and adopted work program. As regards the substantive progress made on GRs under the current mandate, the European Union and its member states expressed regret that the Rev. 2 document could not be used, even though all IGC members had accepted it as the basis for future work on GRs. Accordingly, it was deemed necessary to hold discussions during the last IGC session on possible recommendations to be submitted to the current WIPO General Assembly. The European Union and its member states hoped that the recommendations adopted by consensus would inject a constructive and cooperative spirit into the Committee; Meanwhile, it supported the text of the recommendation as submitted to the WIPO General Assembly. Regarding future work in the second half of the current IGC mandate, the European Union and its member states welcomed the general support expressed at the last IGC session for a Rev. 2 document that would serve as the basis for further work. It hoped to participate in the *ad hoc* Expert Group on TK and TCEs established during IGC 37 and in the next IGC session on the same topic. The European Union and its member states welcomed the constructive and fact-based discussions of a session of the SCP which enhanced mutual understanding of the differences in national patent systems and provided cooperation ideas. The agreement reached on the future work of the Committee guaranteed a seamless continuation of the SCP's work. The Delegation hoped that fact-finding and future discussions would help to analyze the differences in patent systems that obstruct trade and development. Regarding the ongoing discussions within the CDIP on WIPO's DA, the European Union and its member states supported and were committed to the appropriate implementation of DA recommendations while appreciating the volume of work already done by the Committee as well as the wide range of activities executed by WIPO. They also supported the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and encouraged WIPO to continue supporting its Member States to attain those that were most relevant to its mandate by providing technical assistance *via* capacity-building projects tailored to the needs of beneficiaries. The Delegation welcomed the significant progress achieved in discussions on the SCT during the review period as well as the fruitful discussions held in all key areas of work.

13. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**, greatly appreciated WIPO's tailor-made support programs for LDCs. Given the need for a balanced, fair and equitable IP system, and taking into account the needs and constraints of LDCs, it particularly welcomed the Director General's report, the reports on the implementation of the DA and WIPO's contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. The Group of LDCs attached great importance to their continued and increasing cooperation with WIPO, particularly in preparing their national IP policies and innovation strategies, modernizing their IP administration systems, establishing and strengthening technology and innovation

support centers, building technological capacity through project-based training programs and enabling technology transfer. With more and more LDCs looking to accelerate their economic growth and graduate from the LDC category, coordinated support measures to facilitate that transition were of paramount importance. The use of IP tools to increase capacity for entrepreneurship, science and technology should also be expanded to that end. In addition, LDCs needed to be prepared for future opportunities and challenges in the IP sphere, providing more services in such areas as digital and artificial intelligence (AI), in which regard their partnership with WIPO was more relevant than ever. To promote a fair, equitable and balanced IP regime in LDCs, WIPO's technical assistance should be oriented towards development, driven by demand and based on each country's individual needs and level of development. Specific provisions on exceptions and limitations should be incorporated into all WIPO's norm-setting activities, especially for LDCs. Projects for LDCs should also be fast-tracked, not least within the CDIP, whose work was particularly relevant to the Group of LDCs. The successful implementation of the CDIP project on capacity-building in the use of appropriate technology in LDCs was to be lauded, as was the plan to extend the project to more beneficiaries. Balanced and legally binding instruments for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs would greatly aid LDCs' efforts to benefit from IP-based legal protection in those areas. The recommendation of the IGC to the WIPO General Assembly was most welcome in that regard. It was hoped that the WIPO General Assembly would call on the IGC to reaffirm its commitment and expedite its work in accordance with its mandate. Consideration and understanding were vital if an agreement was to be reached for the benefit of all. The WIPO General Assembly was encouraged to positively consider appropriate action for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations so as to facilitate progress in developing countries and LDCs based on the agreed signal-based approach in the traditional sense. Following the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty, further discussion was required to establish effective and meaningful international agreements on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions, libraries and archives, and persons with other types of disabilities. The Group remained committed to engaging in constructive discussion and incorporating a provision on technical assistance into the main text of the DLT. Most LDCs belonged to the Asia and the Pacific and the African Groups and, as such, were disproportionately underrepresented in the PBC and WIPO Coordination Committee. Reviewing the composition of those two important bodies to make them more balanced and representational would take time. The Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 underscored the importance of coherence and coordination. In that context, credit was due to WIPO's LDCs Division for its significant efforts to forge stronger WIPO–LDC cooperation and promote a need-based and coherent framework for national IP use that contributed directly to achieving development outcomes. Adequate logistical and human resources support should be provided to the LDCs Division to sustain such efforts.

14. The Delegation of **Albania** aligned itself with the statement delivered by the CEBS Group and reaffirmed its commitment to developing the IP system through solid collaboration with WIPO and its Member States, with a view to attaining the highest levels of respecting and protecting IP rights in Albania. WIPO had made commendable efforts to strengthen the global system of IP legal protection and encourage dialogue on the development of various domains of the IP system. Albania deeply appreciated its fruitful cooperation with WIPO, especially WIPO's important role in promoting IP as a tool for wealth creation, with a focus on assisting developing countries. The country was acutely aware that efficient enforcement of IPRs was a crucial component of socio-economic progress, national competitiveness in the international market and the establishment of a competitive and fair environment in the national market. IP was an important mechanism for achieving economic growth. The Albanian General Directorate of Intellectual Property (GDIP) had been using WIPO tools on the automation process since 2006 and had continued to implement new tools and updates provided by WIPO. The GDIP had now fully automated the tool for examination procedures and the WIPO EDMS tool for dossier digitalization was now fully operational. Following knowledge transferred by WIPO, GDIP staff

was supporting the implementation of those tools in other offices in the region, strengthening regional cooperation as encouraged by WIPO. WIPO had also provided considerable assistance for reform in the GDIP in recent years, ranging from the drafting of the National Strategy on IP (2016-2020) to legal support on drafting the new amendments to the Industrial Property Law. These activities had focused mainly on modernizing IP procedures and tools, strengthening cooperation among IP institutions, administrative capacity-building, knowledge transfer and raising awareness of IP. Major achievements of the GDIP included measures to implement the aforementioned national IP strategy, one of whose main objectives was to strengthen collaboration between Albania, IP organizations and other countries. Such collaboration had engendered the ratification of IP agreements, including Albania's accession to the Lisbon Agreement and its Geneva Act; shortened deadlines for examinations; fostered the development of trademark and patent examination guidelines; increased public awareness and dissemination of education on IP; and helped with the establishment of an IP training center in the GDIP. An important achievement was the approval of the regulations on implementation of the amended Law on Industrial Property. All these decisions had made for improvement in examinations in terms of efficiency and quality, in addition to providing a comprehensive legal basis for IP examinations and registrations and effective resolution of IPR disputes. The legal reforms also included new provisions governing the registration and administration of IP representatives and experts. The national IP strategy did not focus on implementing IP rights as a purpose in itself, but on improving the functioning of the IP system in order to support innovation by encouraging scientific activity in Albania, with the goal of helping to drive economic growth and the attainment of the highest standards. Specifically, it was intended to serve as a policy tool for encouraging investment in research and development, as well as guaranteeing market success. The GDIP was working with the Ministry of Finance and the Economy on promotion and training to build awareness of, and respect for, IP. World Intellectual Property Day 2018 saw the participation of representatives from the most important IP institutions, businesses, inventors, creators, universities and sister IP offices of the region. Albania was an European Union candidate country. Potential European Union membership should be taken into account in planning and implementing cooperation activities between Albania and WIPO, resulting in the more efficient implementation of well-targeted and therefore fully successful activities. The Delegation expected that WIPO would continue with its more open and flexible approach in promoting the global IP system in Albania. Closer collaboration and WIPO support were important tools for success in Albania's efforts for economic development and protection of IPRs. The Delegation hoped that WIPO's relationship with Albania would improve in terms of capacity-building, technical assistance and cooperation regarding IPRs and related rights. It called on all Members States to adopt a spirit of constructive cooperation during the 2018 Assemblies to achieve positive and balanced results on all issues.

15. The Delegation of **Algeria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. IP development was among Algeria's national priorities, hence it had reformed its IP system to comply with international standards and to create a legal and institutional framework that provided legal certainty and effectively protected IP rights. IP was an essential tool for socio-economic development in a rapidly changing and increasingly globalized world, in which the knowledge economy drove progress and prosperity. However, the spillover from that positive trend could not benefit all until development held pride of place. Mainstreaming the concerns of developing countries by strengthening the international IP system to be more inclusive, equitable and fair would better protect IP rights worldwide. In this respect, WIPO, whose action was organized around the SDGs, had to play a leading role. As regards norm-setting, the focus should be on issues whose scrutiny would move WIPO's agenda to the next level. There were challenges for some committees, notably the IGC, the SCT and the SCCR, whose deliberations should culminate in the adoption of important decisions commensurate with the challenges faced and the expectations of Member States. The Delegation said that it would certainly contribute in an open and forward-looking spirit so that the obstacles to the convening of diplomatic conferences would be eliminated.

WIPO's norm-setting would be more equitable and inclusive if the imbalance in regional representation at the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee was rectified. In this regard, the Delegation supported an extension in the membership of these two bodies, based on the composition of regional groups. The Secretariat had been available and effective since the start of the process to set up a WIPO External Office in Algiers. Algeria welcomed the completion of the process and announced that the procedure for the commissioning of that Office was almost completed. The only pending matter was the appointment of the director of the WIPO External Office in Algiers. The Delegation remained attentive to the process to negotiate the opening of other planned External Offices and hoped that the process would be consensual. Algeria was ready to support any initiative along these lines.

16. The Delegation of **Angola** supported the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the African Group. Its Government had initiated certain actions to diversify the national economy which remained dependent on oil. In that regard, great emphasis had been laid on working with Angolan policy-makers to raise awareness on the relevance and benefits of using and protecting IP rights. However, Angola believed that more could be done with the collaboration of WIPO, academia, the judiciary, young entrepreneurs, national industries and the general public. Accordingly, the Ministry of Industry, acting through the Angolan Institute of Industrial Property (IAPI), had oriented its action towards implementing Government policies on the promotion, protection, study and development of industrial property. A Conference on Public Presentation of the Industrial Property Bill would be held in November 2018 to present highlights of the amendment to Law 3/92 of February 28, 1992. The purpose of the Conference was to initiate a public discussion on certain aspects of industrial property, leverage participants viewpoints to enhance the content of the Bill and raise awareness on the importance of protecting industrial property. Furthermore, the table of IP taxes was currently being updated and the list of minimum rates for copyright and related rights had been approved on August 29, 2018. Under the WIPO technical assistance program for Member States, Angola was currently receiving Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) technological support to modernize and upgrade its industrial property system to international standards. Hence, IAPI had created conditions at the local level to facilitate the digitization of data and signals for future migration when installing the software. Angola was interested in signing the Protocol submitted to the Governing Body of WIPO and had been waiting for a response from the Organization since November 2017. However, it was grateful to WIPO for the support provided through the training program for Member States, specifically the online courses and the training of a patent examiner in the PCT course. The shortage of technical patent examiners was one of the main difficulties faced by IAPI and Angola had long called on WIPO to help resolve this problem because the efficiency of the services provided was predicated on the competence of employees. Africa was still perceived as a virgin continent whose IP system needed to be developed urgently to ensure that it contributed to so-called "global stability" and achievement of the SDGs. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would pay greater attention to the African continent which should feature among its priorities. The Delegation also appreciated the work done by the CDIP, which ought to play a leading role in implementing the WIPO DA. All WIPO organs should implement the recommendations of the DA. Issues like technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer, which benefitted all developing countries, should be high on WIPO's agenda. Angola supported the ongoing work within the IGC, as the outcome of discussions on these issues would enhance protection against the illicit appropriation of these resources. The Delegation hoped that, after almost two decades of negotiation, WIPO Member States would be able to reach an agreement that yielded a binding international instrument to promote the traditional bases of indigenous peoples and local communities and protect them against illicit use and exploration that deprived these peoples of commercial benefits. The Delegation also supported the texts adopted in the last sessions of the IGC, finding them to be a sound basis for discussions and compromise.

17. The Delegation of **Antigua and Barbuda** expressed support for the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. It affirmed the country's unwavering commitment to a modern IP regime and pledged to continue partnering with WIPO on issues and platforms of common interest, anticipating continued support, as well, from various WIPO departments for the country's ongoing endeavors. Antigua and Barbuda remained cognizant of the importance of IP to its national development plans and goals. The country had embarked on an aggressive legislative and administrative agenda to keep its IP laws abreast with global developments in the sector. It had recently adopted a new Patents Act (2018) and Patent Regulations and was in the process of reviewing and reforming its Trademarks Act and Copyright Act, with further legislative action expected in the coming year. Vienna Classification training had recently been concluded, and the country would soon be a member of the Budapest Treaty, the Patent Law Treaty and the Nice Treaty, as well as various copyright treaties. WIPO was thanked for its tangible support in that regard. The Delegation said it was widely accepted that creative industries – music, sports and folklore in particular – offered the greatest opportunity for new economic growth. As a small island developing state (SIDS), Antigua and Barbuda continued to explore how its creative industries might better contribute to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The country's ongoing public awareness campaign had heightened public interest in and knowledge about the protection of IPRs. The Government also continued to work with many of its agencies to foster greater appreciation and understanding of IP in all sectors. The Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office (ABIPCO) fully endorsed the theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2018: Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity. In its celebrations on that occasion, the country's IP Office and the Ministry of Education, together with two local sponsors, hosted an essay and poster competition for primary and secondary schools nationwide. Approximately 100 entries had been received. A Street Fair and Open House had also been organized and well attended. A Women's Symposium at the Antigua Public Library had invited Antiguan and Barbudan women in the creative industries to speak and had also been well attended. The Delegation commended the work done by WIPO to build respect for IP and said it would welcome the addition of a children's page to the WIPO website, to help educate youth in the country. It believed that disseminating information by Internet would be an excellent way for youth to learn about IPRs, and such a page had been added to the Government's own IP website. The Delegation welcomed the WIPO initiative for a new Intellectual Property Judges Forum to give judges across the globe a platform for discussion of related issues. This would be extremely helpful for countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, with travelling circuit appellate courts. Given the range of national initiatives, the varying stages of IP development, and the growth and interest in IP within the country and wider Caribbean, the Delegation considered it clear that the demands being placed on the Caribbean Section in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean had been expanding rapidly, grateful as it was for recent steps to strengthen the Caribbean Section. The Delegation thanked the Bureau and the Caribbean Section for their continued support and work on behalf of the region. Lastly, the Delegation commended the work of the SCCR, SCP and SCT.

18. The Delegation of **Argentina** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. Among the topics related to the international normative framework that would be studied during the current series of meetings, the updating of the protection of broadcasting organizations was very important for Argentina. The SCCR had agreed on a recommendation to the WIPO General Assembly, inviting it to study suitable measures for holding a diplomatic conference to adopt the treaty. It was essential for the WIPO General Assembly to adopt a work plan that would allow outstanding issues to be finalized and lead to a diplomatic conference in 2019. The Delegation was confident that the necessary attention would be given to this point, so as to reach an agreement, and was ready to contribute to all the discussions. The possibility of holding a diplomatic conference to adopt a DLT, a topic that had been examined several times, should also be considered during the current meetings. The Delegation hoped that Member States would demonstrate flexibility to overcome continuing differences of opinion. It highlighted the processes carried out in the work being undertaken in

the IGC in accordance with the mandate for the 2018/2019 biennium and hoped that this work would continue. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the effective application of the DA. It acknowledged and supported the efforts and progress made by the Secretariat to incorporate development issues into the Organization's activities and urged the continuation of this work. It valued the technical assistance and capacity-building that WIPO offered to developing countries, including Argentina, giving special emphasis to the important role played by the WIPO Academy in human resources education and training. These activities were essential for countries to be able to use IP as a development tool and promote innovation. Argentina had launched a new Master's program in IP in 2018, jointly organized by WIPO, the National Institute of Intellectual Property and the University of San Andrés, which benefited all Latin American and Caribbean countries. The Delegation thanked the Academy for its support. It was pleased with the sound financial situation of the Organization and hoped that the necessary measures would be taken to ensure its future continuity. Lastly, it thanked WIPO for its collaboration on various activities and for the support provided to hold the "Argentina Fueling Growth through Innovation" exhibition as part of the current series of meetings.

19. The Delegation of **Australia** said that the country knew from its own experience that the global economy was increasingly knowledge-based and innovation-driven, with IP supporting economic growth and prosperity for developed, developing countries and LDCs alike. WIPO and its Member States had a vital part to play in making the international IP system agile and responsive to current and future challenges and opportunities. Rapid advances in technological development, existing only in the realm of fiction when the Paris Convention was adopted in 1883, now played a growing role in the international IP system. For the 2018 Assemblies, Australia encouraged Member States to focus on identifying and advancing shared interests. Creating greater certainty for businesses and the public across borders would benefit trade, investment and technology transfer and help to promote sustainable development. Member States should contribute constructively to advancement of the WIPO agenda. Australia appreciated the constructive spirit in which Member States had engaged with the IGC. It hoped that Member States could build upon the good will and progress seen in recent meetings to find common ground. The subjects being discussed would have an important bearing on the ability of Indigenous Peoples, including Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, to preserve their connection with, and gain recognition for, cultures, communities and identities that spanned millennia. Australia maintained its strong support for ongoing improvements to the global IP system, particularly the PCT and the Madrid Protocol. It welcomed the accession over the past year by Indonesia, and more recently Afghanistan, to the Madrid Protocol. It was pleased that membership of the Madrid System had surpassed 100, contributing to the ease of doing business in the global economy. This was demonstrated by continuing record growth in the number of applicants using the Madrid System to protect their trademarks internationally. Australia was also pleased with the achievements of the second iteration of Australia Funds-in-Trust (FIT) for IP, aimed at enhancing IP systems, capacities and knowledge in developing countries and LDCs. Australia was proud, in particular, to contribute to facing the global health challenges posed by neglected tropical diseases like malaria, by supporting WIPO Re:Search, in partnership with Bio Ventures for Global Health. This partnership offered fellowship placements to scientists from developing countries to help them improve their research skills, develop networks and access IP assets at host institutions, demonstrating how IP could be used to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer and progress toward the United Nations SDGs. The Delegation continued to support the goals of the Marrakesh Treaty. It welcomed the increase in accessions to that historic Treaty, which Australia had ratified and implemented, as an important example of how the international IP community could work together to promote sustainable development, improve educational outcomes and alleviate poverty. The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), to which Australia FIT had contributed, was cited as an initiative to help implement the Treaty at a practical level, having helped achieve a number of significant goals on the WIPO DA, including in the Indo-Pacific region. The Delegation encouraged other Member States to consider financial support for this important endeavor. An event had been co-hosted at WIPO by Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea,

Turkey and Australia, under the banner of “MIKTA”, as part of World IP Day 2018, on the theme “Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity”. The event had highlighted women innovators from MIKTA countries, showcasing examples of Australian women improving lives around the world through their inventions. The Delegation expressed its strong and ongoing commitment to working with WIPO and its Member States to ensure an international IP system that promoted global growth and development and helped innovators, creators and businesses meet existing needs and respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

20. The Delegation of **Austria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Switzerland on behalf of Group B and its statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its member states. It noted with appreciation the record of WIPO’s activities and positive achievements outlined in the Secretariat’s reports, in particular the technical assistance activities and programs, accessions to WIPO-administered treaties and the growing use of the treaty-based IP systems and Unions. It was satisfied with the progress and positive developments that underpinned the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems which, together with the PCT and the Madrid Systems, were not only the main generators of WIPO’s income but were also invaluable to Member States and users owing to constant developments and improvements. It therefore called for greater efforts and more action by the Secretariat to strengthen the overall IP environment and thus maintain a viable and efficient Organization and secure a balanced and effective international IP system encompassing all categories of IP rights for the benefit of all stakeholders. It stood ready to discuss possible solutions to resolve the last two impediments to the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt a well-balanced DLT that harmonized and simplified design application formalities. It had participated actively in the SCCR in order to conclude a meaningful treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, which effectively met their current and future needs. It was satisfied with the work and progress of the SCP, in particular the Committee’s decision to adopt a balanced future work program, and stood ready to collaborate in improving the patent system, given its special interest in the harmonization of substantive patent law. Noting the positive developments and achievements, particularly in technical assistance and capacity-building, reported in connection with the work of the CDIP and welcoming the Committee’s new agenda items, it urged the Secretariat to continue to implement the DA recommendations as an integral part of WIPO’s core activities to promote IP protection worldwide. Commending the IGC for its work, the Delegation stressed the importance of transparency and inclusiveness in all discussions and welcomed the constructive spirit shown in the Committee and the consensus on the recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly. It welcomed and fully aligned itself with the proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations, as contained in document PCT/A/50/2, the recommendations on the future work of the PCT Working Group, as contained in document PCT/A/50/1, and the proposed introduction of an application form for appointment as an international searching and preliminary examining authority, as contained in document PCT/A/50/3. It urged the International Bureau to continue to enhance cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) on the harmonized acceptance status for terms taken from the European Harmonized Database and commended WIPO for its openness to discussion on possible new forms of trademark such as those introduced in the European Union trademark system.

21. The Delegation of **Azerbaijan** stated that the development of the IP sector and the expansion of international cooperation in this area were national priorities. In this respect, it highlighted the institutional changes in its country’s IP system, particularly the recent creation of the Intellectual Property Agency. This was a unified structure made up of the Patent and Trademark Office, the Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and the Scientific and Technical Library of the Republic. Azerbaijan was on the path of development and innovation. According to the 2017-2018 World Economic Forum statistics, Azerbaijan ranked 35th in the Global Competitiveness Index, third among developing countries according to the Inclusive Development Index and 37th on the “IP” sub-index. With the radical transformation of universities and their growing role in the commercialization and transfer of technology, as well

as the rising economic importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the IP policy aimed to stimulate technological innovation, develop and establish offices for the commercialization of technologies and innovation support. To strengthen its participation in the PCT and Madrid Systems, the Government of Azerbaijan had disbursed the necessary funds and created tax incentives for start-ups and spin-outs while also promoting national trademarks. In the area of copyright, a national digital management system had been set up. Reference was also made to the joint WIPO–Azerbaijan project on IP policy for university institutions and research institutes, not forgetting the Director General of WIPO’s inspirational visit to Baku.

22. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** aligned itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and the Group of LCDs. Expressing its appreciation for WIPO’s continued cooperation in the promotion and protection of inventions and innovation in Bangladesh, the Delegation reported that the National Intellectual Property Policy and Innovation Strategy had been drafted and was at the final stage for review and subsequent adoption. The country had attained the eligibility criteria to graduate from the LDCs category and therefore required coordinated support from the international community for a smooth transition, greater recourse to IP tools to enhance capacity for entrepreneurship, and preparation for IP opportunities and challenges associated with providing digitized services and using AI. As Bangladesh would be acceding to the PCT and the Madrid Protocol, its partnership with WIPO had become more relevant than ever. The Delegation called for WIPO’s technical assistance to be development-oriented and demand-driven and for CDIP projects to be fast-tracked. It supported the Asia and the Pacific Group’s proposals on the Composition of the PBC, as contained in document WO/GA/50/14, and of the WIPO Coordination Committee, as contained in document A/58/9. It considered that only binding legal agreements could assure developing countries of receiving the benefits that they deserved from their GRs, technical knowledge and TCEs. It called for a design law treaty that provided for technical assistance and capacity building, and for progress in reaching international agreement on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions, libraries and archives, and persons with other types of disabilities.

23. The Delegation of **Barbados** aligned itself with the statement made by El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. It commended the work done over the previous year by the SCCR and urged Member States to approve the work plan with a view to convening a diplomatic conference and adopting a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. It likewise welcomed the ongoing efforts of the SCT and looked forward to the adoption of the policy proposal for the protection of country names and geographical names. While acknowledging the work of the IGC, the Delegation was mindful of the need for consensus on a well-balanced and effective protection system that took into consideration the needs of indigenous peoples. WIPO played a critical role in assisting Member States and leveraging the IP system for enhanced economic development, and had provided continued technical assistance to Member States within the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. It had also done invaluable work to strengthen IP system infrastructure and harmonize the regional IP system. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its ongoing technical assistance in strengthening the capacity of the national IP office and hence developing the domestic economy. In 2018, WIPO technical assistance had helped to build the capacity of SMEs, local attorneys, agents, university officials and other stakeholders. Furthermore, a training module had been delivered to information technology professionals at the IP office as part of the IPAS training program. Barbados looked forward to WIPO’s continued support as its IP office worked towards implementing a fully electronic system. It would continue to work with WIPO and all Member States to protect IP rights.

24. The Delegation of **Belarus** stated that Belarus, which had identified innovative development as a top priority, attached great importance to the role of IP in ensuring social, economic and cultural development. The Delegation expressed satisfaction with WIPO’s efforts to strengthen the role of the Organization as a global IP center. It also welcomed the enhanced

efforts of the Secretariat directed at implementing the DA. The Delegation stated that it continued to consider the substantive discussion on the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations as a priority topic for future development and strengthening of WIPO's authority. The Delegation noted the beneficial nature of projects and programs implemented within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the Government of Belarus and the Secretariat. In 2017-2018, Belarus had continued to improve the legal framework of the national IP system and, to this end, it had proceeded to strengthen its comprehensive cooperation with WIPO. In particular, to implement provisions of multilateral conventions, changes were made in the patent fees payment procedure and the registration of licenses and other contracts for industrial property, as well the procedure of granting patents for industrial designs. The country had initiated the process of ratification of amendments to the WIPO Convention which were adopted in October 2003. The National Patent Office had been working on the accession of Belarus to the Marrakesh Treaty and to the Hague Agreement. With the assistance of WIPO, Belarus had been actively implementing the WIPO Connect and IPAS systems, broadening the TISCs network and implementing IP policies for universities and research institutions. National and regional seminars on various IP issues were held annually with the assistance of WIPO. The implementation of these projects, as well as the development of promising areas of cooperation had been discussed during the visit to Belarus of the Deputy Director General, Patents and Technology Sector, in January 2018. Finally, the Delegation reiterated that Belarus was highly interested in continued cooperation with a view to receiving technical assistance for improving the national IP system and making it even more efficient, and stated that it was looking forward to joint effective work with the Secretariat of WIPO, and constructive and fruitful cooperation within the Assemblies.

25. The Delegation of **Belize** stated that the country's celebration of 37 years of independence on September 21, 2018, brought to mind various activities that called for a reexamination of the strategic objectives set to advance the promotion of IPRs. Accordingly, the Delegation was grateful for the technical assistance rendered to the Attorney General's Ministry through the Belize Intellectual Property Office during formulation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy. Pending the endorsement of that Strategy, the Delegation would continue to strengthen its IP ecosystem through a collaborative approach with key stakeholders that had resulted in concerted efforts to raise IP awareness. This had been highlighted during seminars organized by the Caribbean Section of WIPO's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean in partnership with key stakeholders within the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Economic Development. These seminars had educated SMEs on the use of IP tools as leverage for competitiveness. Another major success was the round of WIPO Roving Seminars on the PCT which provided inventors in Belize with an opportunity to secure registration outside their jurisdiction when using this mechanism. The Delegation was also grateful for the study visit mission that enabled it to appreciate the benefit of registering its industrial designs through the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs System. That mission specified the relevant infrastructure to be developed and underscored the need for staff capacity-building to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. This immense exposure had enabled Belize to progress towards finalizing the deposit of its instruments to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs; the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations; the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT); the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT); the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances; and, the Marrakesh Treaty. The various accession processes would be completed before the end of the year. The Delegation was also grateful for the support received by the Caribbean Section of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean which fervently assisted in accomplishing the vision of the Belize Intellectual Property Office. The Delegation remained committed to working with WIPO and each Member State to promote the progress of innovation and develop IP across all spectrums.

26. The Delegation of **Bhutan** associated itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of LDCs. Since 1994, WIPO had been a steady and reliable partner in Bhutan's efforts to strengthen its IP framework to better serve the needs of businesses and industries, through policy initiatives and clear benefit-driven strategies. With WIPO's support, Bhutan had taken a number of important initiatives. The National Intellectual Property Policy adopted in February 2018 provided direction and clarity to the IP system through consolidation of efforts across all sectors of the economy and building linkages between industry, research and development institutions, universities and private sector. It also provided a framework for improving the IP system as a catalyst for innovation and development. In terms of patent-related activities, the Service Level Agreement to establish TISCs had been signed between WIPO and Bhutan in June 2018. TISCs had been set up in two science and engineering colleges and in the Information Technology Park in the capital. WIPO's support would be appreciated to train staff to manage these centers and to gradually set up more. The Delegation hoped to learn from the experiences of successful TISCs in other Member States to help innovators and creators exploit their potential by accessing high-quality scientific and technology information. The Delegation had launched the annual National Trademark Award in April 2018, to encourage innovation and creativity. Similar annual awards would be launched on patents, industrial designs and copyright in the near future. The Delegation was strengthening its copyright legislative framework to reflect developments in digital technology. That included enforcement mechanisms that respected the rights of copyright owners and channeled the benefits of creativity to the society. The voluntary registration and deposit system of copyright works continued to garner wider support from authors, creators and rightholders. Efforts were being revived to create awareness of the importance of the copyright system. Bhutan was expected to graduate from a least developed to a middle-income country in a few years. Its Twelfth Five-Year Plan, 2018-2023, launched in July 2018, would coincide with the graduation schedule and would therefore be crucial to ensuring that Bhutan was well placed for further development. The plan, which emphasized innovation as a key driver for addressing challenges and strengthening the IP system, would be pivotal to this end. The Delegation was making all efforts to take maximum advantage of the benefits of the IP system and looked forward to WIPO's continued assistance.

27. The Delegation of **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** said, with reference to WIPO, that the Delegation considered it important for the Organization to make solid progress in advancing a development cooperation agenda, strengthening the DA's 45 recommendations and supporting their achievement. The Delegation highlighted the importance the country attached to the Organization's normative work in a context of rapid social change, as well as the obligation and major challenge to leave no one behind. An essential regulatory challenge for the IGC was to develop legally binding instruments to defend the culture of indigenous peoples. The country would be supportive of regulatory development balancing access and protection and was committed to active participation in all forums of the Organization, standing ready to help strengthen and renew its institutional framework.

