

World Intellectual Property Organization
2018 General Assemblies
United States Closing Statement (submitted in writing)

- Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- The United States expresses condolences and sympathy to the people of Indonesia following the earthquake and tsunami.
- The United States supports the statement delivered by Switzerland on behalf of Group B, and welcomes the important work accomplished during these Assemblies. While some progress was achieved, we are mindful that significant work remains in many areas.
- Mr. Chair, as always, we would like to note our appreciation for the reforms WIPO has undertaken and completed in the past several years.
- Transparency and maintaining the United Nations common system is important to this delegation. Therefore, we are pleased that member states agreed to the Secretariat reporting on the implementation of WIPO's Rewards and Recognition Program at the 76th session of the Coordination Committee. We also appreciated the Secretariat's discussion in this session to clarify the organization's proposed amendments to the WIPO Staff Regulations and Rules.
- We further commend the Secretariat's steps to implement mandatory training for all WIPO staff on the prevention of sexual harassment, and to support a workplace free of harassment.

- The United States avails itself of this opportunity to thank Member States for their continued engagement in the area of reforms, and to stress our collective responsibility to remain vigilant in ensuring that the United Nations and its specialized agencies model the highest standards of ethics and good governance.
- Mr. Chair the United States welcomes the decision on the Broadcasters' Treaty that will give SCCR experts the time needed to work toward developing a mature text with a likelihood for success.
- Mr. Chair, allow me to touch upon some of the work that remains ahead, which I alluded to previously.
- Regarding the organization's budget, we continue to urge members of all fee-funded Unions to continue to find solutions to their financial sustainability and for the Unions to contribute toward the common expenses of the Organization. We were disappointed that the Lisbon Union altered its Working Group's recommendation to remove its reassessment of a fee reduction. We are also disappointed it has not made progress in correcting its financial situation.
- In the coming year, the Secretariat will present the 2020/21 proposed draft Program and Budget and the allocation methodology for the income and expenditure by Union. We hope that the proposal allocates the common expenses of the organization among all of the Unions, and encourages each fee-funded Union to generate sufficient revenue to cover their own costs as well as such common expenses.
- Mr. Chairman, the United States regrets that for the third consecutive year the WIPO General Assembly has been unable

to agree to convene the Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty.

- Chair, on the IGC: it continues to be this delegation's view that all member states should continue to engage in evidence-based discussions that are helpful in reaching a common understanding on core issues. We will continue to engage constructively in all future IGC discussions.
- It is unfortunate that despite continued efforts to find a way forward on the matter of WIPO External offices, we were unable to make progress this year.
- We also take this opportunity to reinforce the value and importance of our long-standing tradition of transparent, consensus-based decision-making in WIPO, which has been the traditional work methodology of this body since its founding.
- Mr. Chair we thank you for your leadership during these assemblies. We also wish to extend our appreciation to WIPO's Conference Services, to the interpreters, and all WIPO staff who contributed to the smooth functioning of these meetings.
- We would like to take this opportunity to warmly express our deep appreciation for the hard work, dedication and steadfast efforts of our Group B coordinator over the last year. Thank you for your leadership and positive attitude.
- Lastly, we also thank all delegations and the Secretariat for their flexibility and willingness to engage in our collective effort to move the work of the Organization forward.
- Thank you, Mr. Chair