28. The Delegation of **Botswana** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. It lauded the SCP for keeping discussions open on topics discussed at its 28th session. Patents and health were critical to Botswana for access to affordable and essential medicines to sustain the public health system. A proposed information session on publicly accessible databases on patent information status and data on medicines and vaccines would provide information for procurement of medicines. The Delegation commended the SCT for its progress on the DLT and the SCCR regarding the protection of broadcasting organizations, and hoped the WIPO General Assembly would convene diplomatic conferences to adopt both treaties. There was a regrettable lack of progress in the IGC where the protection of TK, TCEs and geographical indications had been discussed for more than a decade. WIPO had supported the development of Botswana's IP system. Botswana had been designated as a WIPO Model IP Office for Africa and the completion of that project would

establish a modern and efficient IP processing system in Botswana. WIPO also supported the development of a National IP Policy, completed in April 2018, which was expected to spur the entire IP governance framework to encourage use of the country's IP potential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. On the Marrakesh Treaty, the Delegation had received support to convert printed materials into accessible formats through the ABC. The project had been completed in June 2018 and demonstrated the benefits and value of the Marrakesh Treaty. Lastly, WIPO had supported the Delegation to establish TISCs. This was expected to transform Botswana into a globally competitive knowledge-based economy. National and regional processes on the protection of TK, TCEs/folklore and GRs as well as other IP issues could only benefit from an emerging international consensus and the Delegation looked forward to constructive dialogue in this regard.

29. The Delegation of **Brazil** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. It said that IP should be a tool for the economic, social and cultural development of peoples. It was necessary for fair remuneration for creativity, intelligence and human ingenuity to coexist with the imperative to guarantee the right of access to health, culture, knowledge, information, education and work. Flexibilities in IP matters had to and should be pursued while striking a balance with the obligation to respect and enforce IP rights to the benefit of all. The message of the DA therefore remained relevant and in keeping with the times. The Delegation considered the full implementation of the 45 recommendations of the DA vital for the legitimacy of WIPO's work. This also held true for the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Member States had a responsibility to mirror and incorporate the 17 SDGs into WIPO's activities and initiatives, which were essentially integrated and indivisible. Regarding normative issues pending before the WIPO General Assembly, the Delegation highlighted discussions in the IGC and the SCCR. Following the renewal of the mandate of the IGC, there had been concrete progress regarding the legal instrument and, 18 years after the first session of the IGC, the Delegation hoped that WIPO and its Member States would provide a concrete and viable response to the pending text, which was crucial for countries with great biodiversity and indigenous populations. The Delegation was convinced that that important objective could be achieved while providing legal certainty for all the countries involved, without imposing excessive or overly bureaucratic requirements. The previous session of the SCCR had seen progress on the consolidated text on broadcasting. The Delegation reiterated its interest in a conclusion of the efforts to update existing protection for broadcasting organizations. It said that the attainment of this objective would be considerably facilitated if the 2018 WIPO General Assembly decided to establish a road map that would lead to a diplomatic conference in line with the recommendations of the SCCR. Turning to the diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, the Delegation called for consensus-building so that the conference could be agreed upon during the 2018 WIPO General Assembly.

30. The Delegation of **Brunei Darussalam** was grateful for continued WIPO assistance in the previous year and lauded the Organization for ensuring that the global IP system continued to drive innovation and technological progress. It also associated itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The continued development of its national IP infrastructure in 2018 could not have been achieved without WIPO support. With the completion of the WIPO-supported digitization project, Brunei Darussalam now had its own public search platform powered by WIPO Publish which could be accessed through the national website. Hence, the country was currently able to publish its data online and to manage and store all its IP data. WIPO had also supported the country in the implementation of the Madrid System by providing technical assistance in streamlining its business flow to enhance the processing of international applications; providing on-the-job training; and promoting the international system to local businesses. To increase the efficiency of its office, Brunei Darussalam had continued to streamline processes in order to provide the best possible service to users by implementing an e-Filing system for IP applications using WIPO File. The online filing link and e-payment gateway were live for testing and would be launched in April 2019 as part of World IP Day celebrations. Furthermore, work-sharing

initiatives were still used in order to increase examination efficiency by utilizing the tools provided in WIPO's Global Brand Database. Regarding patents, Brunei Darussalam was the first ASEAN PatentScope Coordinator with the latest adaptation of the ASEAN PatentScope work-sharing platform. Over the last few years, there had been a steady growth in the creative industries evidenced by the growing number of local IP applications. More could be done to help the local business community, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), to use the IP system effectively and to ensure a better understanding of its relevance in society. The Delegation was grateful for WIPO support in 2018 and looked forward to further collaborations and invaluable support, bilaterally and under the ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan 2016-2025. New areas of cooperation with WIPO had been identified, including further improvement of the Resource Management Diagnostic of the national IP Office, TISCs, and many more. Most of these areas had been carefully identified to address national priority IP needs and thus contribute to national development. The Delegation hoped to build on and accelerate these WIPO-supported advancements in 2019 and to utilize IP as a tool for promoting growth and national development.

31. The Delegation of **Bulgaria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union its member states and the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBs Group. It expressed its support for WIPO's continued efforts to develop the international legal framework, improve the development and maintenance of vital information standards and achieve its strategic objectives against a backdrop of increasingly demanding requirements. The results attained over the previous year, especially the positive overall financial results, reflected in the Director General's report were commendable. The Delegation appreciated and supported ongoing efforts to identify a mutually satisfactory solution that would ensure the long-term financial stability of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration. It also welcomed the continuous improvement of the PCT, and the Madrid and the Hague Systems for international registration, which provided unique benefits to IP applicants and holders around the world. The timely adoption of the DLT was crucial and the decision to convene a diplomatic conference to that end was most welcome. It was important that participants made every effort to overcome existing obstacles. The Delegation was in favor of the WIPO DA and fully supported the appropriate implementation of the recommendations on the DA framework. The Patent Office of Bulgaria worked closely with WIPO. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its continued support, which included the co-organization of an international conference on industrial property, held in Sofia in March 2018, and the auditing of Bulgaria's technology transfer system. The 20th anniversary of the WIPO Academy had provided yet another opportunity to highlight the growing importance of the knowledge and creativity fostered by IP development. The future of IP was intrinsically linked to the development of AI, which would be leveraged in technology and education to drive the knowledge-based economies of the 21st century. The theme of World IP Day 2018 – "Powering change: Women in Innovation and Creativity" – clearly highlighted the potential of women, including those in less developed countries, as creators of intangible IP assets. The Delegation reaffirmed its unwavering support for WIPO's efforts to ensure the effective use of IP rights and promote IP knowledge worldwide.

32. The Delegation of **Burkina Faso** endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. It requested that the relevant points raised by the Group be given special attention with a view to full implementation of the DA. The idea was to use the opportunities offered by the IP system, make rational use of inventions to meet the country's needs and thus help to accelerate its economic growth. On October 31, 2017, Burkina Faso had revised its Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property, pursuant to its ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. The National Union of Burkinabe Associations for the Advancement of the Blind and Partially Sighted had reached an agreement with WIPO for the production of books accessible to people with difficulties reading printed matter. A National IP Development Plan was also being developed. The Delegation had a number of important IP-related activities planned in the coming months, with WIPO support, including a regional

seminar on copyright. A TISC had also been commissioned in the country. In spite of WIPO's efforts, the challenges being faced were still enormous. The Delegation was convinced that tangible results could be achieved, with the commitment of all Member States and continuing WIPO support, to overcome the major challenges it still faced.

33. The Delegation of **Cameroon** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. It expressed appreciation for the quality of assistance which Cameroon had received, particularly for the implementation of the National Intellectual Property Development Plan (PNDPI), prepared with WIPO's technical assistance and adopted by the Government of Cameroon in 2014. This plan aimed at creating a favorable environment for the promotion and protection of IP for Cameroon's economic, cultural, social and technological development. Hence, in line with implementing that Plan, and thanks to WIPO's support, its Government had equipped all State universities with TISCs. Realizing the role of TISCs as a technology gap-bridging tool between developed and developing countries, and in a bid to facilitate research, the Government of Cameroon had resolved to extend the TISCs network to support structures such as SMEs and SMIs, which were the backbone of Cameroon's economy. The Delegation considered IP as a tool, better still a driver, for socio-economic development. Hence, in addition to other conventions and treaties to which Cameroon was already a party, the Government of Cameroon had decided to accede in the near future to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, which would enable Cameroon to protect its local products and enhance their promotion. Acknowledging the role of innovation for the development of nations, the Delegation sought WIPO's assistance to support its initiative to create reference technology parks on its territory. These technology parks were intended to become innovation hubs in Cameroon and the Central African sub-region and would make extensive use of IP to add value to produced assets. Ownership and dissemination of new technologies would be pivotal to the success of these ambitious projects. Therefore, the Delegation relied on WIPO's assistance.

34. The Delegation of **Canada** said that Canada was strongly committed to WIPO's work through its various committees. Canada continued to make significant advances to modernize its IP system and to ensure a strong domestic framework. It had launched earlier in 2018 its first national Intellectual Property Strategy, which its Government would invest more than 85 million dollars over five years to implement, helping Canadian businesses and innovators understand, protect and access IP. It was working to ensure that Canadians had access to the best possible resources through awareness, education and advice, strategic tools for growth and IP legislation. Supporting these priorities, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office would continue to strengthen global collaboration, provide quality and timely IP rights and foster IP awareness and education through its 2017-2022 Business Strategy. The Office was committed to working with Member States to share best practices and to advance the use of IP Analytics to provide insights on innovative activity by Canadians, as well as on IP trends in Canada and worldwide. As an active participant in the CDIP, Canada was pleased to have co-sponsored with the United States of America and Mexico a project to increase the presence of women in innovation and entrepreneurship by encouraging them to use the IP system in developing countries. On November 5, 2018, Canada would become the 69th Contracting Party to the Hague Agreement. WIPO was to be commended for its strong assistance and collaboration at all stages of the application of this treaty. In addition to joining the Hague Agreement, Canada was preparing to join four other international treaties: the Madrid Protocol, the Singapore Treaty, the Nice Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty. The Delegation considered WIPO as the premier international IP forum and encouraged consensus-based decision-making, good governance and financial stewardship in all WIPO committees. The Delegation supported the development of international norms that were necessary, balanced, flexible, evidence-based, and encouraged international cooperation on emerging IP issues. It also strongly supported WIPO's commitment to working together on Indigenous initiatives and gender equality.

35. The Delegation of the **Central African Republic** commended the quality of the Director General's report, which highlighted the progress of work on patents, trademarks and designs, and congratulated him for promoting IP globally, particularly in LDCs. The Delegation supported all initiatives taken by WIPO to make IP not only a topic for the industrial and commercial world and for copyright and related rights, as in the past, but now also as a tool for socio-economic development. Thanks to the multifaceted support of the Organization and scholarships from the WIPO Academy, there was capacity-building for staff and assistance for lectures on IP law at the University of Bangui and some higher technical and professional institutions, with the involvement of the President of the Central African Republic. Endorsing the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group, the Delegation requested the operationalization of WIPO External Offices, such as the recently created office in Algeria. It expressed the wish that other External Offices be established in the near future. WIPO's assistance program, through the creation of TISCs, remained a priority for LDCs, particularly the Central African Republic, which saw this as a means to bridge its technological gap. In this respect, it called for enhanced cooperation with WIPO in this area. To conclude, the Delegation hoped that the deliberations of the Assemblies would be highly successful.

36. The Delegation of **Chile** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. It expressed its approval for important initiatives for Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the proposal from the CDIP on increasing the role of women in innovation and entrepreneurship, which was fully consonant with the 2018 World IP Day campaign. It further highlighted the progress made in the negotiations at the IGC and in the area of broadcasting, as well as the exchange on exceptions and limitations that was taking place in the SCCR, for the development of a balanced international IP system. Within Chile, IP was increasingly being used in productive activities. The year 2018 had been a period of hard work for the National Institute of Industrial Property of Chile (INAPI), which had achieved high-impact results in its management and in new legal initiatives, thereby allowing Chile to give greater weight to IP as a fundamental element of development and innovation. Regarding computer systems management and operation, the Delegation thanked WIPO for its solid and sustained support in the operation, maintenance and updating of the IP Office Administration System (IPAS), which had allowed productivity rates to increase compared to previous years in the areas of patents, trademarks and designs, directly benefiting users. During WIPO's last mission to Santiago, it had been possible to review and improve the IPAS flow to include the Patent Prosecution Highway agreements that INAPI had implemented with the PROSUR countries, Japan, China and Canada. The Delegation expected to sign a Patent Prosecution Highway agreement with the United States of America during the 2018 Assemblies. Similarly, the searching of the bibliographic data of patents and industrial designs had been facilitated and the data generation model for developing the future Open Data project had been created. Updates had also been made to the IPAS platform to connect the information available in the database more strongly to WIPO CASE and WIPO Publish 1.5.0 and to the Global Brand Database in the area of trademarks. In relation to human resources management, the implementation of remote working in INAPI had yielded positive results in terms of both productivity and the quality of family life. At least 50 per cent of its staff were expected to adopt this work style in 2019. Currently, INAPI was at the forefront of the digital transformation of the State, being a fully digitalized office that was already using AI in trademark procedures. This would not have been possible without the strong support of WIPO, thanks to which INAPI was providing support to other ministries and agencies in their modernization drives. It was also important to note that, as one of the 22 International Search and Preliminary Examination Administrations under the PCT (ISA and IPEA), INAPI had experienced a 20 per cent increase in designations, with a 53 per cent increase in 2018. In addition, all INAPI processes conducted in its capacity as an ISA and IPEA had been ISO-certified. The Delegation said it was convinced of the need to enable Chilean innovators and creators to become part of the international IP system. The Government of Chile was also actively considering acceding to several WIPO-administered international IP treaties and making significant changes to the IP law. The draft law included important reforms to the current system, including the establishment

of an electronic Gazette for publishing applications and notification procedures, the simplification of notifications, the possibility of giving an application date without requiring a fee payment, the introduction of an annual fee payment option, fee reduction for small and medium-sized enterprises, the recognition of non-traditional trademarks, and the enshrinement of the obligation to use trademarks. With respect to new projects and developments, INAPI would shortly launch a new online search engine for trademarks, patents, industrial designs, geographical indications and appellations of origin, which would replace the current search engine. This new tool comprised new filters and displayed the results in a new structure which made it more intuitive and user-friendly, allowing users to search and download the documents comprising the file of each application or judgment, as required. INAPI was also considering making its data available to users for search and download. An image comparison tool, jointly developed with the University of Chile Engineering School, would be launched publicly in October 2018. The instrument had returned very good results and it was expected to be available in early 2019 for marketing to the general public. The Department of Intellectual Rights (DDI), the specialized agency for copyright and related rights in Chile, now fell under the National Cultural Heritage Service following an institutional modernization process that had made for a record number of registrations in 2017, representing an annual 2.2 per cent increase in the productivity of the DDI. In terms of outreach, it had completed an intense agenda of awareness-raising activities in the area of international and inter-institutional cooperation (publication of a copyright handbook, international seminars, specialized talks and collaboration with universities and other entities). All this had enabled a 55.5 per cent increase in performance in this area of activity. Of these activities, 12 per cent took place abroad, 58 per cent in the Metropolitan Region and 30 per cent in the other regions of the country. As part of the activities abroad, the DDI had been invited by the WIPO Academy, for the second year in a row, to train participants from Latin America and the Caribbean as part of the Regional Training Course on Copyright and Related Rights, organized in Mexico City. At the local level, highlights included the DDI's participation in organizing the International Seminar on Copyright and the Creative Economy, held in Santiago, a first for Chile. The event was run with the collaboration of WIPO, the National Council for Culture and Arts (CNCA) and the General Directorate for International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry. Collaboration with Chilean universities was ongoing, with extensive joint work on IP asset protection, development and innovation. Inter-institutional collaboration with other services or ministries had been reflected in two important milestones. The first was the publication of the *Guía de derecho de autor – La protección de la creación* (Handbook on Copyright: The protection of creation), an essential text for training on the basics of copyright and related rights in Chile, the product of a collaborative effort between the CNCA and the DDI. The handbook text was available on the Internet and could be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.cultura.gob.cl/publicaciones/guia-derecho-autor/>. The second milestone was the analysis and drafting of the first policy on intellectual property, intended to be applied within a government ministry in Chile and developed by INAPI, the Ministry of Public Works and the DDI. The policy was approved by the Ministry of Public Works through Exempt Resolution No. 2444 of November 16, 2017. During 2018, activities were carried out to promote the use of the IP register and its importance in creative sectors, with more than 20 specialized awareness-raising talks having taken place to date. Seminars related to specific creative sectors had taken place with WIPO's help and joint work with other government and private institutions. For example, the seminar "How to live from music" had been held in June and the second Seminar on Copyright and Creative Economy would be held in October. As to medium- and long-term projects, the DDI was driving initiatives that sought to generally improve the online registration system, digitalize the works available in institutional archives and generate automated catalogs of these archives to facilitate their historical preservation and remote searching by title and body responsible for compliance. It also aimed to generate unique identifiers of registrations starting from 2019 and other identifiers, such as differentiated identifiers for registrations that required special confidential treatment, to make them easier to manage for all the IP system users. The Delegation hoped that all these initiatives, at different stages of development, would give a major boost to IP in

Chile as the crucial element for increasing investment and promoting innovation, stimulating, in short, the country's economic and social development. The General Directorate for International Economic Relations had also developed specific tools for the Chilean creative-industry export sector to reinforce the importance of using and protecting IP, giving these industries basic knowledge of management and practical tools through workshops specific to each creative area. All that was just a small sample of how Chile had been able to put IP on the national agenda with a practical, user-focused approach. All that progress had been partly achieved with assistance provided by WIPO and Chile hoped to continue receiving the valuable support that the Organization provided to its Member States to promote innovation and creativity for their economic, social and cultural development. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for WIPO's support for the activities of PROSUR, a system composed of IP offices from 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Such cooperation would be consolidated by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PROSUR and WIPO during the current series of meetings. In conclusion, the Delegation pointed out that 2018 Assemblies were an opportunity to demonstrate to the world that multilateralism was the way to achieve balanced and forward-looking international cooperation agreements and asked that this opportunity be used not only to give a clear signal and to inspire the other WIPO committees, but also to demonstrate the importance of multilateral work and international cooperation in WIPO and other international bodies.

37. The Delegation of **Colombia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. It reiterated its country's commitment to WIPO, adding that the new Government had prioritized economic development as part of the "Orange Economy" which, according to a study by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), included the knowledge and innovation sector, whose goods and services could be protected through IPRs. The IP sector currently contributed 3.4 per cent of GDP in Colombia, which sought to further consolidate the sector to bolster the national economy. The promotion, diffusion and adequate protection of IP was essential for this purpose. Consequently, it was a priority for Colombia to continue collaborating actively with WIPO on IP policies and guidelines, to be able to create the appropriate environment to encourage the "Orange Economy" sector as a contribution to the country's development model. The Delegation underlined the work carried out during the 2018 sessions of the IGC. Given the importance of the subject for an extremely diverse and multiethnic country like Colombia, the Delegation called for continued building of the consensus necessary to achieve a treaty on the matter. It also reiterated its interest in progressing towards a consensus on a design law treaty and a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation thanked WIPO for the constant support that it had received in relation to technical assistance and cooperation, which had provided tools and opportunities for strengthening the IP system in the country. In particular, it highlighted the support of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at WIPO in consolidating the cooperation agreement between WIPO and the member states of the regional cooperation system on industrial property PROSUR. This cooperation would allow the continued facilitation and optimization of national IP systems, to promote knowledge transfer and understanding throughout the region. Regarding External Offices, it was a matter of great interest and priority to the country that the Assemblies should fulfill the mandate to establish a WIPO External Office in Colombia, outstanding from 2016/2017, as well as the three External Offices for 2018/2019. It reiterated the importance of acknowledging GRULAC's efforts to present a consensus candidate, as well as the region's commitment and contribution to the process, considering that it had not presented a candidate for the 2018/2019 biennium. Colombia's proposal was technically solid, fully consistent with the Guiding Principles and would strengthen WIPO's presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Moreover, it would be the first office to be established by WIPO in a Spanish-speaking country, Spanish being considered the second most-spoken native language in the world. The Delegation was convinced of the importance of the Agenda for Sustainable Development as a shared vision that was transforming society. A tangible result of the parallel and complementary processes of the 2030 Agenda was the creation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and it was important for WIPO to strengthen

activities and commitments in the context of technology transfer. Lastly, the Delegation reasserted its commitment to building a balanced IP system that would foster a knowledge- and innovation-based economy.

38. The Delegation of the **Congo** endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of Member States depended on an effective and balanced international system. A legally binding international instrument must be put in place in order to protect GRs, TK and TCEs. For that reason, the Congo, a member of OAPI, had hosted the High Level Meeting of OAPI Member States on Intellectual Property and the Enhancement of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions on April 10 and 11, 2018. It must be stressed that, in the current context of economic globalization, agreements on the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs must meet the legal and general policy aspirations of developing countries. Such agreements must, moreover, afford effective protection, in particular against misappropriation and illegal commercial exploitation, and they must provide for the legal recognition of their intrinsic value as tradable traditional goods and for their sustainability so that they would not die out over time.

39. The Delegation of **Costa Rica** supported the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation said that Costa Rica was pleased to come second out of 18 Latin American countries in the Global Innovation Index, although there was still much for the country to do to further develop its strengths and face challenges. The 2017-2018 transition had been a period of important changes for the Costa Rican IP Office, particularly with regard to technological infrastructure, which was under constant development in order to consolidate and optimize the services offered to IP system users. The Delegation thanked WIPO, and especially the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at WIPO headquarters, for the support that the Costa Rican IP Office had been receiving during these processes, as many of the advances had resulted from a joint effort. The updates to the Trademarks IPAS and Patents IPAS, as well as WIPO Publish, had progressed satisfactorily and the implementation of WIPO File had been initiated as a priority project under WIPO's guidance. With respect to distinctive signs, the final version of the Manual on Distinctive Signs for Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic had been made available to users through the website of the Costa Rican IP Office. Efforts were continuing to promote IP and strengthen the network of TISCs in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Regarding copyright, particularly important for Costa Rica was the analysis of the limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives and of the limitations and exceptions for teaching and research institutions and for people with other impairments, especially in light of the Marrakesh Treaty. Lastly, the Delegation underscored the importance to Costa Rica of harmonizing national and global IP systems with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that no one was left behind. It was therefore particularly interested in seeing the work of the CDIP and the progress of the IGC for the protection of TK, folklore and GRs.

40. The Delegation of **Côte d'Ivoire** supported the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and welcomed the Secretariat's efforts in preparing the documents for the Assemblies. It took note of the Director General's report, commending him for his efforts to expand the Organization and buttress the economic and social strategy of its Member States, thereby increasing the number of accessions to WIPO's most important systems, Madrid, PCT and The Hague, and for the positive financial situation. WIPO had assisted with the provision of capacity-building for lawyers of the Côte d'Ivoire Bar, TISC focal points, universities and research institutions, while maintaining its support for all IP initiatives in 2018. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire was keenly aware of the importance of IP as a pillar for its economic, social and cultural development in its 2016-2020 National Development Plan (PND). Thus, on industrial property, the Ivorian Office of Intellectual Property (OIPI) had embarked on awareness campaigns to promote geographical indications and collective marks to fight rural poverty. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire was working to implement some literary

and artistic rights, especially remuneration for private copy, remuneration for reprographic reproduction and the artist's resale right. The collective management organization, the Ivorian Copyright Office (BURIDA), ranked third among the major rights collectors in the African Region, behind South Africa and Algeria, thanks to WIPO support. Sums collected had increased by 60 per cent since 2013, reaching 2.49 billion CFA Francs in 2017, mainly from the increase in the amount of royalties from some categories of rights, especially digital. In 2017, 78.39 per cent of rights were distributed compared to 77.79 per cent in 2016. Reaffirming its country's alignment to WIPO's ideals of equality, sharing and equity, the Delegation urged all delegations to be open-minded and willing to cooperate to drive forward the normative framework so as to resolve pending issues such as GRs, TK and folklore, the draft DLT and the draft treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. Lastly, it restated its readiness to participate constructively in deliberations towards mutually beneficial fruitful outcomes.

41. The Delegation of **Croatia** noted that WIPO's efforts and activities designed to develop and strengthen the international IP system promoted innovation and creativity, thus creating incentives for economic growth, social welfare and environmental preservation. The Delegation welcomed the continuous growth in the filing of applications for registration. After acknowledging, in particular, positive developments within the SCCR regarding the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, it called on delegations to take a more constructive approach in future work so that consensus would be reached on the adoption of the DLT for the equal benefit of users in all Member States. In March of the current year, Croatia had modernized the electronic filing of PCT applications at the State Intellectual Property Office by introducing the ePCT system and had also organized a training workshop for patent attorneys, with WIPO's technical assistance. It had also received support for a national IP seminar held to raise journalists' awareness of key issues in the IP system and its role in modern society. Furthermore, "Managing IP in the Advertising Industry", a WIPO publication translated and published in Croatian, adapted to Croatian needs and practices and complemented by current information on the global and Croatian advertising industry, prepared in cooperation with the Croatian Association of Communications Agencies, would raise awareness on the importance of IP protection and management in the advertising industry in Croatia. The World IP Day had been marked in 2018 by a public discussion on the work and contribution of women to science, innovation and the arts, and the role of the IP system in supporting their achievements. Croatia reiterated its commitment to combating counterfeiting and piracy in the digital environment and reported that competitions and events, targeting young people and adolescents, had been held in 2017 and 2018 to promote the importance of creativity, innovation, and respect for other people's work. The 2017 competition had been a great success and a wider response was expected in 2018. The distance learning course on General Intellectual Property, taught in Croatian and attended by persons inside and outside Croatia, was still in high demand, with admission quotas being filled almost as soon as registration began. Lastly, Croatia had organized a Multisensory Exhibition for the Blind and Visually Impaired Persons during the current Assemblies to mark the deposit by the European Union of its instrument of ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, and to demonstrate how visually impaired persons could be enabled to experience a work of art in terms of its form and content.

42. The Delegation of **Cuba** supported the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation was in the process of implementing its industrial property policy as approved by the Council of Ministers following the adoption of rules to complement the country's national legal framework on industrial property, which had entered into force on August 10, 2018. Industrial property management, reinforced by institutional development activities, was a strategic development priority under Cuba's economic model, with effect through 2030. The Delegation considered it important for the IGC to speed up its work and participate fully and openly in the text-based negotiations on an international legal instrument guaranteeing effective protection for GRs, TK and TECs. The WIPO DA was one of the fundamental pillars of the Organization and its Member States. Results had been achieved through various projects to implement parts of the Agenda, but dialogue needed to be initiated

on IP and development in the CDIP as part of the third pillar. The regular budget was still being used to implement DA recommendations and for other technical cooperation and assistance activities, specifically with regard to the Intellectual Property Automation Systems, under the program for IP office business solutions. The DA should guarantee a balanced international IP system compatible with national development policies and conducive to achieving the SDGs. The SCP should continue to advance in its study of limitations and exceptions to industrial property rights, placing emphasis on the barriers created by patents to technology transfer. The studies being done in this area should address issues pertaining to development and to the governing conditions. The negotiations on the text of the draft DLT should be guided by the interests of all Member States and provide for technical assistance and a requirement to disclose the origin of TK associated with designs. The Delegation hoped that the work of the SCCR would lead to a concrete outcome with respect to exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives, as well as educational and research institutions, and ensure access to such learning and human development tools for persons with disabilities. The Delegation recognized the support provided by WIPO, through the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and the WIPO Academy, for the country's patents and technology and global infrastructure sectors, and in capacity-building for various social actors within the national industrial property system. That effort had contributed to the implementation of the country's national industrial property policies. Lastly, the Delegation also warmly congratulated the WIPO Academy on its 20 years of activity as a center of excellence in the area of industrial property education and promotion.

43. The Delegation of the **Czech Republic** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states and with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group. Expressing continued support for WIPO's pivotal role as the global forum for IP services, policy, information and cooperation, and for all WIPO activities, the Delegation ascribed great importance to the efficient and accessible IPRs system and to the improvement of global IP protection systems, the PCT, the Madrid System, the Hague System and the Lisbon System, and other services provided to the users. It welcomed the Lisbon Union Members' efforts to eliminate the budget deficit of the Lisbon Union and to hold further discussions on solutions for the Union's long-term financial sustainability. It hoped that the decision to convene a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT would be adopted and that the remaining contentious points would be resolved, noting that the Intergovernmental Committee was the appropriate forum for discussion on the disclosure requirement. It considered that consensus could be reached in the SCCR on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, meeting both current and future protection needs, and was gratified that the resale right remained on that Committee's agenda. While welcoming the progress achieved by the SCP, it recalled its expectation that the Committee would have initiated a more technical discussion on substantive patent law harmonization. It remained committed to the current mandate of the IGC and recognized the importance of the activities of the CDIP, given the country's continued support for WIPO's technical assistance activities. Considering IPRs enforcement to be a global challenge, the Delegation appreciated the strategic goal of international cooperation to build respect for IP, expressed support for the work of Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) and welcomed the growing involvement of Member States from all regions. Highlighting WIPO's activities in IP teaching and education, the WIPO Academy and IP policies for universities and public research institutions, the Delegation reported that greater attention was being paid to IP teaching and to raising awareness of IPRs protection and subsequent commercialization, and announced that a WIPO Roving Seminar on WIPO Services and Initiatives would be held in Prague in October 2018, commending the assistance provided by the Secretariat to that end. The country, which hosted study visits and internships organized in cooperation with WIPO, had earlier in the year sent patent examiners on a study visit to the Nordic Patent Institute, which had deepened their knowledge of International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (ISA/IPEA) procedures. The Delegation paid close attention to action to combat misleading invoices and other offers and thanked WIPO for its ongoing cooperation and efforts in that area.

44. The Delegation of the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** stated that the 27th session of the SCP, held in December 2017, had addressed the issue of removing the constraints faced by developing countries and LDCs in their access to patents and, in particular, those for essential medicines. It had been an inspiring milestone to see Member States demonstrate their will to employ IP to help achieve the UN SDGs by giving priority to ethics and morals that were highly relevant to human dignity and lives. Based on a decision of the 57th Assemblies, the IGC had prepared a consolidated document on IP and GRs, with a view to submitting the final document to the 2019 WIPO Assemblies. Over 40 countries had ratified the Marrakesh Treaty. Such success resulted from the Secretariat's efforts to promote the Marrakesh Treaty in 2018. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of the SCT in preparing the framework for the DLT and hoped that a diplomatic conference would be convened in the first half of 2019 for the Treaty's adoption. In April 2018, Kim Jong Un, Chair of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had introduced a new strategy to concentrate all efforts on the socialist economic system and ways to advance in production through science and technology, which were powerful drivers of economic development. Mr. Kim had also underscored the need to give sustained and strategic priority to implementing and guiding scientific and technological development, including the expansion of the national science and technology dissemination network to train the entire population in science and technology. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been actively participating in IP protection activities and, in August 2018, had ratified the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) and approved amendments to the WIPO Convention and other WIPO-administered treaties. To achieve the UN SDGs, it was necessary to further promote scientific and technological development through IP, to take advantage of scientific and technological achievements and to promote scientific and technological exchange and cooperation between countries. Nevertheless, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been facing unprecedented, inhumane and medieval sanctions aimed at stifling its unique people-centered socialist system and hindering the improvement of its people's livelihoods. Arbitrary barriers had also been imposed on scientific and technological exchange and collaboration and, in particular, on the country's participation in workshops and conferences organized by WIPO for IP experts. Such artificial obstacles had galvanized the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, further strengthening their will and spirit to safeguard the socialist system and to build a self-reliant and modern socialist economy, the knowledge economy. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would further promote scientific and technological development using IP as a lever and would strengthen cooperation with WIPO and its Member States.

45. The Delegation of **Denmark** stated that innovation was a key driver of economic growth, adding that research and development were needed to ensure sustainable growth and combat the multitude of global challenges facing society at all levels of development. Consequently, a proper incentive would be necessary to ensure the return of the significant investments required for the performance of such tasks. In this regard, IPRs were needed to harvest the fruits of innovation with a view to promoting development and the economy, as well as for knowledge-sharing and technology transfer. WIPO had a key role to play as an organization set up to promote global IPR protection through inter-State cooperation. Accordingly, constant efforts had to be made to ensure that WIPO delivered cost-efficient and fit-for-purpose IP services, thus providing users with premier products. The Delegation acknowledged WIPO's efforts to improve the global IP systems, including the PCT and Madrid Systems, as well as IT services for both users and offices. The Delegation lauded WIPO for increasing the efficiency in its operations and improving governance. The Delegation valued efficient and transparent governance and supported continuous enhancements in this respect. The Delegation welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to implement the DA, adding that WIPO had an important role to play in bringing IP to the attention of all stakeholders, regardless of level of development. The inclusion of DA recommendations had to be viewed in conjunction with the overall goal of WIPO as defined in the WIPO Convention, namely "to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among states". The Delegation still believed that the text of the

Design Law Formality Treaty finalized in 2014 was sufficiently mature for a diplomatic conference, and appreciated the information exchange in the ACE in order to combat IPR infringements. It supported the work of the SCP and hoped that these efforts would progress towards the harmonization of patent laws for the benefit of users and society. The Delegation acknowledged the progress made on GRs, TK and TCEs by the IGC and looked forward to continuation of its work. The Delegation also supported the work of the CDIP, relating to the implementation of DA recommendations. WIPO had an important role to play in driving innovation, creativity and IP promotion for the benefit of all. The Government of Denmark had decided to concentrate all investigations and criminal proceedings pertaining to IPR crimes under the State Prosecutor for Serious Economic and International Crime. This would ensure a more coordinated and robust approach to combating IPR crimes. The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) had continued to deliver high quality products to its applicants in 2017-2018. In 2017, it was the only PCT authority that published all PCT applications with an international search report. The Delegation was intent on making a positive, constructive and pragmatic contribution to the functioning of WIPO and its bodies. Recognizing that the efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services was important for Danish users, the Delegation pledged to ensure that WIPO delivered world-class services.

46. The Delegation of **Djibouti** aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group and the Group of LDCs. It lauded the efforts and information regularly provided by the Organization and took note of WIPO's huge yearly revenue. These results were proof of the importance of IP in the socio-economic development of many Member States of the Organization. To use the instruments to protect inventors in developing countries, there was need to further strengthen the institutions fostering creation, research, technology and innovation. In a global economy based on knowledge and technological progress, there was a need to stimulate innovation, particularly for developing countries and LDCs. The Delegation therefore urged WIPO to continue enhancing cooperation on research and development and education and to create an enabling environment for all to boost creation and innovation. To develop the global IP system, it was important to strike the right balance between the owners of technologies and the providers of the raw materials which facilitated their development. WIPO was the ideal forum to improve the exchange of best practices and cooperation in these areas. The Delegation regretted the slow pace and stalemate over discussions on GRs, TK and folklore. The deliberations on this point should lead to the protection of owners and the obligation of disclosure by users. The Delegation expressed satisfaction that development issues were given greater consideration in WIPO activities and noted the various activities carried out to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. It restated that the transfer of technology and know-how was a prerequisite to achieve the SDGs and Vision 2030. This would greatly speed up the industrialization and structural transformation of developing economies. Technology transfer was both vital and as crucial as funding for Vision 2030. It had to constitute the focus of discussions on how to particularly achieve objectives 7 and 9 of this Vision. The Delegation urged WIPO to support developing countries in devising country-specific strategies for transfer of technology that met their needs.

47. The Delegation of the **Dominican Republic** endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. With reference to WIPO, the Delegation expressed thanks for the support received by the country's National Office from the Organization's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Thanks were also due to the Republic of Korea for the WIPO FIT received from that country and for the renewal of support by the Korean Intellectual Property Organization (KIPO) and the Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA) for technological innovation in the Dominican Republic. The Delegation highlighted the unity that had characterized the participation of Latin American countries in the Regional Cooperation System on Industrial Property (PROSUR), a mutual support instrument consisting of 13 regional offices with emphasis on the promotion of technological innovation and industrial property in general. The Delegation welcomed the recent launch of a medication patent information database, a proposed instrument that would

link the International Common Denomination (ICD) for trademarked medicines and their respective patents. The titles indicated in patent applications had, as yet, been difficult to connect with the medications to be protected, a considerable stumbling block for national health systems around the world. The new instrument, to be called Pat-INFORMED, would hopefully enable doctors and health officials to clearly identify patented medications and their patent terms in different markets, as well as related patent families. This would represent a significant advance, since chemical numbers placed at the top of patent applications in no way provided adequate information to the public, in particular to users, about the link between the granted patent and the industrial application claimed by that patent, which in that case is a therapeutic use application. This tool would therefore help meet the need for effective dissemination and accurate information about the industrial application, in these cases therapeutic, of products to be patented after the permits to market them had been received. It was well known that the information publicly available to date, including the Orange Book of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, referred to specific markets only. Also noteworthy was the Medicines Patent Pool database (MedsPaL), with information on the patent and licensing status of a smaller number of essential drugs, including those for cancer, HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis. Pat-INFORMED would expand that information by creating an easily accessible link to patents for key drugs in 12 therapeutic categories, as well as the list of essential medications maintained by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Delegation considered this excellent news that would level the negotiation playing field for procurement agencies by enhancing the knowledge of all parties involved. This initiative had been one of the early outcomes of cooperation among WIPO, WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to better coordinate matters related to public health, IP and trade. The Delegation was confident that this cooperation would soon bear additional fruit, enabling countries to fulfill the commitments agreed to in 2008 after adoption by the World Health Assembly of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. Each of the strategies had, however, to firmly respect the Agreement's provisions concerning Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The Delegation expressed support for the workshops and other initiatives aimed at ensuring patent quality and hoped they would continue. Proper consideration of patent applications was a guarantee that the system established by the Paris Convention would be maintained and would reward true innovation. In no way could patents be used to reward the registration of obvious improvements or elements duplicative of the technical *status quo*, which could seriously damage public perceptions as to the equity and benefits of the IP system. Lastly, the Delegation urged that the Organization's initiative for the training of judges be continued, enabling them to share evaluation criteria with respect to industrial property cases and allowing members of the judiciary in developed and developing countries to exchange experiences and case law. All of this was helping to improve basic consensus within the global system while also allowing for the differences between distinct national systems.

48. The Delegation of **Ecuador** thanked the Director General for his report, which showed the ever-increasing importance of the use of the IP system, and which certainly prompted reflection on the future of IP for global commerce, economics and economic development. It aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC and reaffirmed its commitment to participate constructively in discussions. For Ecuador, IP was a development tool and, given its importance, the National Intellectual Property Rights Service had been created. This new authority had new powers that formed part of the establishment of a science and technology system, one of the pillars of which was IP rights. These powers went beyond the basic registration work of a national IP office: It was the executive arm for public policy and assumed new prerogatives, such as knowledge transfer and management and traditional knowledge protection. Highly diverse countries such as Ecuador, with a large bank of biological and GRs, undoubtedly had great potential for bioeconomy-based development, which had to occur against the backdrop of full respect for the relevant international instruments. The Delegation had been among those that had made a significant and proactive contribution to the discussion at the IGC, judging that disclosure of the source and fair and equitable participation in the benefits obtained from the protection of GRs and traditional and derived knowledge would

allow IP rights to be fairly remunerated. It said that the IGC should continue the work that it had done so efficiently so that concrete results could be obtained at the end of its mandate. It was particularly concerned about the topics discussed within the SCCR, which were of particular importance to the Delegation, and added that it was fundamental for this work to continue to deal with exceptions and limitations, in which regard Ecuador had presented several open, text-based proposals. Regarding the Marrakesh Treaty, the Delegation was pleased with the progress being made among WIPO Member States on the ratification of the instrument and recalled that Ecuador had been one of the drivers of the Treaty, which was benefiting more than 300 million visually impaired people. This clearly showed that a balanced protection system was the route that WIPO's work should take. The projects under way were valuable. The CDIP was vital for achieving the objectives toward which the Member States were working. For this reason, Ecuador was one of the countries piloting the Tourism, Culture and IP Project and had been able to interact in this capacity with the competent authorities to drive the creation of intangible assets by tourism service operators. An IP professorship would also be included at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in continuous education. Such projects clearly demonstrated that IP cut across multiple areas of the economy and knowledge. Lastly, the Delegation thanked WIPO for all the technical cooperation that it had enjoyed, and which had allowed Ecuador to promote IP management and create a suitable environment for innovation and knowledge-based development.

49. The Delegation of **Egypt** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the Director General's report and commended WIPO for its role in promoting research, innovation and IP across all countries irrespective of their level of development, as well as its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. The Delegation looked forward to further technical assistance and capacity-building activities being undertaken in developing countries across the entire spectrum of the 2030 Agenda, given the integrated and indivisible nature of SDGs. The Delegation noted it was essential to enhance cooperation mechanisms between WIPO committees and bodies in order to implement the DA recommendations. Furthermore, more efforts needed to be made in order to develop a holistic framework for technical assistance and capacity-building programs, ensuring sustainability for successful programs and projects and up-scaling of such initiatives for implementation in all Member States. The Delegation recalled that WIPO's normative agenda included a number of ambitious international instruments aimed at enhancing the IP system. In that regard, the Delegation called upon all Member States to engage constructively in moving forward on the agenda. Indeed, despite the delay in convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, and the extension of IGC's discussions until 2019, the Delegation believed good progress had been made on a number of legal instruments such as a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations under the SCCR. The Delegation hoped further progress would be achieved in SCCR's discussions to develop a legal instrument regarding exceptions for educational and research institutions, libraries and archives. With regard to the Marrakesh Treaty, the Delegation said that Bibliotheca Alexandrina had prepared an accessible format of the Arabic version of the treaty for the benefit of visually-impaired and print-disabled persons and was collaborating with WIPO to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Organization enabling ABC to obtain copies of its catalogue of accessible books. As for patents, the Delegation believed it was necessary to strengthen the interface between patents, public health and access to medicines, harnessing the power of innovation and modern knowledge to support public efforts aimed at developing the health sector. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation with relevant international organizations on achieving the SDG related to public health and well-being. The Delegation supported the proposed fee reduction in patent examination for universities and research institutions. The Delegation requested that WIPO undertake more technical assistance and capacity-building programs in developing countries aimed at developing national patent collections, supporting the use of modern technologies and enhancing examiners' efficiency, ultimately increasing developing countries' role in promoting IP and innovation. Cognizant of the importance of IP in economic and social reforms, Egypt had adopted a

scientific approach to knowledge production and dissemination, making use of youth ideas. The Delegation recalled that Egypt had established a knowledge bank as part of its “Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030” to further support research, innovation and knowledge-sharing by increasing free access to scientific and cultural materials. In addition, scientific research and technology had become major components of the overall development process in Egypt, with expenditures on R&D rising by 47 per cent and direct Government support provided to national research and scientific projects. Furthermore, Egypt’s President proclaimed 2019 as the Year of Education in Egypt. The national education development project had been initiated and work was underway to adopt the Law on the Establishment of Technological Universities aimed at developing technical education in line with the latest international standards. In conclusion, the Delegation committed to engage constructively in the session, hoping all discussions would be successful and achieve tangible results.

50. The Delegation of **El Salvador** aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of GRULAC and expressed appreciation for all the cooperation enjoyed in 2018. In particular, it thanked the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for the technical assistance and training that its technicians and specialists had provided to implement the ongoing program of diffusion, awareness-raising and training, and other WIPO units, such as those responsible for trademarks, patents, copyright, arbitration and statistics. In August 2018, El Salvador had adopted the National Policy on the Health of Indigenous Peoples, a new policy which took a functioning intercultural health approach that recognized the ancestral, curative and preventative knowledge of indigenous peoples, alongside the official health system. The Delegation reiterated its determination to implement the Marrakesh Treaty, for which purpose an inter-institutional agreement between several ministries would be signed to instrumentalize access to printed text for blind people and those with other visual impairments in El Salvador. The benefits of the Madrid System and the possibility of joining in the immediate future were still being evaluated at the highest level. With respect to alternative dispute resolution (ADR), action for the establishment and operation of an arbitration and mediation center would soon conclude. Regarding human talent training, the El Salvador School of Registration Training and the WIPO Academy had continued working together since the signing of an agreement in 2016. El Salvador was acting *pro tempore* as President of PROSUR (the instrument of technical and operational cooperation between Latin American and Caribbean countries, which had WIPO’s strong support). In this capacity, during the current series of meetings of the Assemblies, it would sign a cooperation agreement between PROSUR and WIPO, which would support the management of offices in the region. The Delegation also underscored that it set much store by the meetings between the Director General and the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic at the highest level, as they opened up very important and unique political spaces in the region.

51. The Delegation of **Ethiopia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. IP protection and norm-setting were crucial to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development goals through substantive and transformative inventions. The pace at which many developing countries, particularly in Africa, were getting integrated into the global economy called for a robust and well-developed IP system that would promote their active involvement in global markets and enable them to overcome their development challenges. WIPO support in this regard would greatly boost the socio-economic development efforts of such countries. Accordingly, the Delegation welcomed and supported the MoU signed between WIPO and some intergovernmental organizations in Africa to establish a more enabling coordination system for implementing technical assistance programs for Member States. The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development had to be fully implemented in conjunction with and as an integral part of the WIPO program of work since development and IP rights protection tended to go hand-in-hand. WIPO support was therefore critical not only in the application of appropriate technologies for development, but also in ensuring the establishment of a fair and balanced IP regime. The Delegation therefore welcomed the significant steps undertaken to enhance the development component of WIPO’s

work. Ethiopia appreciated WIPO's continued support in the formulation of its national IP strategies and in ensuring human and institutional capacity-building. WIPO had been instrumental in setting up the national IP Academy which would soon undergo a status re-evaluation and needs assessment. Thanks to WIPO's technical and financial assistance, Ethiopia was about to finalize its national IP policy and strategy, and was drafting a national law on traditional knowledge. Furthermore, a national workshop would be organized in November 2018 to raise stakeholder awareness on this policy and strategy. The Government's commitment to modernize the various economic and social sectors of the country had been strengthened by the recent launching of IPAS and automation by WIPO. Moreover, Ethiopia was one of the few African countries to launch an Online Trademark Database thanks to the continued and unreserved support of WIPO and especially the Division for LDCs. Although the Division had helped Ethiopia to implement certain programs and to build capacity through technical training, it needed to step up its commitment to support LDCs. Considering that legally-binding international instruments were vital for the protection of GRs, TCEs and TK, the IGC should finalize its consultations and reach a decision to convene a diplomatic conference.

52. The Delegation of **France** aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of Group B and of the European Union and its member states. At a time when multilateralism was often questioned, it renewed the support of the Government of France to robust, modern and effective multilateralism perfectly demonstrated by WIPO. With the major challenges of the century being global, a global response was needed. Countries were now so closely linked and their citizens so dependent on one another that thinking of succeeding alone was an illusion. Unilateralism was obsolete and on the wrong side of history. Instead, multilateralism provided the right response to the challenges of globalization. It embodied the ethics of international relations based not on the law of the strongest or the richest but on responsibility and solidarity. It avoided the travails of the prisoner's dilemma or the illegal traveler, familiar to economists. It helped to protect global public goods. The Delegation particularly highlighted trade, health, the environment, global warming and digital technology. In this connection, WIPO played a major role. The future of societies depended on innovation in science, technology and the arts and needed both freedom and security. Since invention was very difficult, demanding and fragile, inventors were entitled to just recompense. They also needed a free market which was no longer national or regional but global. WIPO had to encourage their efforts and provide them with the opening and security they needed. For these reasons, France supported WIPO. This is also why it hoped that WIPO would perform its tasks under favorable conditions and that its integrity would be fully preserved. Hence, France was faithful to the principles and objectives of WIPO, as stipulated in Article 3 of its establishing convention of 1967, underscoring both the unity of the Organization and solidarity among the Unions. France was aware of the crucial importance to their users of the smooth functioning and proper administration of each of the IP protection systems. However, it lamented that some technical discussions remained unsettled, even after 20 years. The Delegation specifically referred to the draft DLT, as well as the broadcasting treaty and the deliberations of the IGC. Lastly, new challenges were likely to arise, such as the artist's resale right. Two years to the centenary of the creation of this right, it would be fair for all visual artists to benefit from it. So, although it was right to take time for negotiations and sometimes to preserve their confidentiality, there was also a need to adapt to rapid technological developments in an ever-changing world. Consequently, results were expected – and not in the distant future. In conclusion, the Delegation declared that it would be actively involved in constructive discussions during the current series of meetings.

53. The Delegation of **Gabon** associated itself with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the African Group and stressed the importance of IP for the development of a knowledge-based economy. With reference to WIPO, the Delegation emphasized the Organization's crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda and said it should focus on actions in the field to establish closer relations with research institutes and the business world. The Delegation deplored the fact that no agreement had been reached in the CDIP on the African Group's proposal for a conference on IP and development, which could be highly

beneficial and complement the work of WIPO in this area by identifying real needs and proposing innovative ideas. It would also provide an opportunity for developing countries to participate in the debate. The Delegation welcomed the progress made by the IGC, and supported the establishment of an *ad hoc* Expert Group to help achieve consensus, leaving it to the next series of meetings of the Assemblies to iron out any lingering ideological resistance to the draft texts under discussion. The Delegation hoped that a diplomatic conference could be convened at the next session of the Assemblies, taking the view that renewed commitment and good faith would permit a solution satisfactory to all parties to be reached at the next session. For an Organization with such a sound financial footing, it should not take 20 years to agree on a treaty in this area. For many countries and communities, the work being done in WIPO committees was a source of hope for a better future. The draft DLT, for instance, showed how IP could impact on social conditions, which was why the Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt it. The Delegation stressed that both ethical and financial considerations were critical to the rationale for WIPO. The Delegation appreciated the support received from WIPO for the organization of its copyright sector and had requested assistance in strengthening staff capacity in its Copyright Office with regard to copyright, as well as the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

54. The Delegation of **the Gambia** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation reported continued modest gains in the promotion of IP for economic development and prosperity. With the Secretariat's support, the country had in the current year finalized The Gambia Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy 2018, established The Gambia TISC Network and signed the TISC Service Legal Agreement. It would sign an MoU with WIPO during the Assemblies. In capacity-building, support had also been provided by the WIPO Academy and ARIPO for two Gambians to attend the Masters in Intellectual Property program at the Africa University in Zimbabwe.

55. The Delegation of **Georgia** fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group. The work of the WIPO Academy in raising public awareness of IP training and customizing distance learning courses to support countries in setting up national IP academies was commendable. The Delegation was particularly pleased with the successful extension of the Personal Development Program (PDP) for government officials and education programs for the judiciary. WIPO had provided assistance to Georgia for setting up its national IP Training Center and, through the Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC), had continued to actively engage and provide professional guidance on the planning and implementation of priority projects in Georgia. While such projects were continuously improving through regular evaluation, it would be desirable to see more projects with a broader approach. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its well-organized cultural and side events and its professional approach, which had helped to promote cultures and traditions from different countries. WIPO had made significant progress in global IP services in recent years, improving IP systems and better meeting users' needs. The Delegation was confident that WIPO would continue to efficiently provide services to aid Member States in using the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems, providing equal treatment for all Systems, including for geographical indications. It was regrettable that an agreement to convene a diplomatic conference on the DLT had not been reached and the Delegation hoped that such a decision would be reached during the current WIPO General Assembly. Negotiations on the opening of new External Offices were becoming protracted and WIPO should act in the best interests of the Organization, observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and give priority to regions with no External Offices. In that regard, Georgia was located in the only region without an External Office and Romania was the only country from that region to apply to host one. Therefore, the Delegation supported the opening of a new External Office in Romania. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for improving geographical representation within the Organization and was optimistic that, with close cooperation from Member States, there would be balanced representation in the near future.

The Delegation extended its thanks to WIPO for accepting a Georgian fellow onto the Madrid Fellowship Program.

56. The Delegation of **Germany** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Switzerland on behalf of Group B and by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states. WIPO continued to be a focal point for global discussion and legislative development. Advancing the normative agenda could add significant value not only to the Organization but also to every Member State. The Delegation thus encouraged all delegations and regional groups to collaborate constructively and set aside their remaining differences and looked forward to contributing to a fruitful dialogue. It acknowledged the significant initiatives undertaken by WIPO, especially in the area of AI, and appreciated the tremendous efforts made by the Advanced Technology Applications Center to develop and improve tools that truly enabled WIPO and its Member States to overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by information technologies. One of the major challenges facing WIPO was to allay fears that the Organization favored certain groups and to demonstrate that its aim was to strike a balance between rights holders and different segments of society, including in the context of health and the environment. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to contribute actively to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in close cooperation with other Geneva-based institutions. IP offices and other stakeholders would benefit from a simpler and more harmonized international IP framework with substantive provisions on such matters as copyright law, patent law and trademark law. WIPO was in a unique position to ensure such a framework and should maintain the harmonization of legal concepts on its agenda. Deliberations within the SCCR had demonstrated that the international harmonization of legal concepts in that field was complex. However, provided Member States worked together in a spirit of consensus with a view to striking a fair balance between all interests involved, positive results could be achieved. The Delegation was committed to improving the protection of broadcasting organizations by reaching a consensus on an international treaty. For the treaty to be sustainable, its scope of application should reflect recent technical developments. Ongoing discussion on such technologies as online deferred transmissions was thus welcome. The Delegation was interested in sharing national experiences regarding exceptions and limitations for certain organizations and purposes, as well as for people with disabilities other than print disabilities. While it firmly believed that there was no need for a legally binding international instrument in that area, it wished to learn more about other Member States' legal concepts. It was also interested in sharing views on issues such as the resale right and copyright challenges in the digital environment. Users of the patent system all over the world were calling for its development and improvement – a call that had to be heeded by WIPO and particularly the SCP. The Delegation was satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work in that area and welcomed the agreements reached on its future work. The Delegation was particularly eager to continue work on issues of patent quality, including opposition systems, and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors. Such work was beneficial to all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. In that connection, the Delegation had given a presentation to the SCP on its approach to assessing inventive step. It had also been, and would continue to be, heavily involved in the area of patents and health. The Delegation welcomed the plan to review existing research on patents and access to medical products and health technologies, as proposed by the Delegation of Canada and co-sponsored by the Delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Switzerland. The latest statistics on the growth of application numbers under the PCT had demonstrated the core importance of the PCT System in promoting innovation and generating wealth. The Delegation was delighted to note the steady annual increase not only in filing numbers, but also in the share of women investors. As a patent-intensive country, Germany was grateful for a functional PCT System. In 2017, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) had processed 6,238 international applications, of which over 80 per cent had been filed by applicants from outside Germany. It fully supported efforts to develop the PCT System and appreciated the improvements to its legal framework over recent years. The progress

made by the PCT Working Group in amending the PCT Rules was commendable. Regarding efforts to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a Design Law Formalities Treaty, the Delegation regretted the lack of consensus on the issues of technical assistance and disclosure. Germany, like other European Union member states, was convinced that the inclusion of a mandatory disclosure requirement in the treaty would run counter to the aim of simplifying and harmonizing design registration procedures. However, it remained constructive and open to any reasonable proposals made during the 2018 WIPO General Assembly. The establishment of the Geneva Act provided the ideal conditions to stabilize the Lisbon Union and strengthen the Lisbon System. The Delegation strongly supported the efforts of Lisbon Union members to build an efficient and sustainable system for the future. The Delegation recognized the enormous efforts undertaken by the IGC and the contribution of the WIPO Secretariat to a difficult negotiation process. It was convinced that the IGC's recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly expressed the intent shared by all to reach consensus. Whatever solution was identified, it would need to be consistent with the existing international framework of IP protection. The Delegation was fully committed to further progress in the area of development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supported the continued implementation of the DA recommendations. It also welcomed the results achieved by the CDIP over the past year and sincerely hoped that the willingness to engage in constructive discussion as shown at CDIP 21 would continue. The Delegation welcomed the theme of World IP Day 2018 – the full participation of women in innovation and creativity – and was pleased to learn that the CDIP would be exploring it further. The Delegation was looking forward to the fourteenth session of the ACE. Indeed, previous ACE sessions had provided useful insights into the various approaches to tackling infringements of IP rights. The DPMA had continued its successful cooperation with WIPO. In 2018, a roving seminar organized by the DPMA and WIPO to raise awareness of WIPO's services had been attended by approximately 50 participants, mainly from industry and law firms. The DPMA and WIPO had also organized a study visit to the DPMA for representatives of the Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The DPMA had maintained fruitful dialogue with its partner offices. The President of the DPMA had discussed current IP topics with her counterparts from the IP offices of a whole host of countries at a series of bilateral top-level meetings. In October 2017, the Vice-President of the DPMA and his delegation had visited the Chinese IP Office, taking part in the "Industry 4.0" symposium in Beijing and giving lectures on aspects of patent law, while in December 2017, the Vice-President of the DPMA had welcomed a delegation from the Russian Federation. The DPMA maintained strong working relationships with its partner offices: four patent examiner exchange programs were currently under way with the IP offices of China, Japan, Korea and the United Kingdom. In addition, it cooperated closely with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and national IP offices within the framework of the European Trade Mark and Design Network. The DPMA had organized a number of conferences and seminars, including a UNION-IP Round Table in February 2018 and the Munich International Patent Law Conference in June 2018. The International Symposium on Patent Litigation in Japan and Germany would be held on October 4, 2018, at DPMA headquarters in Munich. The Delegation reiterated its support for WIPO's efforts to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all Member States through a balanced and effective IP system.

57. The Delegation of **Ghana** commended WIPO's ongoing efforts to promote the use and protection of intellectual property globally as a tool for development and wealth creation and informed the Assembly that Ghana was making significant efforts to create a favorable climate for innovation through the provision of an enabling environment for IP services to industry and research institutions across the country. It was restructuring the Industrial Property Office and streamlining its workflows for the administration of patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications aimed at enhancing IP protection and use. Ghana had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in May 2018, to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to WIPO for various activities undertaken with Ghana to strengthen the

IP system. In particular, Ghana had benefited from various activities and technical assistance programs such as a study and a workshop on TK and TCEs. The impact of WIPO's capacity-building program was encouraging and, in this regard, the Delegation expressed appreciation for the opportunity afforded to Ghanaian senior policymakers to undertake a study with WIPO in 2018. Thanks were also due to the Swiss IP Office and other Member States that had extended support to Ghana in the form of technical cooperation activities in the field of IP. As regards the substantive issues on the agenda, the Delegation endorsed the African Group's statement and stressed that it was critical that improvement of the trademarks and industrial design system were pursued for the benefit and interest of all national offices and users of the system. The Delegation looked forward to concluding work in the SCT on outstanding industrial designs issues by bridging existing gaps identified under the draft treaty. Progress in the work plan for geographical indications would be welcome as they offered an avenue to protect local expertise and practices in the agricultural and handicraft sector. The Delegation further noted the work of the SCP in setting aspects of national and regional patent law covering exceptions, limitations and quality of patents, including opposition systems. Ghana welcomed the opportunity that would enable patent offices to share information concerning office practices and approaches regarding the quality of patent grant processes within IP offices. The Delegation noted with appreciation the progress made in the work of the IGC in 2018 and hoped it would expedite its work in accordance with the work plan of the IGC for the 2018/2019 biennium.

58. The Delegation of **Greece** aligned itself with the statements delivered by Group B and by the European Union and its member states. WIPO's issuance of a healthy financial report for a sixth year running provided a solid financial basis for the Organization and had been the result of prudent management and increasing global demand for IP protection. In this regard, the global economic situation should be monitored to allow for the relevant adjustments. Decisions on the establishment of new External Offices should be informed by the Guiding Principles that WIPO adopted at the 2015 Assemblies and seek the optimization of available resources. After nearly a decade of recession, Greece aimed to build on the momentum of recent economic growth and foster an export-driven and innovation-friendly business environment by utilizing the Madrid System to facilitate commerce and trademark registration across countries, achieving the interoperability between WIPO information systems and its national trademark database, and combatting the trade of counterfeit goods using strategic plans and border controls. The Delegation remained committed to the adoption of the DLT and was hopeful that a diplomatic conference could be convened in 2019. The Delegation noted progress in the IGC. Users would greatly benefit from a harmonized patent system and the Delegation expressed the hope that an agreement would be reached to initiate discussions in that regard in the SCP. Lastly, incentives to promote innovative activity, such as fee reductions to encourage university-driven innovation, should be considered in the context of the PCT System.

59. The Delegation of **Guatemala** supported the initial statement of GRULAC. IP had emerged as a key instrument for competition and national development. In this respect, the IP Registry had geared its activities towards fulfilling the objectives of the 2016-2021 Economic Policy and the National IP Strategy. Accordingly, it had organized training and awareness-raising programs in this area. The creation of public-private partnerships with universities, chambers of commerce and specialized chambers had enabled the establishment of mechanisms for joint cooperation to achieve the effective implementation of its strategic orientations in the near future. Dialogue had been initiated with the different sectors involved in the IP system, to formulate action plans that would advance observance of and respect for IPRs, as well as innovation, technology transfer and the promotion of creativity. The Government of Guatemala was making efforts for the swift conclusion of the legislative process for ratifying the Beijing Treaty. Since the 2017 Assemblies, the IP Registry had actively participated in fairs, exhibitions and activities to promote IPRs as a development tool, including Science and Technology Week, the public sector entrepreneurship event "*Emprende Fest*", the FILGUA International Book Fair, a playing-and-learning workshop on copyright, "Export your Talent", and the Xelajú Naranja Fair, the latter events being dedicated to developing creative

and cultural industries. Guatemala had hosted events organized in conjunction with WIPO and other bodies for international cooperation, such as the Sub-regional Meeting for Heads of Copyright Offices in Central America and the Dominican Republic, the Conference on the Creative Economy to Identify International Best Practice and the 8th Meeting of LATIPAT. It thanked WIPO for the support and cooperation given to the national IP Office to build technical capacity, formulate projects and carry out continuous training, as well as to the sectors involved in different areas of IP. The normative work of WIPO was very important and Member States should continue the respective discussions with a positive outlook. Lastly, the Delegation said that it looked forward to the development of the current series of meetings, confident that it would be able to contribute constructively in order to reach concrete agreements that would benefit millions of people who believed and trusted in IP.

60. The Delegation of **Guinea-Bissau** had been following with keen interest the activities developed by WIPO, especially those pertaining to its normative agenda and its global efforts to build capacity and foster cooperation in the field of IP. The Delegation supported the statements made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs. WIPO had achieved good results in recent years, the most prominent being the signing of the Marrakesh Treaty. This Treaty powerfully illustrated the importance of equal treatment of all without discrimination. The WIPO DA should continue to focus on the needs of LDCs and developing countries, considering that IP could be used as a development tool to boost productivity and foster progress through innovation and invention. The Delegation was grateful to the Director General and the Secretariat for consolidating the Organization and ensuring that international cooperation grew from strength to strength. It was equally grateful to WIPO for sponsoring the training of several of its experts in various areas of IP. Furthermore, Guinea-Bissau had recently benefited from WIPO technical and financial support during the formulation of its National IP Strategic Plan 2019-2023 which the Government signed, approved and validated on July 24, 2018. Considering that many key decisions affecting the Organization would be taken during the current session, the Delegation hoped that common sense would prevail so that through effective cooperation the various delegations would ensure that WIPO met its future challenges.

61. The Delegation of the **Holy See** stated that WIPO had achieved significant progress and results in recent years. Innovation was growing fast and becoming a central element in the economic and industrial strategies of numerous countries. Investment in science, technology, education and human capital had grown in the past three decades. Innovation and R&D had become serious policy goals for developed and developing economies. WIPO's Global Innovation Index had noted that global R&D expenditure had more than doubled over the past 20 years. Innovation was a major driver in achieving the SDGs, as recognized in SDG 9. A recent UN General Assembly resolution had acknowledged the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, could play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, improving productivity and competitiveness and ultimately supporting sustainable development. Yet, technology was disrupting the *status quo* and creating an uncertain future. The rapid development of "big data", automation and AI was affecting how companies operated, how citizens took part in cultural and political processes, how creative engagement occurred and decision making in daily life. The effort to develop "intelligent machines" had to target the greater good, reduce poverty and meet health, education, happiness and sustainability needs. Unless carefully directed to the public good, AI could soon become a source of concern both for the economy and for society. Pope Francis had noted that AI, robotics and other technological innovations had to contribute to the service of humanity and to environmental protection. Access to medicines was a key component of the right to health, as guaranteed under international human rights law. Thus, SDG 3 also included targets to support R&D for vaccines and medicines for communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affected developing countries, and to provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. The world needed to maintain its focus on and

commitment to these goals in order to build a more sustainable world by 2030. In line with SDG 17, which encouraged partnerships for proper implementation of the SDGs, WIPO had initiated several successful public-private partnerships. The Delegation lauded the [Accessible Books Consortium](#), the [WIPO Re:Search](#), and the [WIPO GREEN](#) initiatives. The increased importance of, and interest in, IP and in WIPO's programs and services called for discernment and fulfilling of the shared responsibility to contribute to the development of humanity.

62. The Delegation of **Honduras** stated that Honduras was fully aware of the important work accomplished by WIPO in establishing, developing and strengthening IP worldwide. The country was making its best endeavors to promote and carry out activities designed to strengthen IP, given its importance to the Government's plans and, accordingly, its enshrinement in the national IP strategy, approved by executive order, which was being implemented expeditiously. The Delegation was pleased and honored that from April 9 to 12, 2019, the country would host the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on Intellectual Property for Central American Countries, Panama and the Dominican Republic, and preparations had already begun to receive the Director General of WIPO and the distinguished representatives of sister countries. Lastly, the Delegation wished that major agreements and decisions in furtherance of IP worldwide would be reached under the able leadership of the Director General, with inputs from Member States.

63. The Delegation of **Hungary** stated that, with regard to the importance of IP in the global economy, the Delegation was thankful for the Director General's opening remarks and the Organization's key role in addressing the emerging needs of users and stakeholders. The Delegation also fully endorsed the opening statements made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and the Delegation of Austria, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. The Delegation firmly believed that WIPO and its Member States should work in agreement and cooperation to maintain and improve a balanced and effective international IP system. The Delegation remained fully committed to supporting the Organization's mandate and would continue to contribute actively and constructively to the discussions in different WIPO bodies. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the work done in WIPO committees and working groups during the past year. It also welcomed the Organization's positive financial results for 2016-2017, attributable to the continuous global need for IP services and the Organization's performance in response to that need. Such financial and budgetary results would provide a strong basis for allocating the resources needed to maintain, improve and promote the four global IP registration systems: the PCT, the Madrid, The Hague and the Lisbon Systems. With regard to the Lisbon System, and its Geneva Act, Hungary fully supported the views expressed by the Delegation of Italy. The Delegation also reaffirmed its strong commitment to adoption of the DLT. As highlighted on several occasions in recent years, simplifying and harmonizing design registration formalities through the DLT would be of great benefit for designers in developed and developing countries. Considering the text of the DLT sufficiently mature to convene the long-awaited diplomatic conference for its adoption, the Delegation urged Member States to find a solution acceptable for all. The Delegation was fully committed to progress on the key issues and hoped the negotiations would flow in a broad-minded atmosphere. WIPO Member States could count on the country's support and constructive engagement in those discussions.

64. The Delegation of **Iceland**, with reference to WIPO, emphasized the importance of access to a wide variety of information, technical resources and guidelines, but also of interaction with the Organization's experts when needed. The 2017-2018 filing numbers had been similar to those in recent years and Iceland's interest in the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems had been continuous. National patent applications had risen significantly in 2018, with the Icelandic Patent Office (IPO) having received around 80 per cent more than it had by September 2017. Increased awareness, and the IPO's new search services, in cooperation with the Nordic Patent Institute, seemed to have played a role in the increase. During 2018, the IPO had been simplifying its procedures. The Office remained focused on streamlining user services and was

currently reviewing the databases and electronic filing systems for patents, designs and trademarks, expected to be up and running by the end of 2018. The Delegation continued to follow and implement the main WIPO tools in this respect. It had joined the Global Brands Database on August 25, 2017, and was finding it an excellent tool for both users and the Office. To underline the importance of the Madrid Protocol for Icelandic users, a WIPO seminar had been hosted in Iceland in February 2018 and had been very well received by participants from various businesses. The seminar had addressed issues of interest to current users of the System as well as newcomers, such as innovative new businesses. In line with the aims of the 2016-2022 national strategy on *inter partes* reviews, the IPO had increased its focus on enhancing national cooperation with government offices and universities to stimulate discussion on IPRs and increase awareness of them. The IPO had also participated in a conference in 2018 on the protection of innovation in the geothermal industry. The Delegation appreciated the focus on women in innovation as the theme for World IP Day 2018. The IPO had contributed with a reflection from its Director General on the importance of encouraging women to engage in innovation and creativity. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Platome Biotechnology had given a video presentation on the importance of women's participation in innovation. The Delegation continued to participate actively in meetings of the SCT, having raised concerns since March 2017 about insufficient protection against the registration of Country Names as Trademarks. It had been one of the countries behind the "Proposal Concerning the Protection of Country Names of National Significance" (SCT/39/8 Rev. 2), which had been briefly discussed at the SCT's 39th meeting. The document had received wide support within the SCT, with plans to discuss it further and consider future steps at the SCT's meeting in November 2018. The Delegation firmly believed that the use of a country's own name should be a fundamental right of every country, affording protection at least similar to that of State emblems and flags under Article 6*ter* of the Paris Convention. Changes made to its national patent law in June 2018 had related to the Patent Act, the Patent Regulations and the Regulations on Fees. The changes related mainly to the implementation of EU Regulations No. 469/2009, on Supplementary Protection Certificates, and No. 1901/2006, on pediatric medicines. EU Directive No. 2015/2436 on Trademarks had not yet been implemented in the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, but the Ministry of Industries and Innovation had been working in cooperation with the IPO to analyze the changes needed to that effect in the Trademark Act and Regulations. Implementation of EU Trade Secrets Directive No. 2016/943 was currently being explored. The Delegation would continue to focus its awareness-raising efforts on innovative companies and start-ups and aim at closer cooperation with Icelandic universities, innovation centers and others in that respect. It would also welcome close cooperation with WIPO's experts in such awareness-raising projects. Lastly, the Delegation reiterated its support for adoption of the DLT, considering the text sufficiently mature to convene a diplomatic conference in 2019.

65. The Delegation of **India** highlighted the recommendations made by the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines that were directed at WIPO, in particular on the right of WTO members to make full use of the flexibilities provided under the TRIPS Agreement as confirmed by the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and on the need for rigorous definitions of invention and patentability to curtail evergreening and ensure patents were only awarded in cases of genuine innovation. It stated that the report had clearly brought out that provisions like evergreening, data exclusivity and patent linkage were beyond TRIPS. The Delegation looked forward to thoroughly discussing this report within the SCP. WIPO, as the principal norm-setting body in the field of IP in the world, has a much bigger role to play to spearhead international norm-setting and policy guidelines and ensure effective, balanced and development-oriented implementation of the global IP system. In an ever-evolving global landscape, IP was quickly becoming the cornerstone for safeguarding and strengthening the socio-economic interests of every nation and for stimulating innovation, creativity and technological advancement. IP was at the very root of innovation that enabled countries to meet future challenges and allow industries to be differentiated and stand out amidst their peers. In this scenario, there was a rising need to

create and spread awareness amongst the masses and industry about the need to recognize, protect, promote, commercialize and enforce IPRs. Thus, a strong and equitable IPR regime, ably supported by an equally strong and substantive enforcement mechanism, was of utmost importance. India's IP system maintained a fine balance between private rights through IPRs and societal rights as public interest. India, which had a well-established legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs, as well as a TRIPS-compliant, robust, equitable and dynamic IPR regime, had endeavored to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced IPR system in the country, thus fostering creativity and innovation, promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development. Following the adoption of the National IPR Policy in 2016, pendency in IP applications had plummeted and disposal and examination had accelerated, with similar trends in patent, trademark and copyright applications, owing to staff increases at Indian IP offices. For instance, the swiftest patent granted had been in just 113 days from the date of filing of the request for examination, which included the time taken by the applicant to amend their patent application pursuant to the First Examination Report. Patent filings, especially domestic filings, had been on the increase. Disposal of patent applications had increased sharply by 58 per cent in the financial year 2017-18 *vis-à-vis* the financial year 2016-17, while examination of patent applications in 2017-18 had almost quadrupled as compared to 2015-16. Pendency in Trademark examination had also been stratospherically brought down from the erstwhile 13 months to just one month. Disposal of trademark applications had increased by 91 per cent, and that of copyright applications by almost 9 times in the financial year 2017-18 *vis-à-vis* the financial year 2016-17. Trademark filings had increased by 35 per cent approximately in 2017-18 as compared to 2014-15, while Trademark Registration had recorded an increase of almost five times in 2017-18 *vis-à-vis* 2015-16. The Patents Rules, 2003 and Trademarks Rules, 2002 had been thoroughly amended to streamline India's IP processes and make them more user-friendly, with special benefits, such as expedited examination and fee rebates, for start-ups. The Government's Make in India program had stimulated manufacturing in the country, while the Startup India mission had unleashed entrepreneurial energy among startups, whose IP rights were promoted under the Government-backed Startups Intellectual Property Protection Scheme for supporting startups from the stage of filing to final disposal of the IP applications for patents, trademarks and designs. It provided video conferencing for hearings, digitized IP offices, automatic electronic certificates for patents, trademarks and copyrights, mobile alerts and a fully functional online filing system for patents and trademarks to promote ease of doing business. It also enabled patent agents and inventors in different parts of the world to participate *via* video conferencing in proceedings at patent offices in India. A nationwide IPR awareness campaign had been launched and IPR Awareness programs had been conducted in over a 100 schools till now, reaching over 10,000 students. IPR awareness programs were conducted using satellite communication for schools in rural India. Moreover, content on IPRs had been successfully included in school curriculum to deepen the spread of IP awareness amongst students. TISCs had been established throughout the country. Training programs had been rolled out for enforcement authorities. More than 30 training programs had been conducted for police officers across different States, for whom a specialized IPR enforcement toolkit had been curated and launched. Pursuant to an advisory issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, all State Police Academies had incorporated IPRs in their training curriculum for both new and in-service police officers. In collaboration with the domain registrar NIXI, 80 infringing websites had been pulled down on the basis of incomplete KYC (also referred to as WHOIS). Customs authorities and the judiciary were also being sensitized on IPRs. India wished to cooperate, in particular with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), in blocking rogue or copyright-infringing websites that hosted pirated content. Industrial players had joined forces with the Government to create an anti-piracy video campaign, with leading film stars and short films in cinemas and on television to maximize dissemination to young people. IP Nani, India's IPR mascot, featured in animated IPR videos for children. India had acceded to the WCT and to the WPPT, which would improve IP collaboration worldwide, including among collective management organizations. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh

Treaty and called for collaboration to ensure the benefits actually reached those underserved sections of society. The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management had been established as a national center of excellence exclusively for IPR training, management, research and education. India's Global Innovation Index ranking had vastly improved in 2018, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world and highlighting the importance of innovation. India had witnessed a phenomenal jump of 24 places in the rankings since 2015. The country – which had more than 322 registered geographical indications, including foreign geographical indications – had launched a geographical indications awareness-raising campaign for the advancement of its rural farmers and artisans. The Delegation called for greater progress in the formulation of a normative framework for GRs, TK and folklore and stressed that any legal instrument thereon should factor in the principles of disclosure of source, prior informed consent and equitable access and benefit-sharing based on mutually agreed terms. It hoped that the IGC would make substantive progress in that regard and strongly believed that Member States had a moral responsibility to respect whatever methodology was agreed upon by consensus. It also hoped that Member States would support the proposal to incorporate the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, established to prevent misappropriation of the country's traditional medicinal knowledge, as a part of the PCT minimum documentation. It called on all Member States to give serious consideration to India's proposal to host a WIPO External Office, which would strengthen the IP ecosystem globally by ushering in innovative thinking and an IP focus in the hitherto unserved region of South Asia (in so far as the WIPO External Offices were concerned). It supported the inclusion in the DLT of an article on technical assistance and of a provision on disclosure of source of origin in applications for design. Further text-based negotiations were required on the proposed treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations in order to build greater consensus on certain fundamental issues. The Delegation called for more result-oriented discussion in the CDIP in furtherance of the WIPO DA and the achievement of the SDGs. Referring to the proposed designation of designated or elected Offices, it voiced strong opposition to proposals that attempted to supplant the rights of a contracting state to determine substantive conditions of patentability interfering with its sovereign rights. It noted the commendable work done by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as the outgoing External Auditor of WIPO and congratulated the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom on its election as the incoming External Auditor of WIPO.

66. The Delegation of **Indonesia** said that the country was in the process of ratifying the Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties and had mainstreamed the provisions of both Treaties into its national copyright laws. Ratification of the Beijing Treaty would strengthen the protection of the moral and economic rights of performers thereby bolstering the creative economy and promoting economic development. It would also be a clear sign of Indonesia's commitment to comply with international copyright laws. The fact that 2018 had been proclaimed as the year of geographical indications was significant for Indonesia, considering that it produced a significant amount of agricultural products such as coffee and rice. The Delegation was currently in the process of establishing a registry and database on TK, TCEs and GRs and had recently adopted a regulation on a mechanism governing access to GRs and sharing of the benefits accruing from such resources. The IGC should redouble its efforts to develop an international instrument on the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs.

67. The Delegation of **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** paid tribute to the victims of the attack in the southern Iranian city of Ahvaz. It noted that the protection and promotion of IPRs remained a key priority for its country. In an increasingly knowledge-based economy, the protection of IP was key for promoting innovation and creativity and improving competitiveness and growth. Worthy of note was the growth ranking of Iran (Islamic Republic of) in the global IP system according to WIPO annual statistics and Iran's significant progress in the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking. The Delegation was committed to developing a legal framework, taking into account its level of development, to profit fully from its potential in terms of innovation and intellectual assets. For hosting WIPO External Offices, host countries should be selected in full

compliance with the Guiding Principles and WIPO General Rules of Procedure. Decisions of all WIPO bodies and committees had always been made through consensus. The proposal to establish a WIPO External Office in Iran (Islamic Republic of) was aimed at strengthening the global IP system and benefitting the Central and West Asian region, which had no External Office. All Member States should give due consideration to the proposal, which was strictly consistent with the Guiding Principles, in particular paragraphs 13 and 14 thereof. Member States needed to adopt a more creative approach to allow all applicant countries to have their say, in order to achieve consensus. A system for the international recognition and protection of geographical indications constituted an important part of the IP system. Accordingly, it was hoped that the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement would enter into force soon, given its key importance for the protection of geographical indications. Regarding the financial sustainability of the Lisbon System, a way could be found to provide financial support to the Lisbon Union while securing full respect for the long-standing principles of solidarity and equality of treatment for each area of IP. The completion of discussions and the final decision on the DLT required all parties' legitimate concerns to be taken into account. In light of the decision of the 2017 General Assembly, the Delegation was ready to engage in constructive discussion to overcome remaining differences, namely articles on technical assistance and the mandatory disclosure requirement. It looked forward to a consensus decision that would satisfy all Member States. While acknowledging the significant progress made on the text concerning GRs within the IGC, the Delegation was deeply concerned by the destructive approaches of certain Member States in clear contradiction of both the basic principles of multilateralism and the mandate of the Committee. On the issue of the broadcasting treaty, the SCCR had recommended that the WIPO General Assembly consider appropriate action towards convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the draft treaty, subject to consensus on fundamental issues. The Delegation was ready to continue consultation in that direction.

68. The Delegation of **Iraq** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the positive developments under the 'Director General's report and progress made by various WIPO committees, hoping that the IGC's efforts would lead to the convening of a diplomatic conference, with other committees achieving positive results on their various agendas. The Delegation noted that the increasing number of Member States in some regional groups needed to be reflected in the seats allocated on the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee, in line with the principle of equitable geographical representation. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation between Iraq and WIPO to reinforce the national legal framework for IP and align national laws and regulations with relevant international standards with the ultimate aim of achieving industrial, scientific, literary and artistic development. Regarding the opening of new External Offices, the Delegation reiterated the need to comply with established standards such as geographical location, stability, neutrality and excellent international relations with other countries, in order to develop a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment to participate positively and constructively in the Assemblies, hoping all discussions would achieve their expected results for the benefit of all.

69. The Delegation of **Italy** believed that the inherent mandate of WIPO was the promotion of a global, balanced, holistic and effective international IP system in line with UN rules, including the DA. Such a system should be developed by ensuring equal work through all the systems administered by WIPO, and adequate protection of all forms of IP. Concerned with the development of the Lisbon Union, the Delegation reiterated its request for stronger and more incisive promotion activities by WIPO, aimed at attracting new contracting parties and strengthening the Lisbon Registry – and also in light of the impending accession of the European Union to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and the entry into force of the Geneva Act. The Delegation hoped that harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration formalities could be achieved by convening a diplomatic conference to adopt a DLT.

This would provide significant advantages to all Member States, as well as users and designers. The Delegation was pleased that the SCCR had recommended that the WIPO General Assembly consider convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the broadcasting treaty, subject to consensus being reached on fundamental issues. The Delegation stood ready to discuss ways forward on this matter in the search for meaningful solutions adapted to the current technology environment. The Delegation welcomed the development of new initiatives and training programs focused on the role of IP for SMEs and academia, including the evaluation of groundbreaking technologies such as AI, 3D printing and blockchain. The Delegation reiterated its hope that the Assemblies would find the most appropriate way to move ahead with the opening of new External Offices in accordance with the Guiding Principles adopted in 2015 and the Organization's strategic goals, so as to ensure the most efficient and effective development of the global IP system in all geographical areas.

70. The Delegation of **Jamaica** placed on record its support for the statement by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. Following a very active year, Jamaica and its IP Office (JIPO) had continued to strive for the right legislative balance in protecting IPRs, for the benefit of the country and its people. A bill on patents and designs in Jamaica was in its final stages and would likely be tabled in Parliament before the end of 2019. At the regional level, the Delegation recognized the work of WIPO in providing expert assistance for the establishment of a Caribbean Patent Convention, a meeting on that issue having been chaired by Jamaica in February 2018. Support for that initiative had been reiterated in July at the meeting of Heads of IP Offices and Ministers responsible for IP. Amendments were also being made to the Copyright Act to provide for cross-border copyright transactions and to add to the list of bodies authorized to make accessible formats for visually impaired and print-disabled persons, allowing for the country's accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. The Jamaican Trademarks Act and Rules had been updated to provide for the international registration of trademarks under the Madrid Protocol and were awaiting review prior to being tabled in Parliament. The Protection of Geographical Indications Act and Regulations had also been amended to extend to all goods the higher level of protection afforded to wines and spirits, as well as to establish a Geographical Indications Advisory Committee. Jamaica was also drafting legislation for the protection of new plant varieties, working closely with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to ensure that the law would adequately protect the rights of breeders in a manner consistent with the UPOV Convention. The Delegation recognized the growth of WIPO's TISCs and their contribution to development and innovation in developing countries. This had contributed to the country's decision to sign a service-level agreement for the establishment in Jamaica of the first TISC in the English-speaking Caribbean. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its support and training, which had facilitated the process. WIPO had also been supportive of the country's push to increase the level of national IP awareness and its commitment to gender awareness and women's empowerment in dealing with IP issues and developing related policies. It was against that backdrop that WIPO had provided support to JIPO in its annual IP Week activities, from April 23 to 27, 2018, under the theme "Women in IP". The presentations and contributions made by a WIPO expert on several topics, covering all areas of IP rights protection, had been invaluable. The seminars had been attended by a wide cross-section of stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private and public sectors, with an increase in registration reflecting renewed interest in IP rights protection. The WIPO expert had also participated in enforcement activity with customs and police officers. The Delegation recalled that WIPO had always facilitated capacity-building in CARICOM. This had occurred most recently during the Regional Training on Intellectual Property for Caribbean Countries, held in Jamaica by WIPO and JIPO from August 13 to 16, 2018, with presentations by JIPO and WIPO representatives and other international speakers. Similarly, in October 2017, Jamaica had hosted a National Consultative Workshop on issues and options in developing a national policy and legislation on IP and the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs, with support from the Organization's Global Issues Sector. Following that event, drafting had commenced on a national law to protect TK, TCEs and GRs in Jamaica; ongoing deliberations and text-based negotiations with the IGC were expected to

benefit that drafting process. The Delegation looked forward to continuing work in the IGC and the early convening of a diplomatic conference. The Delegation stressed the great importance attached by Jamaica to work being done to protect country names in the Organization's SCT. In the vast majority of WIPO Member States, applicants for the registration of trademarks comprising or containing a country name – and thus free-riding on the good will and reputation associated with that name – could simply stylize the name or add other words or figurative elements to it to obtain a trademark. A draft joint recommendation proposed by Jamaica in the SCT would establish a coherent and consistent guidance framework for IP offices, other competent authorities and international traders, for the use of trademarks, domain names and business identifiers consisting of or containing a country name. The Delegation looked forward to progress on that issue within the SCT. The Delegation stressed, in closing, that Jamaica had benefitted greatly from its cooperation with WIPO in several areas over the past year. Apart from receiving direct support for JIPO and its work, Jamaica had actively contributed to WIPO professional development programs, having furnished speakers, facilitators and participants for the Organization's international conferences and meetings. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its continuing support of IPRs in Jamaica and placed on record its appreciation for the Organization's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

71. The Delegation of **Japan** wished to thank WIPO for preparing an exhibition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Japan Funds-in-Trust for Africa and LDCs. WIPO was unique among international organizations in that it was almost entirely funded by the services it provided. Member States had a responsibility to help WIPO to continue improving its services from a user perspective. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) had endeavored to tailor its services to many different types of users. It had recently been focusing on supporting start-ups, following the logic that if a fledgling business with limited resources found a service easy to use, then so should everybody else. In July 2018, Japan introduced a fast-track patent examination service with a first response time of 20 days and a total pendency of two and a half months. Then, in August 2018, it set up a design-driven management organization to make the JPO interface more start-up friendly. The Delegation saw great potential in design, considering it to be an effective means of accurately gauging the needs of new types of customer and developing ways of meeting such needs. The JPO was improving services for global users as well. Inventions were virtually guaranteed to get a patent in Japan once they were recognized as patentable in an international search report (ISR). The next step was to link ISRs and domestic examinations to make the granting of such patents an absolute certainty. An effort was also being made to reduce the cost of translating patent documents into Japanese. The combination of ISR recognition and patent acquisition in Japan linked internationally *via* the Patent Prosecution Highway would significantly enhance the JPO's capacity to serve as a global patent gateway. Japan was bidding to host the 2025 World Expo in Osaka and would greatly appreciate the support of Member States.

72. The Delegation of **Kazakhstan** stated that the Assemblies' meetings allowed WIPO Member States to take stock of progress made during the year and to identify new goals and opportunities for the development of the IP system. It noted that the importance of IP had been growing from year to year, and that the rapid development of information technology and the advancement of science and technology opened up new prospects for mankind to create items which improved people's lives. Currently, economic development of countries would be unimaginable without the constant implementation of innovations and new technologies. One would not imagine contemporary life without new movies, music, paintings, novels, poems and scientific works. Without all this, life would be tasteless. The overall goal of Member States consisted in the promotion of creative processes leading to the development of new items, technologies and means by improving the system of IP protection. WIPO had an essential role to play by combining the efforts of all States in the protection of IPRs, providing them with a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience, promoting effective mechanisms for the protection and enforcement of IP rights, and awareness building. The role of WIPO in the development of the IP legal framework in Kazakhstan had been undeniable. Kazakhstan was a

party to 19 WIPO administered international treaties. Kazakhstan had been taking measures to improve its legislation in order to harmonize it with international treaties. The law passed on June 20 this year aimed to facilitate procedures for registration of IP rights, improve IP protection, and reduce administrative barriers. The Delegation highlighted WIPO's assistance in the organization and holding of sub-regional seminars with the participation of highly skilled international experts. The seminars provided an opportunity to discuss existing issues in law enforcement practice and to identify solutions. The Delegation also stressed the important role of WIPO committees which facilitated exchanges and discussions during meetings held throughout the year helping to develop important international instruments for IP development. Finally, the Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Chair, the Director General and the Secretariat for the organization of the session, and wished all parties fruitful work in the coming days.

73. The Delegation of **Kenya** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference on the broadcasting treaty in 2019, given that the draft treaty was almost complete and that the conference could handle the articles still pending and prepare the treaty for adoption. With respect to membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, the Delegation supported the position of the African Group and stood ready to continue negotiating and finalizing related matters. Recognizing the support provided by WIPO in 2017-2018, the Delegation also expressed appreciation for the role played by development partners, particularly Japan and the Republic of Korea, for working with WIPO to support African countries, including Kenya. The Delegation was happy to observe a common understanding within WIPO on the importance of effectively addressing issues related to the protection of TK, GRs, TECs and folklore. Regulations for the protection of TK and TCEs were being prepared in Kenya. The Delegation recognized the role played by IPRs in relevant aspects of human endeavor and had undertaken administrative, policy-related and legal steps to conform with national, regional and international frameworks and best practices. A bill to amend the country's Copyright Act was currently under consideration. The Delegation reported ongoing efforts, in coordination with WIPO, to raise public awareness about the importance of innovation and IP protection in terms of value added and competitiveness for local products in the global market. WIPO had supported training in that regard for Kenyan SMEs. The Delegation also appreciated WIPO's continued support for the TISCs, which offered great potential as a means of supporting researchers in developing countries, as evidenced by the growing number of institutions signing MoUs to establish such Centers. Lastly, the Delegation reported progress in the development of physical infrastructure, digitization and training for the Kenya Industrial Property Institute.

74. The Delegation of **Kyrgyzstan** noted that Kyrgyzstan had fully supported the activities of WIPO aimed at strengthening and developing the global IP architecture for 23 years. It was inspired by WIPO's efforts for promoting innovation. WIPO was distinguished for its ability to recognize new trends of modern life, which made it the most future-oriented organisation among UN specialized institutions. This was particularly evidenced by developments in domains like the Internet, with its opportunities and continuous transformation and evolution, AI, databases and blockchain technology, all of which were actively being discussed in WIPO fora. One of the most important areas in WIPO's work was assistance to developing and transition countries. Recent years had seen development and implementation of efficient projects tailored to the needs of both developed and developing countries. For example, WIPO offered assistance to countries in developing a policy for mobilizing IP potential at higher education and research institutions and, in this regard, the Delegation was keenly interested in the experience of countries that had been successfully implementing this policy. Active work was being conducted in various WIPO committees. The Delegation attached great importance to the discussions in WIPO's CDIP. In this regard, the Delegation mentioned as an important factor contributing to the Committee's performance, the inventory and keeping record of all available documents. The Delegation highly appreciated WIPO's work carried out through the network of

TISCs. It considered desirable that TISC staff received regular training and enjoyed wider access to various databases of patent and non-patent literature. Given that Kyrgyzstan had established an extensive TISC network, achieving its objectives required particular attention and a comprehensive approach. As an agency responsible for fostering innovation, the State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service of Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyzpatent) implemented various projects facilitating innovation in the country. The Delegation also highly commended the work of the ACE as a forum for the exchange of information on enforcing IPRs. Cooperation and coordination in addressing these issues, particularly among law enforcement bodies at national, regional and international levels, was of paramount importance in this regard. Kyrgyzstan supported incorporation of technical assistance and capacity building provisions in the DLT, as it should promote capacity-building and strengthening of IP infrastructure in developing countries and LDCs. The Delegation was hopeful that the basic proposal on the DLT would be finalized in the near term. The Delegation reported that Kyrgyzstan had joined the Marrakesh Treaty in May 2017. As early as 2018, the first delivery of books in accessible formats had taken place in Bishkek in the context of the national workshop under the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation called upon WIPO Member States to contribute more actively to efforts conducted under this Treaty. The Delegation further noted that Kyrgyzpatent's work in 2018 primarily aimed at reforming the IP legal framework, with the Office enjoying WIPO's support and advice in this regard for: enhancing the quality of examination involved in granting legal protection of IP; continuing to improve electronic filing processes; establishing science and technology parks at universities; raising public awareness of the role and value of IP and innovation; and developing intellectual creativity. The Delegation also reported that in 2018 Kyrgyzpatent organized, with WIPO's support, an event dedicated to TK intended to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the creation of Kyrgyzstan's IP system. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for WIPO's technical assistance for developing the national IP system. It warmly welcomed the idea of holding regional and national seminars on IP subjects. Furthermore, Kyrgyzstan was considering introducing ADR in the IP sector of the country in cooperation with WIPO. The Delegation thanked the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its ongoing assistance in developing the national IP system. It was this Department that sponsored the implementation of WIPO projects and programs in the country's wider geographical area. The Delegation extended its special thanks to the WIPO Academy that assisted in IP capacity-building for Kyrgyzstan. Talking about the future, the Delegation noted that Kyrgyzstan was interested in receiving WIPO's technical assistance, advice and guidance for implementing the State IP and Innovation Development Program 2017-2022 and building Kyrgyzpatent's institutional capacity, as well as for the training and professional development of national resources on issues of IP protection and innovation.

75. The Delegation of the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** said that the country was in the process of implementing its IP law, promulgated in December 2017 with the aim of modernizing the country's IP system and making it more transparent. The law would increase the efficiency of the country's IP administration and simplify the enforcement of IPRs, bringing them in line with the relevant international treaties. The Lao People's Democratic Republic would continue its effort to accede to the Hague Agreement as a means of motivating the expansion of local industrial design into foreign markets while encouraging foreign businesses to invest in the country through simplified access to its industrial design system. It believed that geographical indications would be beneficial for the development of IP in the country. It was therefore pursuing its efforts to accede to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement to allow further development of local GIs, relying for this purpose on the technical advice and support of WIPO. Thanks to that support, the country had now finalized its draft national IP strategy, creating the IP environment needed to strengthen the competitiveness of local brands and designs and complete the diagnostic assessment of its IP department. The Delegation confirmed its commitment to continue working closely with WIPO to complete that project and thus improve its national IP system.

76. The Delegation of **Latvia** expressed its confidence that the delegates, under the leadership and guidance of the presiding officers, would be able to ensure WIPO's mission of spearheading the development of a balanced and effective IP system that fostered innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. Reiterating the importance of convening the diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, the Delegation stated, in the paraphrased words of Latvian poet Rainis, that "an entity which lasts, is one that is willing to change". In conclusion, the Delegation expressed the hope that delegates would find the ability to bridge their differences and achieve their common goals.

77. The Delegation of **Lesotho** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. It welcomed the sound financial standing of WIPO but demanded greater geographical representation within the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC as well as an increase in the number of Member States represented in these committees. The lack of meaningful progress within the SCT to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT was a matter of concern. The similar lack of progress within the IGC to reach agreement on the text of an international legal instrument that would ensure the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs was equally concerning. Accordingly, Lesotho called for a swift resolution of these pending issues before the next WIPO General Assembly session. The Delegation was pleased to announce that Lesotho had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty on April 30, 2018, thereby facilitating access to published works for persons who were blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. It remained committed to the Treaty's implementation. Furthermore, the Delegation had been consulting with WIPO on how to strengthen copyright protection in the country and hoped, with WIPO's assistance, to amend its Copyright Act in accordance with its obligations under the WCT. WIPO had provided technical assistance to modernize the national IP office – an important step if Lesotho was to effectively and efficiently deliver its mandate of promoting and protecting IPRs. Working in conjunction with ARIPO and the University of Africa, WIPO had also trained national IP office staff, including through the Masters in IP program. This laudable contribution from WIPO had created a critical mass of qualified IP personnel in Lesotho. The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and ARIPO had contributed to raising public awareness on IP in Lesotho and the Division for Least-Developed Countries had facilitated Lesotho's participation in the meeting on "Partnership for Innovation and Technological Capacity Building in the Least Developed Countries". SMEs, including the many women who worked in Lesotho's craft business, were the backbone of the economy and would greatly benefit from IP training. WIPO should give special consideration to the Delegation's request to host a TISC as such a Center would promote research, creativity and development.

78. The Delegation of **Liberia** appreciated WIPO's efforts to enhance the global IP environment. It was looking forward to receiving the report of the WIPO delegation that had visited Liberia in connection with the IP Development Plan and to the completion of phase two of that Plan. The Delegation supported Morocco in respect of the establishment of the Center for Research and Strategic Development. It also appreciated having had the opportunity to host a roving seminar in May 2018. Lastly, the Delegation was eagerly anticipating the establishment of a TISC and an IPAS.

79. The Delegation of **Madagascar** stated that the improvement of its country's IP framework laws was on track. The Government of Madagascar lauded the efforts of WIPO bodies involved in the implementation of this policy and national strategy. Alongside the different contributions and other activities in line with raising awareness among the public and users of the IP system, the industrial property framework law had recently been reformed to better protect intangible assets and to create an enabling environment for innovation and investments. Although implementing instruments were still awaited for the entry into force of this new law, the necessary ways and means were ready, particularly to receive applications for the protection of new industrial property rights. Nonetheless, WIPO's assistance was needed for the proper implementation of the new provisions under the new law. Several nationwide campaigns were

being carried out for the public to take ownership of industrial property and know the importance of its protection and the mainly economic issues at stake. Various events were planned to publicize the new industrial property law and to promote inventiveness. In this respect, the Government of Madagascar expressed its gratitude to WIPO's Director General and his staff for their assistance in organizing a mobile awareness campaign mainly tailored for the universities of the country's six former provinces. The Delegation revealed the high interest of researchers and economic operators for this campaign. The respect, protection and promotion of IPRs also formed an integral part of the priorities of the Government and the Ministry of Industry and of private sector development. To conclude, the Delegation aligned itself with the statements on behalf of the African Group and the Group of LDCs.

80. The Delegation of **Malawi** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and reaffirmed its desire for a balanced and accommodating IP system that was responsive to the interests of those less developed countries which still lacked the capacity to generate and exploit IPRs. The Delegation welcomed the support and technical assistance provided by WIPO to help its Government raise the profile of the national IP system, build staff capacity in the national IP office and other key stakeholder institutions, and assist in the on-going modernization of the IP office. In 2018, WIPO had conducted several workshops including: a meeting on "Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) through Effective Use of the Intellectual Property System"; a "National Meeting for Members of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Republic of Malawi on the Strategic Use of the Intellectual Property (IP) System for Economic, Cultural, Social and Technological Development"; and a "National Workshop on The Development of the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) Network in Malawi". A workshop on IP and traditional knowledge would be held in October. With regard to copyright, the Delegation welcomed WIPO's support for a study visit to Poland to facilitate implementation of the private copy levy system in Malawi. Following its successful implementation in the country, the private copyright system would significantly boost the creative sector. The Delegation also welcomed the technical support provided during domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty and hoped that once the process was completed, it would enable visually impaired persons to contribute positively to the socio-economic development of the country. The IP system played a key role in stimulating creativity and innovation and in facilitating trade that boosted economic growth and development. The Delegation was steadily modernizing its IP system in order to gain more of the IP protection benefits that fueled national development. Accordingly, its newly enacted Trademarks Act, for instance, provided for the international application of trademarks under the Madrid Protocol. The Delegation intended to deposit its Instrument of Accession to the Madrid Protocol during the current session, and would complete the review of its statutes on patents and designs next year. Furthermore, the country looked forward to launching its IP policy which focused on national capacity-building to generate and exploit IPRs. Moreover, it had attended the last three sessions of the IGC in the current biennium. The Delegation remained cautiously hopeful that the current mandate would finally deliver on the long-held aspirations of its people for an instrument that protected IP as well as TK, GRs and TCEs. It did not reflect well on WIPO to hold interminable negotiations without any possible end in sight. The Delegation supported protection, not because it wished to block access to its TK, GRs and folklore, but because it wanted the custodians and creators of this knowledge to derive recognition and value from their role in creating and preserving it. If the owners of such knowledge benefitted from it, they would be encouraged to keep building it for the benefit of all. Protection would also incentivize them to jealously safeguard their environment, flora and fauna for the benefit of future generations. Hence, it was imperative to conduct IGC negotiations in good faith and with sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of the poor custodians of this knowledge rather than catering to the interests of multinational companies. The successful conclusion of these protracted negotiations would yield a win-win situation for both the custodians of this knowledge and those who sought to exploit it for various purposes.

81. The Delegation of **Malaysia** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and of the Asia and the Pacific Group. Developing a stronger innovation and IP ecosystem remained one of the country's national priorities. Work was currently under way to enhance Malaysia's National IP Policy to embrace new and emerging technologies, such as AI and robotics. Work was also continuing to enhance the IP management and commercialization of Malaysia's universities and research institutions through the Enabling IP Environment (EIE) and TISCs. The country's IP awareness programs were focused on assisting youth and women in IP-based entrepreneurship. In conjunction with the recent celebration of National IP Day, outstanding Malaysian inventors and innovators had been awarded medals from WIPO and from the Government of Malaysia. The 2018 Global Innovation Index GII ranked Malaysia second among upper-middle income countries and 35th overall. Malaysia aspired to achieve greater heights. It was happy to be engaged by WIPO and the Government of Sweden in organizing technological capacity-building programs for LDCs, instructing participants in the practical aspects of utilizing and promoting IP in the innovation process. A follow-up program was scheduled in Malaysia from October 28 to November 2, 2018. In relation to the ongoing normative work of WIPO, Malaysia looked forward to the finalization of a legal instrument on GRs. There should be expeditious action to narrow gaps in core areas of TK and TCEs in the IGC. As for the SCCR, the Delegation wished to see an acceleration in the Committee's work on exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives, education and research institutions and persons with disabilities, as contained in the Action Plans adopted during the Committee's 36th session. The Marrakesh Treaty was a good example of harmonized exceptions being employed to allow cross-border access to materials for visually impaired persons. The Delegation was taking concrete steps to accede to this Treaty. It was grateful to WIPO for the support it had given to the country's National Seminar in August 2018. The Delegation considered good governance and common ownership to be crucial for the continued success of WIPO. In particular, the work of the PBC and WIPO Coordination Committee, and their composition, should equitably reflect the Organization's growing membership and the increasing interest in WIPO. The Delegation strongly supported the expansion of these two Committees as proposed by the Asia and the Pacific Group and hoped for concrete outcomes during the Assemblies.

82. The Delegation of **Mali** supported the statements made on behalf of the African Group. It welcomed WIPO assistance, notably the technical assistance provided for Mali's accession to OAPI in 1984, in regard to international IP treaties, in capacity-building for Malian IP managers and in boosting the technical and managerial capacities of IP management bodies responsible in Mali, namely the Malian Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Property (CEMAPI) and the Malian Copyright Office (BUMDA). Beyond these achievements, cooperation between Mali and WIPO had been marked in recent years by the signing, in July 2009, of an MoU between the Director General of WIPO and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment for the formulation of the National Intellectual Property Development Strategy. The Strategy document adopted by the Government of Mali on November 26, 2014, sought to establish a framework for IP protection and promotion and for efficient use of the IP system in Mali's economic, social and cultural development policies and strategies. On October 8, 2012, the Director General of WIPO and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mali in Geneva signed an agreement to establish a TISC in Mali. Under the Agreement, WIPO and Mali undertook to stimulate creation, technical and technological innovation by strengthening access to technical knowledge. Several national seminars had also been organized: "The Enhancement of Traditional Medicine and Pharmacopoeia: The Role of Intellectual Property"; "Information and Awareness-raising of Stakeholders on the PCT system"; "The Use of Intellectual Property Assets to Strengthen the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Mali"; "The Effectiveness of the National Network of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)"; and, "The Importance of Commercial Identifiers in the Enhancement of Products and Services". Unfortunately, the political and security crisis in Mali in 2012 had seriously affected the implementation of these programs and the organization of seminars. However, in view of the significant progress made in resolving the crisis, WIPO should fully

support Mali in the implementation of these various initiatives. Thus, the Delegation wished to: (i) organize, with the support of WIPO, a high-level forum on IP for decision-makers and all stakeholders in the system; (ii) support WIPO in evaluating the implementation of the National Intellectual Property Development Strategy; and (iii) continue to build the capacity of organizations to implement both TISC initiatives and the accompanying measures resulting from the agreements initiated by or with WIPO.

83. The Delegation of **Mauritania** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation pointed out that awareness about IP importance was still lacking in its country, limiting its potential in economic development. The Delegation looked forward to further support from WIPO in creating an IP culture in Mauritania for the benefit of its national economy. In that regard, the Delegation recalled the important projects undertaken in cooperation with WIPO such as establishing a TISC, which was expected to begin operations shortly and play an important role in the development of R&D in Mauritania. Furthermore, Mauritania was in the process of developing its national IP strategy. In that regard, the Delegation said that WIPO experts were expected to visit its country at the end of October, and it thanked WIPO and the Arab Bureau for their continued support and assistance. The Delegation expressed the readiness of Mauritania to continue cooperation with WIPO, commending its efforts in promoting the role of IP and the achievement of the SDGs. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment to participate actively in achieving the meetings' objectives.

84. The Delegation of **Mexico** congratulated the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly on the consultations that had been held throughout the year on different topics. It acknowledged the professional work that the Director General and his team had carried out to make WIPO an effective, efficient and pioneering organization, with the incorporation of new technologies and AI tools into IP services. Although WIPO's healthy financial position was favorable, the promotion of trademarks, industrial designs, denominations of origin and graphical indications had not to be neglected. The Delegation was pleased that WIPO had a work program whose development and implementation took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The thematic areas offered sufficient space for WIPO to be able to implement actions of common interest, in coordination with Member States. The Delegation recognized, in particular, the work that the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean had done to address the concerns of the region's countries. It made general reference to the topics that it deemed to require priority attention from WIPO and Member States. The normative agenda was perhaps the area in which the need to achieve results had become most evident over the years. On the subject of industrial designs, the Delegation urged Member States not to set aside the decision adopted in 2015 and to work toward agreeing to hold a diplomatic conference to adopt a DLT. With respect to the protection of broadcasting organizations, it said that the time had come to establish a work program that would allow the SCCR to move toward concluding the negotiations on an instrument based on signal protection and to agree to hold a diplomatic conference. As to the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs, it was important to seek a balanced approach that considered the relevant aspects of IP and the needs and interests of indigenous peoples, whose cultures, which in many cases were thousands of years old, deserved to be respected and protected. The Delegation wished for the IGC to reach the relevant agreements before the end of its current mandate. On the matter of External Offices, it repeated the call to seek consensus to agree on the solution that had been put off for two sessions. The process started by the Member States in 2015, upon adopting the Guiding Principles, should be completed, taking into account the flexibility that GRULAC had shown throughout the process. The exercise that GRULAC had carried out to present a consensus candidate was not easy, and it had taken a great deal of compromise to understand that keeping the six candidates that had been presented would not be conducive to consensus. The Delegation asked that the political will shown by the Latin American and Caribbean countries be appreciated and taken into consideration in the negotiations that would take place

in the coming days. Lastly, it underscored the importance to Mexico of the Marrakesh Treaty and noted that the country had already concluded the process of identifying the bodies authorized to implement the Treaty.

85. The Delegation of **Mongolia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation was grateful for WIPO's hard work over the previous year, particularly its improvement of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Following institutional changes, the IP office of Mongolia had been re-established in June 2018 as an implementing agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, giving it fresh impetus for the road ahead. The Delegation was thankful for WIPO's continued support in implementing projects of vital importance to IP stakeholders in the country, particularly in improving the IP office's information system and deploying an integration platform as a service (iPAS). The Assistant Director General's visit to Mongolia for the launch of the e-filing system on World IP Day 2018 was also greatly appreciated. With WIPO's valuable assistance, Mongolia had revised its draft patent and copyright laws with a view to improving the IP environment. The Government was due to adopt the revised draft laws and to ratify the PCT in the next year. The Delegation was grateful to ASPAC for its excellent work and continued support with various projects, including one on IP office resources and management diagnostics and another on enabling IP environments to strengthen business competence through branding, which had recently been launched in Mongolia. Projects for the creation of new TISCs and the development of existing ones would doubtless foster creativity and innovation and raise IP awareness. The Government recognized the important role of IP in diversifying its exports and improving its competitive advantage. Mongolia had signaled its interest in benefiting from the project on "Capacity-Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges", which would be instrumental in developing the management, administration and utilization of technical and scientific information with a view to fostering innovation and technology transfer. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO's Division for Least Developed Countries for focusing on the technological capacity-building needs of landlocked developing countries.

86. The Delegation of **Montenegro** strongly supported WIPO policies and efforts to raise awareness on the significance and impact of IP on the overall development of society. It was obvious that WIPO activities and initiatives had led to the global strengthening of IP dialogue and the promotion of IP rights protection in Member States. Hence, IP was increasingly recognized as a key contributor to economic growth and overall social and cultural development. The Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro (IPOM) had carried out a series of highly successful activities in cooperation with, or under the auspices of, WIPO since the last Assemblies. The WIPO Director General had met with the IPOM Director in October 2017 and strongly supported the planned activities of IPOM. The Delegation welcomed the WIPO Director General's congratulations delivered *via* a video message on the 10th anniversary of IPOM, as well as his interview in the daily "Pobjeda", in which he lauded the close cooperation ties between WIPO and Montenegro and cited IP as a driving force behind economic growth. IPOM and WIPO had jointly organized a sub-regional seminar on "Information on Patents and Databases" in Podgorica at the end of December 2017, and celebrated World IP Day on April 26, 2018, with activities in Montenegro and another seminar in Podgorica on "Copyright and Related Rights and Collective Management". Furthermore, several visiting WIPO experts had provided Montenegro with expert interpretations of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights as well as expert support in the implementation of modern IT tools. Expert support would be needed to develop the new Intellectual Property Strategy of Montenegro. Since May 2018, IPOM had been working intensively on implementing the iPAS for trademarks and the integration of receiving databases. This activity should be completed at the end of 2018 and the Delegation hoped that more activities will be initiated, such as the Madrid Module, iPAS for industrial design etc. Montenegro appreciated the significant support provided by WIPO on the 10th anniversary of IPOM. The Deputy Director General of WIPO had participated in delivering the WIPO Prize and the WIPO Trophy for the Best Inventor and the Best Intellectual Essay on

Intellectual Property, thus lending greater significance to the occasion. IPOM representatives had attended IGC 35 in Geneva as well as other meetings in Riga, Tirana and China. At the invitation of the CEBS Group, and on the proposal of IPOM, Montenegro had recommended the representative of the scientific community as member of the Expert Working Group within the IGC. Hence, Montenegro was able to promote its knowledge at the international level through WIPO. Montenegro's IP efforts had been recognized by the European Commission, which had steadily recorded the country's progress in implementing, protecting and promoting IP rights over several years. IPOM was still collecting and monitoring data on IP rights enforcement using the methodology approved by the European Commission. Special emphasis had been laid on the work of various working groups set up to organize and implement joint actions to prevent and suppress IPR infringements. Thanks to its progress in innovation, Montenegro had been ranked 52nd (out of 126 economies) under the Global Innovation Index 2018, which reflected its commitment to IP development. The Delegation hoped that an MoU would be signed with WIPO during the current Assemblies to serve as a highlight of its one-year cooperation with the Organization since the last Assemblies.

87. The Delegation of **Morocco** stated that, guided by its penchant for multilateral diplomacy, its country was duly convinced of WIPO's prominence among international organizations. The key role of IP as an instrument for social development, economic growth and wealth creation was worth underscoring at a time when innovation and creativity had become central to the economy and human development in general. Thus, the Kingdom of Morocco, through the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC), had embarked on the process to upgrade its industrial property system by drafting the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. Hence, 2017-2018 was a transition period for the implementation of this very ambitious IP plan. In 2018, Morocco became an International Depositary Authority for microorganisms as part of patent procedure, pursuant to the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms (Budapest Treaty). It was worth noting that this authority was the first of its kind in the African continent and the Arab world. In addition, since the last session of the Assemblies, Morocco and WIPO had further strengthened their cooperation framework. It was in this context that this cooperation had grown, following the signing of a new MoU between OMPIC and WIPO, geared at developing training programs specifically for Arab countries, after the working visit of WIPO's Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, to Morocco. This visit coincided with the holding, from July 3 to 5, 2018, at Rabah, of the Congress for the Establishment of the African Center for Studies and Research in Development Strategy on Copyright and Related Rights. This visit demonstrated Morocco's strong will to support WIPO's regional actions on copyright. The Delegation welcomed all actions and initiatives by the two Moroccan IP offices since the last Assemblies, under international cooperation programs and, particularly, on scaling up South-South cooperation activities. The Delegation remained deeply convinced that an upgrade to the IP system at national, regional and international levels required coordinating the efforts of all stakeholders. In this regard, the Delegation renewed its commitment to move forward with related partnerships with various Member States in a spirit of sharing and cooperation. The Delegation considered that the efficient and effective protection of folklore, GRs and TK required the implementation of appropriate international instruments. The Delegation called on Member States to be flexible for the completion of the ongoing negotiation process and, subsequently, to decide on the convening of a diplomatic conference during the 2019 WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation also supported the negotiation process on the draft DLT and nursed hopes for a consensus during this current series of meetings in view of convening a diplomatic conference likely to consider the key concerns of all WIPO Member States. The Delegation also pointed out the importance of multilateral treaties on the protection of broadcasting organizations, an area where discussions were well-advanced, and which needed a road map to convene a diplomatic conference as soon as possible. On all these issues, the Delegation expressed hope for progress. On the composition of the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee, it said that the fact remained that the current distribution of seats did not reflect the respective size of the Organization's regional groups, notably the African Group. Thus, there was need to

proportionally expand the composition of both committees, mindful of current realities and the positions of various parties on these topics. Considering the achievements recorded, it was normal to wish that WIPO would make giant strides during the current Assemblies. The Delegation therefore concluded by restating Morocco's commitment and full support for on-going negotiations to contribute towards achieving the expected progress and reaching a consensus among Member States on pending issues, in line with the much-needed strengthening of multilateral diplomacy in today's world.

88. The Delegation of **Mozambique** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. From the report of the Director General regarding WIPO's activities, it was clear that the Organization was actively seeking to achieve its strategic objectives as well as the Millennium Development Goals. The report had also demonstrated the commitment of WIPO and its Member States to IP matters. The Director General had warmly welcomed the Delegation during the visit of the President of Mozambique to WIPO and accepted an invitation to visit Mozambique in October 2018. During that visit, the President of Mozambique had signed an MoU with WIPO. The use of appropriate technology was already being implemented as a sign of Mozambique's willingness to continue technical cooperation with WIPO. WIPO had made considerable efforts to assist developing countries with the development of IP systems through technical assistance and training opportunities. For example, Mozambique had received assistance for the organization of a seminar on disclosure in the international patent system, increasing the knowledge of IP staff, inventors and the Mozambican business community in general, with a focus on the advantages of using the PCT System to protect inventions. WIPO had also granted Master's-level fellowships to Mozambicans. Technical assistance in updating the IPAS System had accelerated processing of applications, generating greater efficiency and a consequent increase in income from the industrial property rights registry. Mozambique had completed a review of the system for the evaluation of quality-based products with WIPO's technical assistance, culminating in the registration of the *Cabrito de Tete* as the first geographical indication of Mozambique and the first African GI of animal origin. This had shown that WIPO was always ready to help the country achieve its objectives. The Delegation would participate actively and constructively in the 2018 Assemblies.

89. The Delegation of **Myanmar** thanked the Delegation of Indonesia for its effective and tireless efforts as Coordinator of the Asia and the Pacific Group and aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and of the Asia and the Pacific Group. IP was the driving force behind the fast-approaching fourth industrial revolution and WIPO's role was therefore becoming more significant than ever before. WIPO's development cooperation activities and DA, largely implemented by the CDIP, were to be commended. The Delegation welcomed the recommendation of the IGC to the WIPO General Assembly and looked forward to finalizing the text of an international legal instrument, which would ensure the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. The Delegation supported the proposal of the Asia and the Pacific Group pertaining to the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC and hoped that a fruitful outcome would be achieved during the current session of the WIPO General Assembly. Myanmar was currently modernizing its IP legislation and developing a viable IP administration in order to accommodate increasing economic activity and investments. Furthermore, bills on patents, trademarks and industrial design were currently before its parliament for discussion and the Delegation was hopeful that the requisite laws would soon be enacted. Work was underway to set up a modern and viable national IP office in order to establish a national IP system, which would promote innovation and creativity in the country. The Delegation extended its thanks to the Director General and his team for their continued cooperation and assistance in formulating the first national IP strategy and draft IP laws in Myanmar, raising awareness of IP rights and promoting domestic innovation, while looking forward to receiving similar support in the future.

90. The Delegation of **Nepal** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation said that WIPO's significant work in advancing the IP system and its focus on promoting productive human and social development were to be commended and the Organization should continue to ensure that program priorities and budget allocations achieved development outcomes. Countries like Nepal were rich in GRs, TK and cultural heritage. Introducing and raising awareness of innovative ways to end poverty and generate employment were key to achieving a fair and balanced IP system. The Government of Nepal had adopted a comprehensive IP policy in 2017 and was in the process of developing IP legislation in line with international treaties and setting up an integrated national IP office. As a result, all categories of IPRs would be effectively and adequately protected, while the broader development needs of society would be respected. The Delegation expressed its desire to see a legally-binding provision on technical assistance and capacity-building in the text of the draft DLT and called for a swift conclusion to ongoing negotiations on the text. Developing countries should be given ample leeway to construct their industrial design protection systems in line with their national interests, as envisaged in the TRIPS Agreement. The IGC should reaffirm its commitment to its mandate and redouble its efforts to finalize a text on an international legal instrument(s), which would ensure the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs and be an important tool in combatting the misappropriation of such knowledge for commercial benefits. The work of the CDIP in mainstreaming development into all WIPO activities and implementing the SDGs and WIPO's DA was highly valuable.

91. The Delegation of **New Zealand** recognized the critical role that IP played in driving innovation, boosting productivity and raising living standards. The Delegation remained focused on supporting innovation and encouraging open and fair markets with the right settings in order to reward and nurture the creativity needed to solve current world and consumer problems. Having modern, robust and connected IP systems was crucial to ensuring that these innovations reached the market. Despite the challenges of economic shocks and growth, and the need to provide public services adapted to increasingly larger volumes, the Delegation remained committed to quality services, innovation, client-focused services and the sharing of its knowledge and experience with others. It had completed a parliamentary review of the Marrakesh Treaty in 2017 and was currently moving towards its enactment and implementation through an amendment to the national Copyright Act. The amendment should be passed in late 2019. Public consultations were conducted from September to late December 2018 to determine whether the country should include a mandatory "disclosure of origin" requirement in its patents regime. Furthermore, an economic evaluation had been commissioned on the possible options for introducing such a requirement. Alongside the "disclosure of origin" consultation, another consultation was under way on an issues paper pertaining to a review of New Zealand's Plant Variety Rights (PVR) legislation. This review focused on whether the PVR regime provided adequate incentives for the development and dissemination of new varieties, and how the regime might recognize the interests of the Māori in the country's native flora. It also considered how New Zealand could accede to, or give effect to, the 1991 revision of the UPOV Convention. The country had also made progress in reviewing its Copyright Act to make it fit for purpose in a context of rapidly changing technology. A public consultation on this review was expected in October 2018. Minor reforms were being made to the national IP legislation to ensure that each regime operated efficiently and effectively. The Delegation was particularly interested in finding ways to protect its TK and TCEs through the IP system. Although resourcing pressures had affected its ability to participate in IGC negotiations in 2018, the Delegation remained very supportive of the IGC's work and would again contribute to the formulation of meaningful and workable solutions within this forum. For another year, the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) had recorded an unprecedented surge in the filing of trade mark applications, with trade mark classes exceeding 50,000 for the first time. Furthermore, efforts were under way to double the size of its patent examination team through a new learning management system. New Zealand had started using the Global Patent Prosecution Highway and had also recorded the first geographical indications, thus ensuring

greater protection for foreign wines and spirits in its domestic market. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its continued support and cooperation during 2018. It was pleased to visit Samoa with WIPO experts to share New Zealand's Madrid implementation experiences and attend the WIPO-KIPO International Conference on the Madrid System, as well as the Nice and Madrid meetings, and also to discuss future ICT improvements using AI. It welcomed the arrival of another New Zealander *via* the Madrid Fellowship Program, and the opportunity to contribute to development of ePCT filing and PCT Netting pilot for the improved management of PCT fees. The Delegation remained willing to work with WIPO and the Member States to improve the international IP system and to promote innovation and development across all economies.

92. The Delegation of **Nicaragua** said that it was aware of WIPO's continuous efforts in the Central American region. With its support, Central American ministerial meetings had been held, with the venue rotating among the various countries in the region, the previous venue being Panama in 2017, to be followed by Honduras in 2019, and all had been attended by the Director General of WIPO. The Delegation renewed the invitation to the Director General to visit the country. It welcomed the Assemblies' decision in 2017 to give a new mandate to the IGC which it hoped would make great progress in achieving major outcomes. It highlighted the importance of aiming to establish a more balanced IP system that would consequently narrow the gap between developed and developing countries and it welcomed WIPO's support for the Regional Cooperation System on Aspects of Operational Information and Industrial Property (PROSUR), to which 13 Latin American countries currently belonged and which had produced instruments such as the online platform for the free distribution of digital tools for searches on, and analysis and management of, industrial property rights. In that connection, the Delegation reported that the first competition of inventors would be held in the framework of the current series of meetings and it concluded by thanking WIPO's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for its efforts and support, by extending greetings to attending delegations and asserting its unswerving desire for the 2018 Assemblies to achieve the best possible outcomes.

93. The Delegation of **Nigeria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. It considered the promotion and protection of IPRs to be a *bona fide* tool for socio-economic development, which was a priority for the country and of particular significance in the context of emerging global challenges and new paradigms. In line with the country's commitment to upholding IPRs, its instruments of ratification of four major copyright treaties had been deposited during the Assemblies in October 2017. The country's IP protection framework had been aligned to reflect Nigeria's commitments under those treaties and other instruments to which the country was party. A Bill reviewing the statutory copyright protection framework had been approved by the Federal Executive Council for enactment into law. Institutional structures for industrial property administration were undergoing major reforms to align them with the legal framework of Nigeria's industrial property legislation and the Government's overall policy on the ease of doing business in Nigeria. The new reform measures included digitization of IP records, online processing of applications and timely publication of trademark journals. A trademark tribunal was being put in place to facilitate expeditious disposition of oppositions in order to address the timelines for granting the right of trademark protection. Acknowledging WIPO's continuing efforts to improve the global IP system and provide support services and user-friendly tools to increase efficiency in the national and international IP systems, the Delegation supported the action taken by the PCT Working Group to enhance the PCT System and called for more activities designed to raise the visibility of those services in the African region. It commended the WIPO Secretariat for its continuing focus on human capital development, noting that Nigeria had benefited from IP training for judicial institutions in some member countries. Such initiatives could strengthen respect for IP and its importance as building blocks for development. It lauded the decision to establish more External Offices of WIPO and was pleased that Nigeria would host one of WIPO's External Offices in Africa, as approved during the previous biennium. The Government of Nigeria had continued to work closely with the WIPO Secretariat and progress had been made to ensure effective commencement of operations in the WIPO Nigeria Office. Acknowledged the

importance of the WIPO norm-setting agenda as an opportunity to address cross-cutting issues with immense socio-economic consequences worldwide, the Delegation called for greater commitment, goodwill and flexibility by WIPO Member States when addressing pertinent issues in the WIPO standing committees such as the protection of tradition-based assets in the IGC, the outstanding issues on exceptions and limitations in the SCCR, the protection of broadcasting organizations and the African Group's proposal on the DLT. It was strongly in favor of transparent efforts to achieve conclusive outcomes, and called for the adoption of clear roadmaps leveraging on current milestones in the respective processes to facilitate prompt conclusions. The Delegation asserted its commitment to working with other delegations to achieve the goals of the Assemblies.

94. The Delegation of **Norway** reiterated the importance of improving Member States' ability to monitor the economic management and administration of WIPO and welcomed the continued efforts and cooperation towards achieving this goal. It commended the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-saving for the benefit of the users were crucial to the continued and increased use of these global IP services. The Delegation lauded the working groups under these systems for steadily making progress towards the improvement of regulations, guidelines and practices. The Delegation was committed to the work on global services in the interest of existing and future users. It looked forward to the holding of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT and regretted the delay. The country had passed a new Copyright Act into law on 15 June, 2018, which entered into force on July 1. The main policy objective for the new Copyright Act had been an overall revision to make the Act easier to understand and use for all stakeholders. The intention was to simplify and modernise the 1961 Copyright Act which had been revised several times, *inter alia*, to implement EU copyright directives. Hence, the 2018 initiative was the first overall revision of the Act in over 50 years. The Government's primary objective had been to present a new act that maintained the balance of copyrights and improved the rights of artists. To that end, several amendments were introduced including: a new, non-waivable right to fair remuneration when rights are transferred, intended to guarantee a fairer share of income for artists who create copyrighted works and later decide to transfer the rights to others; and codification of an interpretative measure to ensure that when an artist transfers the rights to a copyrighted work or performance, that transfer should solely cover the rights clearly included in the agreement. This would ensure that the transfer agreement was interpreted in favor of the artist. Furthermore, copyright enforcement measures (sanctions and damages) had also been strengthened and new measures adopted against streaming from illegal sources. The Delegation concluded that this reform had been requested by artists and other right holders.

95. The Delegation of **Oman** congratulated Ambassador Duong, Viet Nam, for his election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly for the 2018/19 biennium, convinced that with his competences and rich experience, consensus would be reached on the various issues. The Delegation affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman attached great importance to IP, as demonstrated by the country's supportive legal framework and efforts to translate international standards into national laws and legislation leading to its accession to IP-related international treaties. Indeed, IP was placed at the heart of the National Innovation Strategy anchored in its vision to establish "a knowledge society with an effective IP protection system conducive to innovative ideas, goods and services at the national and international levels". The Delegation praised the close cooperation between Oman and WIPO which enabled its country to benefit from many support activities and programs, contribute to WIPO's strategic objectives and develop IP tools and models. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his visit to Oman which helped further strengthen cooperation between Oman and WIPO in various fields, most notably the signature of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Riyada) and the launch of the WIPO-Sultan Qaboos University Summer school during the upcoming month. With regard to international registration systems for industrial property, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

has worked, in cooperation with WIPO, to develop business solutions for the Intellectual Property Department in order to provide better services to stakeholders through automated and efficient processes and network services. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation with WIPO to refine business processes at the Intellectual Property Department. The Delegation recalled that Oman participated actively in WIPO's various programs and activities, such as the celebration of the World IP Day, by delivering a series of IP-related activities in Oman and the participation of three Omani women inventors in a group of women inventors representing the region. The Delegation thanked WIPO for the logistics support provided during the Traditional Knowledge Exhibition, organized in June, which showcased a number of SMEs economically leveraging Oman's traditional knowledge in innovative industries. With regard to opening new WIPO External Offices, the Delegation believed that the Sultanate of Oman's geographical position, stability, neutrality and distinguished international relations with all members ensured its contribution to WIPO's mandate "to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all". The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the progress made across WIPO committees, hoping all delegations would reach mutual understanding on outstanding issues under the session's agenda. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment to participate in the session in a positive and constructive manner for the benefit of all, wishing all Member States success in their endeavors.

96. The Delegation of **Pakistan** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. While WIPO's positive financial results for the 2016-17 biennium and the rapid pace in which it was embracing new technologies to strengthen its work were welcome, further capacity-building on the use of such new technologies, including on technology transfer, education systems and business sophistication methods, was needed in order to close the knowledge gap between developing and developed countries. The vitality of any multilateral organization depended on balanced geographical representation and the Delegation expressed the hope that a solution on the draft proposals regarding the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC would be found during the current session of the WIPO General Assembly. Balanced evolution of the international IP normative framework was crucial to ensuring the inclusive and equitable benefits of IP for all Member States. While recent progress in the IGC in producing a set of recommendations on a text of an instrument to ensure the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs was to be applauded, the Committee's work was behind schedule and several projects which required the Committee's attention had yet to be agreed upon. Member States should therefore engage more actively and be prepared to compromise and WIPO should direct its attention and resources to resolving pending normative issues regarding its normative program, including a review of the IGC's performance. Governance issues raised in the PBC extended beyond the terms of individual Directors General and should reflect the various union structures. Member States should play a role in WIPO's oversight mechanisms, including in determining the composition and duration of term of the Organization's senior management teams. The Delegation supported the substantive progress made in the SCCR in regard to the protection of broadcasting organizations and urged Member States to finalize negotiations on a treaty and resolution and convene a diplomatic conference in 2019. Similarly, the Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt a draft DLT and urged Member States to resolve any pending issues on the matter. The Director General's report to the CDIP was welcome; future reports should focus on issues of fair and affordable access to IP technologies and knowledge under IP protection to ensure the effective and full implementation of the SDGs. With regard to the DA recommendations, WIPO should create a roadmap to ensure the holistic and non-fragmented implementation of the SDGs and develop more tools on IP-related flexibilities, access to technology and technology transfer, while providing technical assistance and cooperation for their use. WIPO should refrain from establishing new External Offices when their creation brought no proven benefits to the Organization or any guarantees on deliverables. The Delegation of Pakistan had supported the decision of the Forty-Eighth Session of the WIPO General Assembly to open two new External Offices in a spirit of flexibility and compromise and,

while gaps in the rationale for opening new offices remained unaddressed, the Delegation was hopeful that its concerns regarding cost-benefit analysis of external funding sources would be considered.

97. The Delegation of **Paraguay** stated that a national IP system was a crucial tool for each country's development and that the protection and sustained diffusion of IP constituted an essential factor of change in the country. The National Directorate of Intellectual Property had accordingly conducted various activities in the current year in order to support and strengthen the national IP system. Under the new Government, educational campaigns would be carried out throughout the country to publicize services available to citizens. The National Directorate of Intellectual Property would do its utmost to support the Digital Agenda, which was one of the main planks of the Government's agenda. That endeavor was crucial to the enhancement of connectivity with government offices and concurrently with all of the national offices of Member States. Paraguay was dedicated to waging a constant battle against IP infringements and had, moreover, won international recognition on that account. The year 2019 would be marked by intense national inter-institutional action to support creative industries in realizing their potential. The Delegation considered that the time had come for Paraguay to be recognized for its enormous creative potential in absolutely all areas. Creative culture, or orange culture, would be supported sustainably in conjunction with other institutions in the country, primarily the Ministry of Industry and Trade, because it was a factor of development that logically deserved greater recognition in terms of national economic progress in the light of other countries' experience.

98. The Delegation of **Peru** stated that its country had decided to formulate a national IP policy that would enable it to integrate that field, which was so crucial to all societal progress, into the country's development agenda. The policy would aim to establish guidelines and directions for progress in transforming Peru into a nation that respected, valued and harnessed the entire IP system, in particular for entrepreneurial creative activities and innovation, thus contributing to the country's competitiveness and cultural, social and economic development. On July 11, 2018, an agreement had been signed under which WIPO would provide assistance and technical support, including methodological support, for the formulation and roll-out of the national IP policy. In its capacity as the national IP office, the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOP) had a leading role to play in drawing up the policy in collaboration with more than 40 Peruvian public, private, academic and civil society institutions that had joined that crusade and were connected with the various substantive issues such as copyright, distinctive signs, breeder certificates and collective knowledge. The initial policy design stage, during which the current IP situation in Peru would be assessed and validated before guidelines and strategies could be identified to give direction to IP action, had already begun. Moreover, the country had set the goal of the policy being approved by the various channels during the first quarter of 2019. INDECOP's mission thereafter would consist in overseeing effective implementation by the various national stakeholders. The adoption of a national IP policy was a great challenge for Peru and necessarily measurable goals would be achieved. The Delegation was confident that, at the 2019 series of meetings, it would report on progress achieved and results obtained under the new State policy.

99. The Delegation of the **Philippines** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN. The Philippines was delighted to see a fellow member of ASEAN chair the Assembly at a time when balanced geographical representation was at issue in a number of WIPO bodies. The country's ongoing efforts to advance innovation and promote IP included the establishment of an advocacy unit and an IP academy and research center to raise awareness of IP and hone skills in various sectors. The whole of the Government and society had been consulted in the preparation of the National IP Strategy, which would enhance innovation by encouraging the use of IP by businesses, in particular SMEs. As Chair of the ASEAN Network of IP Enforcement Experts, the Philippines was

promoting respect for IP in the region. Moreover, in collaboration with other governments and private sector players, it was developing a program to curb the sale of counterfeit goods. A series of events held throughout April 2018 to celebrate IP rights in the Philippines had culminated in the IP Convergence Conference, which had been attended by academics, industry representatives, government officials, chambers of commerce, bilateral partners and SMEs. The Philippines' growing network of 85 TISCs was achieving tangible results in the area of IP creation: Between 2014 and 2017, applications had grown by an average of 82 per cent for inventions, 91 per cent for utility models, 138 per cent for industrial designs and 46 per cent for trademarks. It was hoped that the commercialization of those assets would be facilitated by such projects as WIPO's Enabling the IP Environment. Higher national innovative output and wider use of the PCT System in Asia generally, and Southeast Asia in particular, were creating the ideal conditions for the commencement of the Philippines' operations as the twenty-third international searching authority. The President of the Philippines had laid the legislative and institutional foundations for IP commercialization by passing the Personal Property Security Act, which would increase the access of micro enterprises and SMEs to low-cost credit by using personal property, including IP, as security. In that connection, the Delegation requested WIPO's assistance in initiating a special technical assistance program to help enhance IP evaluation and build capacity. The President was also due to sign a document approving the Philippines' accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation hoped to see progress on fundamental issues relating to the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. It noted the considerable efforts of the SCCR to bring about consensus on the scope and object of protection and remained optimistic that a diplomatic conference would be convened in that regard. It also wished to see further progress towards ensuring the protection of non-traditional IP within the IGC. The Delegation was most grateful to WIPO and its bilateral partners for their continuous support and was committed to promoting a robust and well-balanced IP system that contributed directly to economic progress and national development.

100. The Delegation of **Poland** associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group. The year 2018 was significant for the country, for it marked 100 years since it regained independence after 123 years of foreign rule and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of both the industrial property system and the Polish Patent Office (PPO) in independent Poland. The country had always been keen on promoting progress and developing the national economy by ensuring the proper functioning of the industrial property system and the protection of creative works. It adhered to the Paris Convention in 1919, the Berne Convention in 1920 and was currently party to 19 WIPO-administered international treaties. The Delegation supported WIPO's efforts to promote a sustainable and effective international IP system as well as WIPO's normative work. In 2017, the PPO had continued to focus on industrial property promotion by organizing a wide range of meetings, workshops and training courses for various institutions and professions, sometimes in cooperation with WIPO. A key example was a roving seminar to present WIPO services and user-support tools. In March 2018, an MoU was signed by WIPO, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the PPO to launch a new Joint Master's Degree Program in Intellectual Property and New Technologies during the 2018-2019 academic year. In April, WIPO and the PPO signed another memorandum to promote ADR services and awareness-raising on WIPO ADR procedures among IP system users in Poland. The Delegation welcomed the laudable efforts of WIPO Committees and especially the success of the 28th session of the SCP, commending the latter for its ongoing work on key issues like patent quality, opposition systems and confidentiality of communications between client and patent attorney. Further work in this area would benefit all countries by enhancing the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. While hoping for balanced and effective working programs from the other committees, the Delegation regretted that the 57th WIPO General Assembly had not been able to decide on the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. The long-negotiated text was ready and the Delegation hoped that the 2018 Assemblies would choose a date for a diplomatic conference in 2019. The new academic year starting next week would be a special

moment for eight prestigious universities of the world, including the Jagiellonian university in Krakow, as students would learn about IP through international studies jointly designed with WIPO. The history of Poland was replete with great inventors in the fields of chemistry, petroleum, cinematography, sound recording and others. However, most of these Polish inventions had been patented in Austria, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other places because Poland was under foreign rule. The foundations of the worldwide IP protection system established nearly 150 years ago had not changed and remained operational despite the changes that had occurred in the world. This posed a tremendous challenge for patent offices dealing with copyright protection worldwide as they had to meet the requirements set by modern civilization. IP protection had become a fixture of daily life as many inventions had made lives easier. People enjoyed cultural and art works protected by copyright and identified products by their trademarks when shopping. To ensure the growth of modern civilization, as well as economic, scientific and cultural development, it was important to comply with the rules that protected the products of creativity and to use such products lawfully. The Government of Poland recently adopted a responsible development strategy to reform the Polish economy with a view to achieving sustainable growth based on an innovation policy. This strategy was consistent with the standards and recommendations of WIPO and the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. The great significance that the Government of Poland attached to innovation and creativity was synonymous with the relevance attached to IP by the fathers of Polish independence in 1918 after 123 years of foreign occupation. Indeed, they had established the patent office as one of the first institutions in Poland barely one month after statehood was declared, subsequently adopted the legal regulations governing IP and ensured Poland's accession to the Paris Convention several months later. The Second Polish Republic received accreditation from the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property which was the WIPO prototype and in 1920 Poland joined the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works of September 9, 1886, which became a foundation for adoption of the copyright law in 1926. Poland had been an active WIPO member since 1975, joined the PCT in 1990 and acceded to the Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement in subsequent years. The above history showed that the highest authorities of the revived country adopted the rules for supporting technological and economic development by guaranteeing exclusive rights to inventors and legal protection in trade. Currently, IP rights in Poland were fully harmonized with international regulations and they guaranteed the country's full participation in the global IP protection system. One hundred years ago, Poland took the view that independence was accompanied by an innovative economy and the development of a national culture based on the international system for IP protection. Hence, to mark its centenary, Poland was organizing, at the current session, an exhibition of the most advanced Polish inventions and industrial designs that presented modern times while keeping the future in perspective.

101. The Delegation of **Portugal** supported the statements made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Switzerland on behalf of Group B, and welcomed the growing number of applications for registration in all registration systems, which was indisputable proof of the dynamism of WIPO in the protection of IP and the promotion of innovation in general. The Delegation also hoped for progress on the policy agenda. The very significant progress achieved in the Lisbon System in recent years was laudable and the significant efforts made by Lisbon Union members to continue discussing appropriate solutions constructively were a source of particular satisfaction. Such solutions which, while respecting the principles of solidarity and equal treatment of all IP rights, could contribute to preventing – and not aggravating – loss-making situations in the future by ensuring, in the long term, the financial sustainability of that particular system, as well as all of the Unions that were in a similar situation. The Delegation remained fully available to continue to contribute to the discussion on that theme and to assist in the promotion of the Lisbon System, a key factor in its future sustainability. A global system required both Member States and the Secretariat to promote it by actively disseminating all the benefits of those industrial

property rights for economic growth and development. The Delegation was counting on the support of WIPO services.

102. The Delegation of **Qatar** commended Member States' efforts to promote the protection and enforcement of IPRs. In that regard, the Delegation underlined the need for all Member States to participate actively in all WIPO meetings and discussions, developing and/or amending international instruments to foster IPRs protection and respect across every Member State, ultimately supporting its economy and current and future activities. Indeed, IP played a vital role in promoting innovation, supporting development projects and new industries and stimulating international trade. In that spirit, Qatar attached great importance to acceding to international IP-related treaties and creating an enabling environment to protect IP, respecting its international obligations towards all Member States regardless of their actions. The Delegation recalled that Qatar was facing numerous challenges to protect its citizens and residents rights. Indeed, Qatar was subject to unfounded actions in violation of all international conventions in the field of IP amongst other. Such actions undermined the rights of many Qatari citizens and investors, infringing their IP rights. The Delegation noted the growing phenomenon of piracy and IP infringements targeting Qatari institutions, as recognized by international bodies. However, Qatar did not reciprocate but instead promoted the rule of law, respecting its obligations and commitments to protect the rights of all owners regardless of their nationality. The Delegation commended WIPO for its efforts in promoting development, IP protection and creativity and innovation across all countries. Furthermore, the Delegation expressed its appreciation for the projects undertaken in line with the *Qatar National Vision 2030* to achieve sustainable development, build a knowledge-based economy and enhance IPRs protection. The Delegation stated that the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, responsible for implementing and enforcing IP laws had established a time schedule to modernize national legislations in line with international instruments. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to participate actively in the Assemblies, especially in negotiations aiming to build consensus and develop a multilateral treaty protecting the rights of broadcasting organizations. Regarding WIPO's External Offices, the Delegation believed it was an important means to build respect for IP for the benefit of all. In that regard, the Delegation stressed the importance of choosing host countries in accordance with established guidelines, ensuring such countries enjoyed political stability and good relations with all other countries in their respective regions; respected IP protection rules and supported international cooperation. In conclusion, the Delegation extended its thanks to the Organization, hoping all discussions would be met with success.

103. The Delegation of the **Republic of Korea** stated that, given the increasing complexity of the IP environment, the growing importance of IP-related industries to national economies, the rising number of protection issues and associated trade disputes and the unprecedented changes triggered by the development of technologies such as AI, big data and the Internet of Things (IoT), the international community must pool its efforts and apply new technologies, including AI, to IP administration systems if it was to cope with the increasing demands of IP applications. Each country had to commit to actively sharing its knowledge, experience and resources such as learning data. The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and WIPO were working together on an AI-based translation tool for patent documents which it hoped would be a catalyst for promoting international cooperation in that regard. Rights and protection in relation to AI should also be more actively discussed within the framework of WIPO. The emergence of new fields that might not be fully protected by the existing IP system urgently called for a new paradigm and stronger and more flexible IP protection. The Delegation took the view that educating children to respect IP rights was integral to building the foundations for such protection. Accordingly, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and WIPO had jointly developed and implemented a number of projects to foster respect for copyright and related rights and planned to cooperate with various Member States to the same end. In addition, KIPO had continued to work with WIPO on the animation "Getting Creative with Pororo" to educate children about IP. Member States were invited to attend a ceremony on

September 25, 2018, to celebrate the latest developments in that endeavor. Since WIPO's main role was to provide international IP services of the highest order, its global network – in particular its international application systems – needed to be strengthened to boost the efficiency of those services. The expansion of WIPO External Offices was central to those efforts and host countries should be selected in such a way as to bring WIPO's services closer to Member States. If a WIPO External Office were established in the Republic of Korea, it would provide local services that promoted the optimal use of global IP systems, enhance cooperation activities that contributed to IP development and strengthen WIPO's global network. The Delegation had actively participated in WIPO discussions on international policies and standards and had strived to make wide-ranging contributions, particularly through the establishment of the Korea FIT, in an effort to share prosperity with those partner Member States that fostered the development of IP rights. Since 2004, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, KIPO and WIPO had jointly implemented a host of projects and activities through the Korea FIT. The Ministry and KIPO had also broadened their collaboration with WIPO, which now encompassed four areas: copyright development; building respect for IP; industrial property in the Asia and the Pacific region; and cooperation with the WIPO Academy. Over the previous year in particular, the Ministry had almost doubled its contributions to the two FITs in the areas of copyright development and building respect for IP. The Ministry and WIPO had amended the MoU on those FITs accordingly and were finalizing a further MoU for the establishment of a third FIT for the promotion of alternative dispute resolution services. The projects and activities implemented through the Korea FIT had achieved meaningful results based on cooperation with WIPO and the active participation of various Member States, which were sincerely appreciated. IP had been instrumental in the Republic of Korea's growth and played an equally important role in the advancement of developing countries. The Delegation remained fully committed to actively sharing its experience with and fostering the development of the global IP community.

104. The Delegation of the **Republic of Moldova** fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group and welcomed the work done to ensure WIPO's political and financial stability, and improve its institutional governance and legislation systems. However, it requested that negotiations on convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT should be expedited during the current session of the WIPO General Assembly and reiterated its commitment to finalizing such a text. The Government of the Republic of Moldova was reforming and consolidating its institutional legal framework for boosting trade, economic development and investments as a matter of priority and had adopted a national action plan to implement its national IP strategy and enhance its national IP system. While the country had good research and scientific institutions, it lacked an innovative business support infrastructure to commercialize research. However, the Government had recently adopted a regulation establishing a procedure for patenting inventions and plant varieties created in the Republic of Moldova, which would promote research and innovation. Work was also underway to enhance the country's copyright system, including through the consolidation of collective management organizations by implementing the European Union's Collective Rights Management Directive and, in that regard, WIPO's Good Practice Toolkit for Collective Management Organizations was highly appreciated. Significant progress had been made in the Republic of Moldova in promoting and improving the Geographical Indication systems and institutional framework. However, WIPO should continue assisting Member States in making geographical indication systems more affordable for producers and promoting additional quality products at the international level. The Delegation looked forward to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications becoming effective. In the previous two years, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the assistance of WIPO and the European Union, had developed and implemented a comprehensive program on IP cultural change and begun work on an e-learning platform and an information system to facilitate communication between IP institutions, the latter of which would be operational by the end of 2018. The Delegation thanked WIPO and Member States for their continued support.

105. The Delegation of **Romania** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group and the statement made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states. WIPO was to be commended for its work in ensuring the Organization's political and financial stability and improving its decision-making and governance mechanisms. The Delegation thanked Member States for appointing a Romanian as Vice-Chair of the SCP. It was especially important for the SCP to reach a common understanding of the term "quality of patents". In regard to exceptions and limitations to patent rights and the legal requirements used to determine the patentability of innovations, the SCP should adopt a balanced approach, taking into account the interests of both the general public and rights holders. The Delegation supported the recommendations made by the IGC to the WIPO General Assembly. The Committee had made progress in its discussions on the text of an international legal instrument to ensure the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs in the previous biennium and the Delegation wished to see it continue in that vein in the 2018-2019 biennium. The GRs component of any such text should refer only to the patent system and not to IP in general. The SCT should convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT; such a legal instrument would enable both applicants and IP Offices to benefit from the harmonization of industrial design registration formalities. The Committee should also reach a consensus on its two pending matters, namely disclosure and technical assistance. The Delegation remained committed to working within the SCCR to finalize a draft treaty protecting broadcasting organizations. That treaty should be adapted to the realities of the digital era and be responsive to the future needs of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation considered arbitration and mediation in the field of copyright to be highly significant and had marked World IP Day with the signing of an MoU on ADR between the Romanian Copyright Office and WIPO; a move which would facilitate collaboration between WIPO and the Romanian Copyright Office and improve IP services in the country. The Delegation highlighted the need to raise IP awareness among young people, stating that it had carried out numerous activities in the country's high schools to that end. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of the ACE, which provided an excellent platform to share experiences on enforcing IP rights and combatting counterfeiting. Lastly, the Delegation repeated its oral request made in 2010 to host a WIPO External Office in Bucharest. Having an External Office in Romania would boost the development of the IP system in the sub-region; promote WIPO services; tailor WIPO's response to the specific needs of a significant number of CEBS Group members; and boost economic, social and cultural development in that part of Central and Eastern Europe. The CEBS Group was the only group where WIPO was not geographically represented and the Organization should adhere to its Guiding Principles when deciding on the opening of new External Offices.

106. The Delegation of the **Russian Federation** welcomed the participants of the session and expressed its hope that joint efforts and a balance of interests of WIPO Member States would help WIPO achieve mutually acceptable results aimed at the development of international cooperation in the area of IP. The Delegation commended the Director General and the Secretariat of WIPO for their cooperation. It appreciated the level of its cooperation with WIPO on a wide range of IP issues. The Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs entered into force for the Russian Federation on February 28 that year. In a short period of time, the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT) had received more than 140 international applications, reflecting the significant interest of users for whom the accession of the Russian Federation to the Hague System opened up new opportunities for registration of rights using this international procedure. The Delegation said that the Russian Federation was an active participant of global protection systems (PCT, Madrid and now the Hague Systems) and intended to broaden its activities. In 2018, the Russian Federation also joined the Marrakesh Treaty. The accession of the Russian Federation would broaden access to the unique literary heritage of the Russian Federation, as well as the international exchange of copies of works in accessible formats. The Delegation said that the Russian Federation and the CACEEC Group were interested in the introduction of Russian as an official language of international IP registration systems – the Madrid and Hague

Systems. The Delegation stated that it looked forward to further constructive work on the issue of expanding the language coverage of WIPO systems, and to a relevant study by the WIPO Secretariat. The Delegation welcomed the work of the SCCR on the Russian initiative to strengthen the protection of rights of theatre directors at the international level, and looked forward to a case study of normative legal acts and law enforcement practices of WIPO Member States. The Delegation said that the Russian Federation together with other BRICS partners had been actively working on the subject of future development of IP protection within the context of the digital economy, and had studied possibilities for the introduction of blockchain, AI and BigData technologies in patent offices. In April that year, the first International Conference on Digital Transformation in the Area of Intellectual Property was held under the auspices of BRICS, and it had been scheduled to become an annual event in the future. The Delegation thanked Member States that had supported the proposal of the Russian Federation and Brazil to discuss within the CDIP the issue of impact of technological change on IP. Introduction of information technology for office procedures and for the entire area of IP had been a priority task for ROSPATENT. The Delegation welcomed the initiative of Director General Francis Gurry to ensure compliance of patents and medicines. It said that the Russian Federation had already developed an appropriate register which would be used for the registration of medicines procured in the country. ROSPATENT, together with the Russian Parliament, had been actively working to promote regional brands. The Russian Parliament had adopted in its first reading a bill to provide legal protection to geographical indications from all countries of the world. The WIPO Office in the Russian Federation had been functioning successfully. The Delegation welcomed the work of WIPO committees and working groups, and looked forward to successful normative work within committees in the near future with a view to convening diplomatic conferences and adopting international legal instruments on a wide range of relevant issues, taking into account the positions of all Member States. The Head of the Delegation, speaking in his capacity of member of the Administrative Council of the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), announced the initiation of work on the single Eurasian Patent Facility for industrial designs. This facility would allow applicants to protect their designs in eight participating states of the Eurasian Patent Convention on the basis of a single application. The Delegation stated that it was committed to constructive work within the forthcoming series of meetings of the Assemblies and would make every effort to achieve results.

107. The Delegation of **Rwanda** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of LDCs. WIPO was an organization that had proven its relevance to global socio-economic development. The Delegation said that Rwanda was undergoing structural transformation both through industrialization, which created jobs in the manufacturing sector, and advancement of the service sector, which created a more diversified production base. To ensure Rwanda's continuous transformation into a viable technological and knowledge-based economy, it was important to develop the right IP regime and an innovation ecosystem with research and development at its core. Although the Global Innovation Index 2018 had revealed persistent gaps in innovation across regions, the collective effort of Member States could lead to the upgrading of national technological systems and the closure of these gaps. The Delegation commended WIPO for mainstreaming the SDGs into all aspects of its work, which would add value to national and regional development strategies, and urged the Organization to continue in that vein. A number of projects had been undertaken in Rwanda to foster a vibrant innovation system and private sector, including the development and adoption of a national IP strategic plan; a review of national IP policies and regulations in order to incentivize innovators and creators to develop new technologies; and capacity-building for staff of the national IP office. Furthermore, the Government of Rwanda had undertaken bilateral IP activities with a number of countries, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United States of America. The Delegation was optimistic that all such innovative activities would lead to economic growth and sustainable and inclusive industrial development for the prosperity of all. Since 2011, the Government of Rwanda had ratified three important industrial property treaties and taken positive steps to ensure compliance with them, while the WCT,

WPPT, Beijing Treaty and Marrakesh Treaty were being considered for ratification. The Delegation said that WIPO should urgently and adequately address pending issues regarding its normative work in a manner which takes full account of LDCs.

108. The Delegation of **Saudi Arabia** recalled that its country had long attached great importance to IPRs protection and enforcement as an integral part of its national economy, cooperating with a number of countries around the world to support the global IP movement. In that regard, the Delegation was pleased to announce the establishment of a specialized unit, the Saudi Intellectual Property Authority (SIPA). Under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030's National Transformation Program, a team of specialists and consultants worked on developing SIPA's strategy to further advance its role in IP protection. The Delegation recalled that KSA's first IP-related regulations were set more than 82 years ago based on the principles of Islam which promotes respect for rights. The Delegation stated that SIPA's strategy comprised four main lines of actions (MLAs) underpinned by 15 strategic goals and 43 initiatives. SIPA's MLAs were (i) enforcing IPRs; (ii) developing and leveraging IPRs; (iii) delivering IP services; and (iv) managing IP processes. SIPA intended to implement its MLAs through its working group and strategic partners among IP offices around the world. In addition, SIPA was pleased to be an active participant in WIPO's activities and programs and looked forward to cooperating with friendly countries in developing IP systems, procedures and policies aimed at ensuring the necessary level of protection and enhancing IP's positive effects. In that spirit, SIPA was working on finalizing the country's accession to international conventions and treaties aligned with its vision, within the approved timetables. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the great efforts made by WIPO under the efficient management of the Director General and Secretariat. In conclusion, the Delegation said that SIPA was pleased to participate for the first time in the Assemblies coinciding with Saudi Arabia's 88th National Day.

109. The Delegation of **Senegal** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation welcomed its fruitful bilateral and multilateral cooperation with WIPO whose valuable and constant support had continued to yield substantial results in the country, particularly in the legislative, institutional and logistical domains. Similarly, capacity-building and technical assistance activities in key areas of IP law had intensified since the 2017 Assemblies. Examples were a copyright development project to strengthen the audiovisual sector in Burkina Faso and other African countries, including Senegal; a regional seminar on geographical indications organized in West Africa; a study on the identification, evaluation and protection of traditional forms and processes of creativity and innovation; WIPO's outstanding scientific contributions to the 13th edition of the Biennial of Contemporary African Art held in May 2018; and, more recently, the Workshop on Capacity-Building in the Use of Technology-Specific Scientific and Technical Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges. At the multilateral level, the Delegation remained firmly engaged in the ongoing discussions within the WIPO Committees, in a spirit of dialogue and openness, and was in favor of striking the requisite balance between right holders' interests and the general interest. Accordingly, Senegal continued to support the cause of artists and creators, in particular by initiating, jointly with the Congo, the proposal to include the issue of resale rights on the agenda of the SCCR. Resale rights, which were receiving growing support from various delegations within the SCCR, had become, more than ever before, an imperative for ensuring fairness and recognition. Similarly, the Delegation said that Senegal had co-sponsored, with a number of friendly countries, the proposal on the protection of country names against trademark registration under the SCT. The normative aspect of WIPO's work deserved special attention, given the slow pace of negotiations. Work in the relevant committees should be finalized, as soon as possible, with a view to convening diplomatic conferences for the adoption of draft texts on broadcasting organizations (SCCR), designs (DLT), as well as GRs, TK and TCEs (IGC). In conclusion, the Delegation wished the Assemblies success and, to that end, pledge to participate constructively in the discussions.

110. The Delegation of **Serbia** fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group. The continued growth in the use of WIPO's global registration systems since the previous session of the WIPO General Assembly and the 2018 High Level "Belt and Road" Conference were significant achievements for the Organization. Similarly, with the assistance of WIPO, the national IP office of Serbia had implemented the ePCT portal, held a two-day seminar on IP in September 2017, amended the Law on Copyright and Related Rights and, with the help of the Madrid Goods and Services Manager (MGS), considerably improved the country's trademark database by translating more than 30,000 concepts into Serbian. In November 2017, WIPO and the national IP office of Serbia signed a cooperation agreement on the development of business services and an ADR agreement. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to constructively cooperate with WIPO in overcoming challenges to establishing a well-balanced and stable IP system.

111. The Delegation of **Singapore** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and on behalf of ASEAN. Innovation was driving future economies in developed regions and emerging markets, particularly in Asia, where 40 per cent of global research and development funds were invested and 60 per cent of global IP applications were filed. The Global Innovation Index 2018 had shown that Asian economies continued to be among the strongest performers, with Singapore ranking among the top five for the first time. In future, IP would be an input for products, services, companies and jobs, rather than a mere economic output, and a subject of relevance and interest to citizens, companies and institutions, rather than a specialized, technical topic. IP registries and regulators had to be at the top of their game, transforming themselves into genuine agents of innovation and helping creators, entrepreneurs and enterprises to market their ideas and positively influence society. Singapore deeply valued its international relationships and its relevance to stakeholders in IP and innovation communities worldwide. ASEAN was one of the fastest growing emerging markets and ASEAN Directors General were overseeing the implementation of the ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan to help ASEAN become the fourth largest economic region in the world by 2030. The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center in Singapore had been designated as a mediation service provider under Singapore's new Mediation Act, which meant that private IP dispute resolution agreements mediated by the Center would be enforceable in Singapore's courts. The Delegation thanked all WIPO Member States and the Secretariat of the SCCR for their support and hard work during its tenure as Chair of the SCCR, expressed support for the SCCR's recommendation on the broadcasting treaty and welcomed the approved action plans on copyright limitations and exceptions. It also voiced strong support for the Asia and the Pacific Group's proposals to expand the PBC and to allocate unfilled seats on the WIPO Coordination Committee. IP Offices had a vital and even broader role to play in the future of countries and in driving global economic growth. The Delegation stood ready to work with WIPO's Member States and Secretariat, and with stakeholders, in the innovation ecosystem to make a meaningful difference to people and the world.

112. The Delegation of **Slovakia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states and with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation noted with appreciation the very positive financial result for the 2016/2017 biennium. It welcomed the continuous growth of Global IP services and believed that such growth would be furthered by constantly improving the systems that allowed WIPO to meet users' needs. It acknowledged WIPO's continuing efforts to improve global IP systems, provide new IT services to users, institute user-friendly amendments and increase efficiency. It also appreciated their increasing effectiveness. The Delegation was convinced that WIPO would continue providing services through the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems by allocating the resources necessary for their use and promotion, affording equal treatment to all systems. Regarding the Lisbon Union, the Delegation said that Slovakia had also helped to cover its short-term financial deficit and was ready for further discussions on solutions for its long-term financial sustainability. In

respect of the normative agenda, it hoped that pending issues would be resolved and the long-awaited decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT would be taken. The Delegation reiterated the need to take into account rapid developments in communication technologies and expressed the belief that the work of the SCCR would culminate in consensus on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations as a meaningful instrument for both current and future protection needs. The Delegation recognized the importance of the work of the IGC. It continued to favor an evidence-based approach and text-based negotiations only after agreement on the core issues had been reached. It remained willing to work towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome. The Delegation recognized and was satisfied with the ongoing work of the SCP concerning important issues. Further work in that area would be beneficial to all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. The Delegation recognized the importance of the activities of the CDIP and supported WIPO's technical assistance activities. It expressed thanks to the WIPO Secretariat and, in particular, the TDC for the excellent cooperation and assistance provided to Slovakia during the previous period. A Roving Seminar on WIPO Services and Initiatives was scheduled for mid-October in Bratislava. It would provide a forum for discussions among a wide spectrum of existing and potential users of WIPO services. The Delegation hoped for a positive and balanced outcome concerning all issues during the 2018 Assemblies.

113. The Delegation of **South Africa** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. Given the potential of technological advances over the past century either to solve some of the world's most pressing problems or to exacerbate existing inequalities between and within nations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had laid particular emphasis on technology transfer, thus placing WIPO at the center of the quest to meet the SDGs in line with its constitutive mandate. WIPO had an important role to play in encouraging technological advancement in developing countries through the development of a balanced and accessible IP system that was geared towards facilitating access to information and sharing technologies. WIPO's IP infrastructure had the potential to help Member States to exploit their innovation potential through the dissemination of data on value-added technology and industrial property and the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building. The Delegation attached particular importance to finding common ground on longstanding issues on the WIPO normative agenda, including the convening of a diplomatic conference on the draft DLT, the development of an agreement on an international legal instrument for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs and the drafting of an international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations against signal piracy. The Delegation said that South Africa had a long history of protecting IP. Its National Development Plan, like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, laid emphasis on innovation, productivity and the knowledge economy. South Africa was currently reviewing its IP policies to ensure that its IP rights regime supported its broader development objectives and underpinned its industrial development. In May 2018, the Government had approved the first phase of a new IP policy focusing on IP in public health and international cooperation. The policy was in line with international practice and struck a fair balance between incentivizing innovation and promoting generic competition and access to medicines. Phase two of the policy was due to be initiated and would focus on other issues of importance to IP and development. The Delegation said that it would appreciate WIPO's assistance in that regard in order to pursue its industrialization and that of Africa as a whole in line with Agenda 2063. It stood ready to participate constructively in building consensus on all issues.

114. The Delegation of **Sri Lanka** said that it had full confidence in the Director General and his team as they fulfilled the Organization's mandate and the annual report had been very informative. However, while WIPO's continued provision of technical assistance to developing countries to help unlock the potential of using the IP system was welcome, challenges, such as the lack of balanced representation of regions in the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, remained pronounced. Achieving fairer representation in WIPO's governing bodies, as

well as working on the opening of new External Offices, therefore required open engagement from Member States. While the standard-setting role of the IGC was particularly important for developing countries and the Committee's recommendations for adoption were positive developments, the Committee should redouble its efforts in finalizing ongoing consultations. Member States should also prioritize finalizing the draft DLT, taking into account the proposed technical assistance and disclosure requirements. The CDIP played a crucial role in providing a fair IP system for economic development and mainstreaming the DA in the activities of WIPO was vital in ensuring the Organization remained relevant. WIPO should adopt a holistic approach in implementing the SDGs. The Organization had provided valuable assistance to Sri Lanka in the form of technical assistance, capacity-building and expertise, most notably through a ten-point action plan for cooperation on IP. The Delegation said that work to finalize a national IP policy was well underway and draft legislation was being developed to enable Sri Lanka's accession to the Madrid Agreement.

115. The Delegation of **Sudan** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation had long attached great importance to IP as an enabler of economic, social and cultural development. In that spirit, the Delegation said that Sudan had acceded to several treaties, underpinned by the firm political will to support and harness IP for socio-economic development. In that regard, the Delegation stated that the Ministry of Justice was working with WIPO to align national legislations with regional and international treaties in order to join the WTO. Furthermore, outreach and IP culture dissemination activities continued on the national level, benefitting all stakeholders. Sudan's trademark collection was also added to WIPO's Global Brand Database (GBD) as an outcome of the second phase of the computing project, with Sudan becoming the 39th country to launch its database on WIPO's GBD. An MoU was concluded between the Registrar General of Intellectual Property Department and the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's efforts in developing and promoting IP and its gratitude for the activities undertaken in Sudan during 2017 such as WIPO Academy's advisory mission to Sudan in February aimed at disseminating IP culture and delivering capacity-building activities for universities. In that regard, the mission identified long and medium-term areas of cooperation by creating teaching and learning opportunities under Master's degrees on IP within Sudanese universities, and establishing an IP academy. Moreover, a seminar on IP policies for universities and research institutions was organized, focusing on the economic and social benefits of commercializing research outputs and protecting assets using IP tools. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its efforts aimed at developing the IP landscape and building national capacities by delivering a training workshop on PCT to officials from the national IP office from October 16 to 18, 2018. The Delegation noted that expected beneficiaries were Sudanese universities, registries, national office officials, SMEs, research institutions and inventors. In conclusion, the Delegation extended its thanks and gratitude to WIPO's Arab Bureau, African Bureau, Division for Least Developed Countries and the WIPO Academy for their continued efforts in providing technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

116. The Delegation of **Sweden** fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of Switzerland on behalf of Group B and by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states. It stressed the importance of making WIPO's services more efficient and meeting customers' needs with regard to the international protection of their IP. WIPO should continue to provide and develop the international IP legal framework and infrastructure, ensuring that IP remained a driver for economic development, creativity and innovation. New developments had led to opportunities and challenges for the IP system. The IP industry had been experiencing a digital transformation, often referred to as the fourth industrial revolution, which had involved the introduction of the Internet of Things, big data, AI and blockchain. The outcome, in the form of new technologies, could play a significant role in solving global challenges including climate change, population and scarce resources, all of which were relevant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The transformation

could also reshape economies and have several important consequences for the management of intangible assets, as they constituted a considerable share of total value among industry actors. The market and IP landscape had been shifting drastically as several new players entered traditional industrial areas and as the monitoring of third-party rights became more complex. At the same time, collaboration and open innovation were often crucial to promote product research and development. Furthermore, IP developments could boost the currently asymmetrical global technological capacity. The IP transformation was global; therefore, the IP system must be adapted globally. WIPO, as an international organization and the home of the international IP community, had the critical role of identifying which issues must be handled within the IP system and which policies must be addressed. WIPO had accomplished much work and continued to do so in areas such as AI. The Delegation welcomed the dialogue around such complex issues. IP offices would benefit from technologies such as AI in making their internal processes more effective, including for searching, image analysis and classification. Such developments would have implications for the global IP infrastructure and would generate the knowledge and capacity that needed to be shared within the global IP community. The Delegation appreciated the excellent cooperation between WIPO and Sweden's Patent and Registration Office (PRV) with respect to the advanced international training programs that had been financed by the Swedish International Development Agency. In 2018, the PRV had offered five international training programs in cooperation with WIPO, three on aspects of IP for least developed countries and two on IP and GRs in support of innovation. The programs had been organized by the PRV and WIPO's Division for Least Developed Countries Division and Traditional Knowledge Division. Sweden attached great importance to good governance. It would continue to encourage and support measures to carry out and monitor financing and activities that were robust, transparent and aimed at increasing WIPO's effectiveness. The Delegation looked forward to continuing its successful cooperation with WIPO in enhancing the international IP system in support of the economic, social and cultural development of all.

117. The Delegation of **Switzerland**, speaking in its national capacity, supported the statement made by the Delegation on behalf of Group B and, in addition, wished to highlight a few complementary points. Firstly, WIPO's attention should remain focused on work constituting its core mandate, primarily the development and modernization of registration systems managed by the Organization. The proper functioning of these systems was essential to the implementation of WIPO's mandate as a global provider of IP services. The attractiveness of these systems for users was closely linked to the quality of international registrations, which relied on short processing times, reliable legal titles, qualified personnel and suitable IT solutions. Normative work was another core component of the WIPO mandate. The Delegation hoped for a positive outcome of ongoing work, in particular on designs, GRs, TK and folklore, and country names. The work of the IGC for the 2018/19 biennium had as a goal to reach an agreement on one or more international legal instruments to ensure balanced and effective protection for GRs, TK and TCEs. The Delegation was of the view that additional efforts were necessary to find solutions benefitting all WIPO members and stakeholders and would continue to engage actively and constructively to that end. Regarding country names and other geographical names, including geographical indications, the Delegation welcomed the ongoing work within the SCT, which would eventually lead to better protection of country names and other geographical names, preventing abuses and enhancing transparency. The Delegation hoped that at its next session, the SCT would adopt the proposal submitted by 13 delegations, including Switzerland, and supported by many others, for the protection of country names and geographical names of national importance. With reference to the new WIPO External Offices, the Delegation hoped that a pragmatic solution respecting the Guiding Principles and decisions adopted at the 2015 and 2017 Assemblies would be found, while recalling that any new office needed to provide added value to the Organization and to contribute to its strategic objectives.

118. The Delegation of the **Syrian Arab Republic** congratulated the Chair on his election to office and expressed its deep appreciation to the Director General for his efforts. The Delegation had always maintained close ties with WIPO notwithstanding current circumstances, believing IP of all kinds was a cornerstone in developing its national economy. To that end, it established a sound legal environment to safeguard public rights and interests by issuing Law No. 8 of 2007 on Trademarks, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs and Models and Competition and Law No.18 of 2012 on Patents; the former currently being under review following some difficulties in enforcement. The Delegation recalled that its country had also benefitted from acceding to a number of IP treaties especially the Madrid Protocol. The preparation of the National IP Strategy in collaboration with WIPO was also on track. Cognizant of the fact that creativity and innovation among young generations required continuous support, the Government organized an exceptional edition of the AI Bassel Fair for Invention & Innovation from September 6 to 15, 2018. The Fair brought together 700 inventors and innovators from a wide range of fields, mainly with technical entries. In that regard, the Delegation wished to thank WIPO for continuing to award prizes to outstanding laureates, recognizing the need for such a fair to induce innovation and creativity and transform ideas into products. The Delegation said that the Syrian Arab Republic was working on the 6th edition of its IP Culture Dissemination Program targeted at universities, schools, SMEs and businesses, adapting a wide range of materials prepared by WIPO. Several events were organized to encourage businesses and productive industries to make use of the Madrid System for the registration of their trademarks across the world. In conclusion, the Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the ongoing efforts within the Organization and expressed its satisfaction with the positive direction of the processes and its bilateral cooperation with WIPO. It commended the Secretariat on its preparatory work for the session and the WIPO Arab Bureau for facilitating cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and WIPO.

119. The Delegation of **Thailand** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. IP was at the top of the national agenda in Thailand and since the previous session of the WIPO General Assembly, work had been underway to amend the Copyright Act in preparation for the Government's eventual accession to the Marrakesh Treaty, the WCT and the WPPT. Furthermore, the Government was in the process of amending the Patent Act in order to streamline the patent registration procedure and to comply with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. Such developments were in line with *Thailand 4.0*: the Government's policy to develop Thailand into a value-based and innovation-driven economy. In regard to WIPO's norm-setting activities, there was need to find common ground on pending issues, including the discussion of the IGC on the text of an international legal instrument on the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. In regard to the IGC's discussion on the text of a draft DLT, Member States should work constructively to resolve issues on technical assistance and disclosure requirements. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to contribute constructively to discussions in the SCCR, the SCP and the SCT so as to strengthen the international IP system and ensure that the progress made at WIPO yielded robust national and international IP systems. The Delegation said that the Government of Thailand had used online platforms to raise public awareness of its IP-related activities and enforcement of IP protection and had shared its experiences of the use of technologies in that way at the 13th session of the ACE. Decisions on the establishment of External Offices should be governed by the WIPO Guiding Principles on External Offices, giving due consideration to the principle of a sustainable, equitable, and efficient geographical network for the location of prospective External Offices and to developmental aspects or locations where the users of WIPO Premier Global IP Services were located.

120. The Delegation of **Trinidad and Tobago** supported the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. The dynamic nature of IP implied the need for matching effort by IP offices in several areas – the IP system itself, but also back-office services – to keep the entire ecosystem relevant to the capacities of stakeholders and creators alike.

The Delegation was pleased to announce that the country's Intellectual Property Office was very close to implementing online filing and was also working to introduce online payment, thanks to WIPO assistance provided under the WIPO-FILE project. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago was actively reviewing two MoUs – for the provision of IP-centered ADR and for the establishment of a Start-up IP Academy – that would significantly expand the national IP ecosystem. Collaboration had expanded beyond national borders, with continued horizontal cooperation in the region and South-South cooperation with INAPI, in Chile. A number of cooperation activities would continue in late 2018, including an exchange of teams to explore the services offered to inventors and businesses by each country. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO and the Caribbean Section for the many initiatives taken to nurture and mentor local holders of potential geographical indications. Local interest had prompted Trinidad and Tobago to seek accession to six more IP-related treaties over the next few months. The Delegation supported the conclusion of a broadcasting treaty, given the burgeoning commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade.

121. The Delegation of **Tunisia** congratulated the Chair for his election to office, confident that the Assemblies would be successful under his wise guidance. The Delegation expressed its thanks to the Director General and Secretariat for their efforts in developing WIPO's strategies and action programs. The Delegation reiterated the importance of the DA in general and for developing countries and LDCs in particular given the vital importance of mainstreaming development priorities into IP policies. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the efforts undertaken and consensus achieved within the CDIP. The Delegation welcomed the DA implementation plan which would help strengthen international cooperation within WIPO's mandate, which was closely related to the SDGs given the increasing role of IP across various social, economic and cultural fields. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the progress made across WIPO committees in general and within the IGC in particular. The Delegation hoped the latter would give rise to a legally binding instrument(s) for providing effective protection to GRs, TK and TCEs and that a diplomatic conference would be convened as soon as possible. The Delegation noted WIPO's support to national IP institutions, providing capacity-building activities to protect innovations, creations and inventions and further advance science. In that regard, the Delegation looked forward to further support being provided to Arab and African countries' development efforts in IP-related areas. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the efforts made under WIPO-Tunisia technical cooperation programs to develop Tunisia's IP system in close cooperation with the Arab Bureau. In that regard, the Delegation highlighted the support provided to its national IP academy, noting that future work would include a focus on distance training as well as developing its IT infrastructure to be compatible with WIPO's IPAS system and ultimately WIPO Publish. The Delegation was pleased to announce that an e-filing system for trademark applications had been developed and would be extended to other IP subject-matters over 2019. Furthermore, a strategic study was being prepared to develop the national industrial property landscape by improving national IP office's processes and supporting relevant users, ultimately enhancing national institutional capacities with a special focus on SMEs. With respect to literary and artistic property rights, a reproduction system was under development in cooperation with WIPO and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO) aimed at helping copyright holders, publishers, authors and painters benefit from their rights. In addition, a field intervention team, regrouping representatives from different ministries and bodies, had been established and mandated to enforce legal provisions related to literary and artistic IP. In conclusion, the Delegation looked forward to further cooperation between WIPO and Tunisia as well as with other countries to harness the power of IP and innovation to achieve development around the world.

122. The Delegation of **Turkey** said that, with valuable support from the WIPO Academy, the country's Ankara University had now successfully offered an International IP Master's Program for two academic years. For the university's 2018 program, Turkey and WIPO had awarded scholarships to citizens of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Georgia, India, Kenya, Nicaragua, Oman,

Pakistan and South Africa. A Turkish IP Academy had also been established and would be fully operational in 2019. The Delegation urged delegates to disseminate information on the aforementioned Master's Program to stakeholders in their countries. It also noted that the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (Turkpatent) had volunteered to partner with countries in the region in developing their IP education policies and activities. A project to strengthen the Turkish copyright system, as part of the country's efforts to preserve its cultural heritage, was nearing completion, with a focus on fostering creative and copyright-based industries. A digital archive project to provide a platform for the registration of documents on cinematographic and musical work had been finalized. Turkey had also ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which had entered into force on February 2, 2018. The country had ranked high in recent years in the number of applications for IP rights and had seen steady increases in patent application numbers and improvements in innovation capacity. The Turkish Patent Institute had been functioning as an International Authority under the PCT since 2016 and its effectiveness in that capacity had been improving daily. In April 2018, Turkpatent had established a public company for the commercialization of industrial property rights, strengthening its capacity for IP evaluation and valuation and filling a significant gap in the commercialization of emerging patent, trademark and design technologies. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Switzerland on behalf of Group B and encouraged WIPO committees to continue their efforts toward the adoption of a DLT and establishing a legal basis for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. It also supported adoption of the broadcasting treaty. Lastly, with reference to the negotiations on WIPO's new External Offices, for which Turkey was a candidate, the Delegation stressed the importance of an equitable, inclusive, objective and transparent system for the selection of host countries, in accordance with the Guiding Principles.

123. The Delegation of **Uganda** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation said that protection of TK was of particular importance on WIPO's normative agenda, given that several modern day medicines and treatments were based on the indigenous knowledge of populations of ancient Africa and Asia and traditional forms of healthcare were becoming more widely accepted as a complement or alternative to medicine worldwide. The Delegation expressed concern, however, that despite near consensus by the entire WIPO membership on the inadequacy of the modern IP system to offer full protection to TK systems, almost 20 years of negotiations to design an international instrument extending IP protection to indigenous knowledge had yet to produce tangible results. This partly stemmed from the continued insistence of some Member States that conventional principles of IP protection provided the overarching framework for protection of TK. Member States should be willing to compromise so as to accelerate the process of establishing a legally-binding, minimum-standard, international instrument for the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs, with a view to concluding negotiations during the current IGC's biennial mandate. Underscoring the fact that the 2007 WIPO DA introduced development dimensions to all WIPO programs and activities, the Delegation urged the Organization, as the focal point in the UN system for the integrated treatment of IP and development, to enhance its role in implementing the SDGs and strengthen its collaboration with other UN agencies. WIPO Member States should work collaboratively, ensuring that no one was left behind, in order to strengthen the Organization and meet the challenges currently facing multilateralism globally. The Delegation offered its full support to enhancing the Organization's democratic governance structures through broader participation of members of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, while observing the principle of regional proportionality. IP played a key role in Uganda's development strategy and, with the support of WIPO, the country continued to modernize its national IP systems and infrastructure through legal reforms, strengthening of the national IP office and human capacity-building. As a result, Uganda was able to improve its ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2017.

124. The Delegation of **Ukraine** said that it was deeply grateful to WIPO for all of the efforts made to build a sustainable and accessible international IP system, to strengthen the universal IP protection system and to ensure stable and balanced cooperation among the various countries and regions, as the Organization was the world body that enabled all of its Member States to exchange their experiential data, best practices, policies and achievements in the field of IP. Satisfied with the extremely effective work of all WIPO committees and working groups, it expressed its gratitude to the WIPO Secretariat and to all delegations for their contribution to the resolution of IP issues, in particular in the digital environment. The Delegation said that it was strongly convinced that the continuation of fruitful cooperation under the PCT, the Madrid Arrangement concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol thereto, the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT), the WIPO Internet Treaties and other international instruments would continue to bring many advantages to users worldwide. It was appropriate to note that the field of IP was currently one of the main priorities of the Government of Ukraine. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine had adopted effective measures to develop the national IP system further and to boost the competitiveness of the national knowledge- and innovation-based economy. Wide-ranging work had been done to reform the public IP administration system, the goal being to establish a single national authority in the very near future. Emphasis should be laid on effective and significant cooperation between the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine and WIPO in implementing the 2018-2019 cooperation program. The Delegation welcomed the support and assistance provided by WIPO for the purposes of establishing a national network of TISCs in Ukraine, the implementation of the draft IP policy in universities and research institutes, the organization of Ukraine–WIPO summer internships on IP and the organization and implementation of a number of joint initiatives and events designed to sensitize public opinion and boost its potential. A major outcome of public awareness-raising and of activities carried out in order to improve respect for IP rights and facilitate access to information on IP in order to promote innovation and creativity had been the improvement in Ukraine's ranking on the World Innovation Index 2018, for it currently featured among innovation achievers. Moreover, special attention had been paid to the formulation of national industrial property legislation and to copyright and related rights. In that connection, the Delegation expressed its gratitude to WIPO for providing its assistance and expertise in drawing up the bill on the collective management of IP. Ukraine had opted since 2014 to move gradually towards membership of the European Community, which had resulted in the sacrifice of human lives owing to aggression by hostile countries. Ukraine's wish and sincere resolve to join the CEBS Group were absolutely logical and justified. The Delegation of Hungary, which had not yet taken a final decision, should support that initiative. The Delegation expressed its strong conviction that, in collaboration with all Member States, its country would do its utmost to improve, simplify and strengthen the universal system for the protection and enforcement of IP for the benefit of nations worldwide. The Delegation stated that it stood ready to participate actively in the resolution of all relevant issues in close cooperation with other WIPO Member States. Lastly, the Delegation wished that all delegations would obtain fruitful results by the end of the fifty-eighth series of meetings of the Assemblies.

125. The Delegation of the **United Arab Emirates** said it was confident that the session would achieve significant progress on its agenda and extended its thanks to the Director General for his thorough report and WIPO's positive financial results which reflected the efficient and solid policies adopted. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Asian and Pacific Group and supported all the proposals made by the Group on the composition of WIPO's PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee. The Delegation recalled that the United Arab Emirates had adopted a progressive and enlightened development vision based on openness, cultural diversity and freedom of creativity. Since its inception, the the United Arab Emirates had achieved great progress on developing IPRs policies and legislations and established successful international partnerships in the area of advanced expertise, knowledge and technology transfer, thus modernizing and improving the management of its IP system. Thanks to its efforts, the United Arab Emirates had succeeded in

establishing a sophisticated institutional and electronic infrastructure for the registration of patents, copyrights and trademarks, promoting the transition to smart services for IPRs protection. Furthermore, the United Arab Emirates were among the first to ratify the Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties and organized, in cooperation with WIPO, a regional seminar on the Marrakesh Treaty and its implementation in February, seeking to develop and support innovation and creativity. In addition, the United Arab Emirates dedicated efforts improved its ranking on many development and competitiveness indices such as the Global Innovation Index (GII) on which it ranked first among Arab countries and regionally for three successive years, ranking 38th globally in 2017. Cognizant of the importance of mainstreaming development in all WIPO's activities and programs and assisting Member States in achieving the SDGs, the Delegation was pleased to announce the establishment of a WIPO-United Arab Emirates Trust Fund to support the implementation of WIPO's DA in developing countries and LDCs. Finally, the proposal to host a WIPO External Office in the United Arab Emirates was in line with national objectives to play a positive role in the dissemination of IP culture and promote national practices regionally and internationally. The Delegation hoped that the United Arab Emirates' proposal, drafted in accordance with WIPO guidelines, would receive the necessary support from Member States. In that regard, the Delegation pointed out that its country provided an excellent environment to host an External Office in accordance with WIPO's requirements. The United Arab Emirates was also keen to host such an office and stood ready to provide all possible facilities for the office to fulfill its mandate and deliver its activities and services. In conclusion, the Delegation invited all Member States to consider the development of a clear and integrated methodology and mechanism for the selection of the four External Offices' host countries to ensure such offices were located as best served WIPO's objectives and field activities.

126. The Delegation of the **United Kingdom** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Switzerland on behalf of Group B. The Delegation said that British businesses set great store by WIPO's key services, which provided international protection and support for IP. It welcomed the continued growth of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems, the latter of which it had joined in June 2018. The opportunities for all stakeholders to contribute to the continuous improvement of such services were also greatly appreciated. In the previous year, WIPO experts had attended a series of roving seminars in cities across the United Kingdom and had directly discussed WIPO systems, services and IT platforms and their future with business representatives. While the improvement and expansion of such core services was a priority, the Delegation also valued opportunities to shape the future of the global IP system within WIPO's standing committees, which provided a platform for sharing knowledge and experience and collaborating on the improvement of the existing IP framework. The United Kingdom was grateful for the opportunity to share proposals on quality of patents within the SCP, in which regard it wished to thank the Delegations of the Czech Republic, Kenya, Mexico and Singapore for their support. The Delegation believed that WIPO's significant convening power should be used to its full potential and was therefore pleased to have facilitated a WIPO meeting of IP offices on information and communication technology strategies and AI for IP administration. It was fully engaged in discussions to find common ground on emerging technologies and their interaction with IP and supported efforts to ensure that the IP framework kept pace with such rapid developments so that all WIPO Member States could benefit from the latest technologies. The Delegation said that the United Kingdom was due to leave the European Union in 2019 and would foster a climate of stability so that individuals and businesses in both the United Kingdom and the European Union could easily adjust to new arrangements. Whatever the scenario, the United Kingdom aimed to ensure the continuous protection of rights through WIPO systems, in particular for European Union designated users in the Hague and Madrid Systems. Discussions were under way with WIPO to identify practical solutions to meet such objectives. The Delegation said that the United Kingdom was stepping up its constructive and positive engagement in WIPO discussions to ensure that the global IP system was robust and fair and stimulated innovation and net growth for the benefit of all. To that end, it was playing an active

role in vital discussions on good governance and management of the Organization, providing the first British chair of a WIPO committee for 25 years. The Delegation looked forward to a constructive series of meetings.

127. The Delegation of the **United Republic of Tanzania** stated that WIPO had several ongoing or completed IP projects in the United Republic of Tanzania. It welcomed the continuous technical support received from WIPO, particularly the integration of IP automated systems and the new online registration system started on January 4, 2018. The integration had facilitated the receipt and processing of applications, the conduct of searches and online payments for patents and trademarks. The Delegation appreciated this technical support and eagerly awaited the implementation of the electronic data management system, the introduction of the iPass online model and upgrading of the current iPass version which would add value to the existing system and enhance the processing of applications. The WIPO DA Project Phase II: Capacity-Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology-Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges was being implemented with three countries, namely: the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia. In 2014, the United Republic of Tanzania had established a national expert group which selected two challenging areas in which proper technology would be developed to provide solutions, namely: the extraction of carageenan from seaweed; and aquaculture. All relevant documents, including the report and business plan for the two selected technologies were currently ready for handover and implementation. Furthermore, WIPO had taken several measures to strengthen LDCs and the United Republic of Tanzania in particular through capacity-building. Such measures included various training courses organized for government officials which sometimes included the private sector. Several workshops and seminars had also been jointly conducted with WIPO and ARIPO, such as the national roving seminar of 2017 which revealed national stakeholders' desire to learn and use IP as a development tool. Capacity-building was an ongoing activity and the United Republic of Tanzania looked forward to working with WIPO to enhance the transfer of knowledge through training courses, workshops and seminars to bridge the knowledge gap in all aspects of IP, thus promoting socioeconomic development. Furthermore, it had requested WIPO to support and facilitate a Master's degree program in IP that would be offered at the University of Dar-es-Salam as from next year. The Delegation was grateful for the assistance that WIPO extended to its government officials by increasing their awareness and knowledge on ADR in the area of copyrights, and hoped that this cooperation would continue. Zanzibar had already incorporated ADR mechanisms in its copyrights bill since the current legal system did not have adequate and up-to-date provisions to address copyright disputes. WIPO assistance and expertise was needed to develop modern copyright dispute settlement rules of procedure that were consistent with regional and international copyright dispute resolution mechanisms..

128. The Delegation of the **United States of America** fully endorsed the statement made by the Delegation Switzerland on behalf of Group B. The Delegation valued WIPO's work and the critical IP services that it provided to its stakeholders worldwide. While WIPO enjoyed a strong financial position owing largely to the success of the PCT System, the Delegation was concerned about the financial sustainability of WIPO's fee-funded Unions and would continue to urge them to pay their share of the Organization's common expenses as required under their treaties. The Delegation was in favor of updating protection for broadcasting organizations and remained committed to working on a meaningful treaty to protect broadcasters against signal theft in the digital age. However, it did not wish to set a specific date for a diplomatic conference on that matter until experts from the SCCR had agreed on a mature text. The Delegation was disappointed that so many years had passed and still no DLT had been put in place to simplify the registration of rights holders' industrial designs. Barring the inclusion of any last-minute contentious provisions, a draft DLT could give rise to a diplomatic conference, in which the Delegation was ready and willing to participate constructively. The Delegation said that the United States of America would also continue to engage in evidence-based discussions within the IGC that helped to reach a common understanding on core issues. WIPO had made

some progress towards strengthening its oversight mechanisms. However, in addition to being strong and independent, such mechanisms had to work well in practice and provide genuine assistance to Member States and effective oversight of the Organization. The Delegation appreciated the implementation of the new whistleblower protection policy and looked forward to the Organization's continued participation in United Nations-wide efforts to address harassment. WIPO was encouraged to promote accountability and to continue implementing outreach and training initiatives that strengthened the ethical culture of the Organization from the top down. It should also implement the recommendations arising from the JIU's review of whistleblower policies and practices in UN organizations. The Delegation looked forward to engaging constructively with all WIPO Member States.

129. The Delegation of **Uruguay**, expressed gratitude to WIPO which, through technical cooperation, provided the support required by national authorities to implement national IP policies. It stressed that, in the past year, WIPO had collaborated with the National Industrial Property Directorate (DNPI) on the following activities: PCT training to enable the Office, once the Treaty had been ratified by Parliament, to implement it in a timely manner and in due form; training of DNPI officials in matters arising under the Singapore Treaty, as that Treaty was also before the national Parliament; appointment of a WIPO consultant who contributed through his work in conjunction with the DNPI technical team to the implementation of the first patent examination guidelines; the holding of a sub-regional meeting on IP, innovation and gender equity, the latter being of special importance to Uruguay because it was included in the national political agenda and under SDG 5; invitations to national institutes and universities to participate in regional activities and in training; the workshop on country marks held in 2018 and organized jointly by WIPO and the Spanish Cooperation Agency, which would be very important and essential to Uruguay as an input in promoting the international uptake of national products; invitations to judges and public prosecutors to participate in November of the current year in the Academy's activities; and the workshop held in Buenos Aires for export promotion agencies concurrently with the meeting of regional directors. Lastly, it thanked WIPO for its contribution through technical assistance, information technology tools and platforms, such as the World Trademark Database, which had become a strategic partner of PROSUR. The above-mentioned activities had been conducted in order to promote the use of industrial property in Uruguay and had been invaluable supported by WIPO's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Delegation undertook to seek balanced solutions that would benefit all Member States and improve the Organization's strategic position

130. The Delegation of **Viet Nam** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation highly appreciated the recent excellent performance of WIPO and expressed the hope that progress would be made on pending norm-setting issues. The fourth industrial revolution would bring about significant changes to social and economic life and the opportunity to narrow the development gap. In that regard, WIPO and Member States should develop IP policies to harness such opportunities and promote creativity and innovation. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to WIPO for the effective and timely assistance provided to the Government of Viet Nam, which had led to the formulation of a national IP strategy, a rise in the country's Global Innovation Index ranking, the accession of the country to the Hague Agreement and awareness-raising on IP. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to WIPO in working to establish a balanced and inclusive international IP system that benefited all Member States and users.

131. The Delegation of **Zambia** highlighted the technical assistance rendered by WIPO to Zambia in reviewing and formulating the country's revised national IP policy, under which several IP programs, such as the awareness strategy formulation program, had been drawn up and were being implemented. The revised IP policy had identified the need to integrate IP into the school curriculum, in which regard Zambia welcomed the opportunity to host the IP for Youth and Teachers Regional Seminar in November 2018. Zambia's cooperation with WIPO had also encompassed technological capacity-building, in particular university-led innovation.

The country's first university-based Technology Transfer Office (TTO) had been established at the Copperbelt University in Zambia pursuant to the two-day national meeting organized the previous year by WIPO and the National IP Office on Building Cooperation between Institutions of Higher Learning, Research Centers and Industries to Foster National Technological Innovation. The TTO focused on encouraging university-led research with a commercial value, transforming research output into marketable products and ensuring the IP protection of inventions. It also promoted cooperation between industry and business to strengthen national technological capacity. The Delegation hoped that many such TTOs would be opened in other local universities. Six senior Zambian officials from ministries, universities and research institutes had attended the Advanced Training and Advisory Program on Intellectual Property Rights in the Global Economy for the Least Developed Countries, organized by WIPO and the Government of Sweden, and had implemented five national projects on IP for development, thus fueling local capacity for innovation. Aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group, the Delegation regretted the slow pace of discussions on the need for an international treaty on the protection of TK, GRs and TCEs. Zambia had already enacted a law to prevent misappropriation of those important creative resources but hoped, nonetheless, that progress would be made towards setting aside differences and convening a diplomatic conference.

132. The Delegation of **Zimbabwe** fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. The Zimbabwe National IP Policy and Strategy, developed with WIPO's assistance and technical cooperation, had been launched on June 28, 2018. Business representatives and universities had already been consulted to promote the policy's implementation. Zimbabwe would appreciate the support of WIPO and all other stakeholders in its ongoing efforts to implement the policy. The Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office continued to benefit from a number of WIPO staff training and capacity-building programs. Moreover, with the valuable support of WIPO and the Japan FIT, Zimbabwe had successfully digitized its trademark records and was hoping to complete data verification early next year. Discussions were also underway with WIPO to bridge the ICT skills gap at the Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office. The Delegation appreciated the work of the WIPO Academy, whose Masters in Intellectual Property program was jointly offered by WIPO, ARIPO and Africa University. Five of the current 38 students were from Zimbabwe and the program continued to add to the critical mass of IP professionals in the country. Zimbabwe valued all the normative processes of the various WIPO committees, including the IGC, and hoped that all delegations would continue to positively engage with them with a view to achieving consensus. Development was at the heart of every country's concerns and the Delegation hoped that the DA would remain relevant in areas of critical importance to Africa. The Delegation would continue to participate in all WIPO committees for the benefit of the Organization and the IP community as a whole.

133. The Representative of the **African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)** associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs Group. It reported that, in order to raise awareness of the importance of IP and build capacity in the African region to use it for technological and economic development, WIPO and ARIPO had, in the current year, organized several joint activities, namely the Regional Seminar on Patent-Related Flexibilities, the Training of Trainers Workshop on Teaching of IP in Police Colleges, the workshop on patent drafting, the sub-regional meeting on development of TISCs and the Workshop on Online Tools and Services for Industrial Property Administration and Automation. More than 296 IP experts from 26 African countries had graduated from the Master's degree course in Intellectual Property at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, which had launched a peer reviewed African Journal on IP and had published *Intellectual Property Law, Practice and Management: Perspectives from Africa*, an IP textbook. Drawing on the success of the Mutare program, ARIPO had launched, in collaboration with the Ghana IP Office, a new MPhil IP course at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and would launch another

program at the University of Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in May 2019. In early September 2018, ARIPO had launched a Regional IP Database, developed with WIPO's support, in order to give users easy access to IP information available online. The database, which currently held more than 400,000 IP titles from ARIPO and 12 Member States, was an achievement consistent with ARIPO's vision of becoming an IP hub in the region. The Delegation considered that, under the new tripartite cooperation framework established between WIPO, ARIPO and OAPI, many more IP milestones would be achieved in Africa and ARIPO Member States would continue to reap more benefits from the IP system.

134. The Representative of the **Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO)** welcomed the significant progress achieved by WIPO in developing a balanced and accessible IP system, and expressed its support for WIPO's work to promote the effective use of IP worldwide by ensuring stable and harmonious cooperation between countries and regions. The Representative noted the attention given by WIPO, and personally by the Director General to the Eurasian region and the activities of EAPO directed towards the development of national IP systems in states party to the Eurasian Patent Convention. The Representative also noted the constructive and beneficial work of the Department for Transition and Developed Countries aimed at the effective implementation of projects and programs in the interests of national patent offices of the Eurasian region. The Representative expressed special gratitude to the Director General, the Deputy Director General, Brands and Designs Sector, and the Director of the Hague Registry, Brands and Designs Sector, for organizing visits and working negotiations, and for providing advice on the establishment by EAPO and states party to the Eurasian Patent Convention of the Eurasian system of legal protection of industrial designs. Furthermore, the Representative thanked WIPO for its assistance and cooperation in organizing joint regional seminars in the countries of the region, for providing lecturers within the fellowship program for experts of national patent offices and ensuring access of EAPO experts to WIPO electronic services and information systems. The Representative further noted that last year had been a year of efficient development for EAPO. The number of Eurasian applications filed, as compared to numbers filed during the same period last year, had increased by 4 per cent in September this year. There had been a growing trend in the use of the Eurasian patent system by applicants from countries of the Eurasian region. Applicants from the United States of America had shown a steady interest in the Eurasian patent, and applicants from the Asian region had demonstrated an increased interest in obtaining protection under the Eurasian patent procedure. In an effort to improve the quality of services provided, EAPO had taken a number of steps in 2017 aimed at reducing the time taken to process applications which had allowed for a shortening of the average time for transmission of the first notification of results of substantive examination by 20 per cent in 2018 compared to 2015. EAPO had been stepping up cooperation with leading patent offices for joint use of search and examination results. In addition to the existing Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program, implemented jointly with the Japan Patent Office (JPO), PPH programs involving the European Patent Office (EPO) and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) were launched in 2018, and another such program was planned to be signed with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) in the coming days. EAPO helped increase electronic filing of applications in the Eurasian region to a record level of close to 85 per cent in 2018, and introduced paperless internal processing. EAPO participated in the work of main WIPO committees and bodies. The Representative commended WIPO's activities to develop the international legal framework in the IP area, introduce modern standards for patent information, and achieve strategic goals in line with the constantly increasing demands of the modern world. The Representative expressed its hope that WIPO would continue its steady development for the benefit of Member States and the entire global IP community. The Representative was confident that the role of WIPO in the world would continue to increase.

135. The Representative of the **Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office)** congratulated the Chair for his election to office and extended his thanks to the Director General, Secretariat and Arab Bureau for their excellent

efforts. The Delegation said that some recent GCC developments in the field of IP were highlighted as an illustration of the GCC's ever-increasing interest in the fields of patents, trademarks and copyright. Such highlights included: (i) developing a joint program between the GCC Patent Office (GCCPO) and national patent offices across Member States focused on examination, process automatization and infrastructure; (ii) increased number of ratifications for the GCC Unified Trademark Law; (iii) initiating the development of a GCC Unified Copyright Law; (iv) enhancing the GCC IP Training Center's vital role in providing capacity-building activities for all IP stakeholders; and (v) providing capacity-building programs and activities, under the approved annual plan, to IP professionals across GCC member states, including the GCC Patent Grievances Committee, in cooperation with WIPO and a number of specialized international bodies. In addition, an MoU was expected to be signed shortly between the GCC's Secretariat General, represented by the GCC Patent Office, and the EPO aimed at boosting the long-term cooperation between both institutions and improving their outputs. In conclusion, the Representative underlined the importance of choosing a GCC member state to host one of WIPO's External Offices among those who had submitted a proposal to that effect in accordance with document A/55/INF/11, as it would further promote the IP sector and services within the GCC region, advancing regional efforts to harness IP for innovation within GCC Member States.

136. The Representative of the **League of Arab States (LAS)** stated that LAS continued its fruitful and constructive cooperation with WIPO under the 2000 MoU. In that regard, the Representative noted that the MoU was updated to take into account new developments in the field of IP. LAS also continued to provide political support to help its 22 Member States establish "an effective IP system". The Representative recalled that the LAS Economic and Social Council (ESC) had adopted, in 2016, a resolution at the ministerial level establishing the Technical Committee for Intellectual Property (TCIP) consisting of relevant public officials in charge of IP matters within Arab States. Following a resolution adopted by the ESC and the LAS Secretariat's proposal to develop the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) implementation program, with new topics aimed at facilitating trade such as IP, TCIP planned to explore, in its upcoming session, mechanisms to establish an IP program complementing its GAFTA program. Furthermore, LAS continued to support Arab countries, facilitating their accession to WIPO-administered treaties through ministerial decisions. Regarding joint activities annually organized with WIPO's Arab Bureau, the Representative announced that such activities were integrated into the activities and programs established under the "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States" which held, in May, its latest meeting in Geneva. In conclusion, the Representative extended his thanks to the Director General and the Arab Bureau for the continued support provided to Arab countries.

137. The Representative of the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** to the United Nations Office in Geneva said that the OIC had endeavored to strengthen economic, social cultural and scientific cooperation among its member states and to encourage the promotion of science, technology and innovation for the betterment of all their peoples. The growing importance of IP services within both the public and private sectors in OIC Member States was widely recognized as a driving factor for the development of their national economies. The OIC-2025 Programme of Action therefore highlighted the importance of IP rights, especially patents, as key factors contributing to advances in innovation and technological, economic and scientific development of its member countries. Through regular UN-OIC cooperation, subsidiary and specialized OIC institutions had implemented a number of important projects and initiatives in collaboration with WIPO. The OIC recognized WIPO's vital role in promoting innovation and creativity and strengthening the capacity of developed and developing countries to use IP to further their socio-economic and cultural objectives and was committed to reinforcing its cooperation activities with WIPO for the socio-economic development of their common Member States.

138. The Representative of the **South Centre (CS)** said that the CS was supportive of multilateral work towards an inclusive, balanced and flexible international IP system benefitting all countries and all types of users. It also fully supported the efforts to achieve enhanced and equitable geographical representation of developing countries in all WIPO bodies, including the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. The Representative endorsed the negotiations towards norm-setting in the area of GRs, TK and TCEs, as well as norm-setting activities for limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights. The Centre encouraged continuing ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty aimed at facilitating access to educational materials for people with visual disabilities. To advance the WIPO DA a priority for the CS was that WIPO, as part of the UN, should contribute to achievement of the SDGs. The DA recognized the distinct context, needs and priorities encountered in developing countries and LDCs in setting norms and supplying WIPO technical assistance. Since developing countries and LDCs needed policy space to craft suitable IP regimes, WIPO should support greater flexibility for developing countries, and the preservation of broad policy space for LDCs, as allowed under the TRIPS Agreement. It should assist those countries so as to avoid the imposition of standards exceeding the TRIPS obligations – whether through trade agreements or unilateral measures like US Special Section 301 – that were incompatible with the development needs and objectives of those countries. The Representative said that the CS would continue to support its 54 member states, as well as the Group of 77 and China, in designing IP regimes supportive of development goals. It would be scaling up its expert advisory services to developing country governments in the area of IP rights and public health, providing tailor-made advice and training on the use of TRIPS flexibilities for public health in different countries. Interested parties were encouraged to contact the CS for further information.

139. The Representative of the **American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)** stated that AIPLA's members were both owners and users of IP and that AIPLA sought to establish and maintain fair and effective laws and policies to stimulate and reward invention while balancing the public's interest in healthy competition, reasonable costs, and basic fairness. The Representative thanked WIPO for its global policy forum to address evolving IP issues and for its mission. In this regard, the Representative congratulated the CDIP for approving, during its 21st Session, a project aimed at increasing the role of women in innovation and entrepreneurship and at encouraging women in developing countries to use the IP system. AIPLA had been actively raising awareness on that project in some developing countries among its international affiliate members and paving the way for their participation. As a result of these efforts, members in one country had drafted a proposal to participate in the first pilot project for submission to the CDIP with the support of the national IP Office, while members in another country were considering the opportunity. The Representative looked forward to continuing its facilitation efforts and appreciated WIPO's continued commitment to transparency and inclusiveness in its decision-making and negotiating bodies.

140. The Representative of the **Inter-American Intellectual Property Association (ASIPI)** explained the Association's role as a non-profit entity founded in 1964. Its main purpose was to study and disseminate information on IP; develop and harmonize relevant laws, regulations and procedures in the Americas; and improve the knowledge and professional practice of its associates. Since its foundation, ASIPI had conducted analyses and issued recommendations to facilitate the development of American economies and their integration in world trade – this while preserving the region's unique identity, with its own interests and enormous potential for innovation and contributions to science, art and culture. ASIPI had forged collaborative ties with numerous entities sharing similar interests, including most especially WIPO. Having experienced firsthand the hard work required to create jobs, initiate and promote initiatives, sustain progress and overcome challenges, ASIPI had continuously supported the mission of WIPO. ASIPI's current projects included the promotion of country brands for Latin American countries to consolidate their image and help market their products and services, unifying and harmonizing the region's protection regimes as an essential part of that process. ASIPI was actively engaged in training programs for judges and prosecutors and in advancing budget

autonomy for IP offices in the region. It had worked closely with WIPO to organize itinerant workshops on the PCT in nine Latin American countries and had been the first entity to sponsor the WIPO Inventor Assistance Program (IAP), having championed that initiative since 2016. ASIPI had participated in three enforcement forums for IP authorities, in coordination with the International Trademark Association, and planned to participate in more going forward. The Association had also conducted a two-phase economic impact study for brands in Latin America. The first phase had been completed; completion of the second, in all the countries, was expected in 2019. ASIPI offered two education programs: *ASIPI Educa*, a project to educate children and raise their awareness of IP; and *ASIPI Emprende*, a special program for entrepreneurs on the advantages of IP as a business development tool.

141. The Representative of the **China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)** stated that the CCPIT was represented at the Assemblies for the first time since it was accredited as an Observer. Noting that the CCPIT had been established more than 60 years ago, the Representative went on to introduce the roles and objective of the CCPIT. As a national trade organization responsible for the promotion of overseas trade and investment, the CCPIT had more than 1,200 local and industrial branches in China. It aimed to promote trade, two-way investment and economic and technological cooperation between China and other countries of the world with a view to facilitating the development of both multilateral and bilateral economic and trade relations. It had played a constructive role in the establishment and promotion of China's IP system and in exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and foreign businesses in the IP areas. IP had been a focus for businesses in its trade and investment cooperation programs. Representing the Chinese business communities, the Representative felt obliged to convey their concerns, opinions and comments to such an important international forum as WIPO, believing that such exchanges would be beneficial both to WIPO and businesses. The Representative vowed to honor its obligations as an Observer and looked forward to further cooperation with WIPO. The Representative further expressed CCPIT's readiness to have exchanges with trade organizations, businesses and IP experts from other countries within the framework of WIPO and to make concerted efforts with its international peers for the development of open, inclusive, balanced and effective international IP rules. The Representative hoped that in so doing, the CCPIT could contribute to the improvement of the global IP governance system and the development of IP work at the international level.

142. The Representative of the **Health and Environment Program (HEP)** welcomed the 45 recommendations issued by the WIPO CDIP and emphasized the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building. The Representative was committed to helping the African continent realize its vast potential and participating fully in the development of IP systems in African countries. The Representative also welcomed advances aimed at enhancing technology transfer, information and communication technology and access to knowledge. Concerning TK, the Representative deplored that most African ethnic groups were excluded from full participation in the IGC and said that HEP itself, despite not being represented by the indigenous caucus, had been unable to present remarks at that Committee's two most recent meetings. The Representative hoped that WIPO would find a compromise to correct this untenable situation, managing time constraints while also ensuring each participant's right to contribute fully. Lastly, the Representative believed the time had come to organize a diplomatic conference without waiting for all forms of TK to be documented and disseminated.

143. The Representative of the **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)** said that the current importance of IP, as highlighted by the Director General, underlined the contribution of knowledge to growth and sustainability. The importance of access was keeping pace with the growing importance of knowledge because the absence of access, particularly when creating new rights, risked deepening rather than bridging, the development divide. Across the SDGs, nearly 20 targets referred to the importance of being able to access and use information, a goal that libraries were trying to achieve but could only do

so successfully with the right laws. As the Delegation of Uganda had underlined, an integral approach to IP and development was necessary. WIPO had started down that path, through its work on the SDGs and its pioneering decision to give open access to its publications. The Marrakesh Treaty spoke for itself as a political and practical success and, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should also be remembered as a human rights success. Limitations and exceptions were not a zero-sum game but were at the heart of the highest-performing IP systems and essential for libraries to do their jobs. The Representative looked forward to working with Member States to make meaningful progress in this direction.

144. The Representative of the **International IP Commercialization Council (IIPCC)** said that IP and its commercialization created jobs and prosperity. IP was humanist because it protected a creator's or inventor's opportunity for recognition and reward. Although the world had espoused a knowledge economy, most knowledge was free. The question was how to sustain an economy based on a thing that was free. The knowledge economy of the future needed IP and its commercialization, particularly its trade secrets, which had gained prominence and were the most valuable of all rights. The Representative was working with WIPO and others to develop good IP practices, teach IP commercialization and protect IP, for example by evidencing the existence of trade secrets, because IP would power the economy of the future.

145. The Representative of **Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)** said that KEI would like WIPO to remain focused on the obligation of Member States to implement IP rules in a manner that protected public health and promoted access to medicines for all, and to continue evaluating progress in that direction, pursuant to the 2001 WTO Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement and Public Health. In June 2008, the WTO had published a panel report on the Australia plain packaging case for tobacco products, finding that this Declaration was a subsequent agreement among States and applied broadly to health-related issues, including the control of tobacco products. The Representative supported work in the SCCR on the Artist's Resale Right for physical works of art, but recommended taking the Broadcasting Treaty off the Committee's agenda, given confusion over the objectives of the treaty and proposals aimed at providing effective perpetual rights to broadcasters for content not created, owned or licensed by them, including works where no underlying copyright existed or where the copyright holders had licensed their works for use by the public at no cost, and thus had not been paid, as in the case of Creative Commons licenses. The Representative suggested that the SCP should investigate the extent to which patent exceptions for their treatment of humans would apply to new cell and gene therapies, such as chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy for cancer.

146. The Representative of **Third World Network (TWN)** stated that, for TWN, innovation depended on multiple tools, including investment in education, research and development, skill-building, access to technologies and know-how. To yield effective results, IP protection required a solid technological base and sufficient capacity for market commercialization and research and development. In most developing countries, IP protection played a minor role in promoting national innovation and many economies and industries had advanced with only limited protection. TWN was therefore reticent about promoting innovation through the narrow perspective of IP protection and enforcement, which could well hamper rather than promote the development of local industries. Many developing countries had entered into numerous WIPO treaties but still lagged significantly behind in innovation, suggesting a need for more nuanced and evidence-based deliberations on innovation, not more IP. As recognized in Article 8 of WTO's TRIPS Agreement, IP rights could be abused by rightholders to unreasonably restrain trade or adversely affect the international transfer of technology. Patent evergreening, for instance, had enabled pharmaceutical companies to obtain frivolous patents for new forms and combinations of existing compounds to extend their patent monopolies and prevent affordable medicines from entering the market. In 2009, the European Commission found that 40,000 patents had been granted for only 219 drugs and that for 87 of those the patents were of

poor quality. Such abuses of the patent system were widespread, resulting in losses valued at 3 billion euros and costing the lives of patients unable to access affordable medicines. The TRIPS Agreement recognized the need for Member States to apply the definition of invention and patentability criteria more rigorously to curtail evergreening and avoid TRIPS-plus measures that would unduly extend pharmaceutical company monopolies, as recommended by the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines. These were real challenges for the IP system that had not received sufficient attention from WIPO. The Representative called on all Member States to take action both nationally and within WIPO, including the development of local generic manufacturing capacity, to deal with these abuses, which were negatively impacting national socio-economic progress.

147. The Director General expressed his thanks to all the delegations and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. A total of seven regional groups, three other groups, over 90 member-state delegations, five intergovernmental organizations and six NGOs had taken the floor. The written statements of the various delegations that had not intervened would be incorporated into the General Report and all statements would be studied closely by the Secretariat. The delegations' continued and intense interest in WIPO's work was greatly appreciated and their comments and observations would serve as a basis for adjusting the Organization's programs.

[Annex II follows]