



FIJI STATEMENT

63rd Series of Meetings of the WIPO General Assemblies, 14-22 July 2022

Agenda Item 4 – General Statements

Madam Chair, Your Excellency Ambassador Tatiana Molcean

Director General Mr Daren Tang

Honorable Ministers

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to address this 63rd Series of Meetings of the WIPO General Assemblies on behalf of the Fijian delegation.

Fiji attests great importance to WIPO as a critical multilateral institution that safeguards and protects intellectual property interests and IP governance globally. WIPO is an important vein that ensures smooth operation of businesses globally and where IPs are protected, owners of such creativity are safeguarded and are appropriately provided due consideration for their hardwork and creation.

As our global economies recover from the remanence of the Covid 19 pandemic, much remains to be done to ensure that our global economies should never again be ill prepared to respond effectively to any future pandemics. With your opening statement under this item Director-General Tang, we look forward to working with you and the Organisation in strengthening the trilateral collaboration between WIPO, WHO and WTO to ensure that lives remain at the center of our work. DG Tang, Fiji is assured by your vision and priorities for this organisation and we look forward to working with you to reinvigorate work in this institution post pandemic to complement our recovery effort. On this basis, we thank and commend the Secretariat for their hardwork that culminated in the convening of this General Assembly and most of all in ensuring that our trusts and confidence in multilateralism through this Organisation are safeguarded and restored.

Madam Chair, IP is an important contributor to socio-economic growth and development. As a small island developing state in the Pacific we have a rich talent of both traditional knowledge and creativity. Whilst we may not have the

capacity to safeguard and protect this knowledge in view of the nature of the force of global governance, there is an urgent need for WIPO to work on gaps with Member States who do not have the capacity to do so to put forth measures that will safeguard these IPs and halt the draining of our unique creation and development prospects.

Secondly, WIPO should be mindful of the developmental aspects of its operation and that should equitably account for all members irrespective of their level of development. Fiji has aspired through WIPO to be represented and to gain meaningfully through Training Programmes and other opportunities provided by WIPO which is important to be sustained. Fiji as a recipient of such initiatives benefits greatly. With travel restrictions now eased, we hope that new training package would be released to help address gaps in knowledge and capacity amongst member states on IP issues.

Additionally Madam Chair, Fiji recognises that there are longstanding issues within WIPO's normative work that needs to be addressed which are critical for Fiji's development aspiration such as on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, amongst others. Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions are of great importance to Fiji as in many countries in the Pacific Region. These traditional knowledge and expressions needs to be protected and maintained to ensure the protection of our traditional knowledge and that the owners of such are rewarded and benefitted appropriately. The risk is high on us when we lack supportive mechanism to control the direct infiltration of influence that we may result in the sharing of information in our Pacific way at our own detriment this is where we need WIPO's support.

Finally Madam Chair, the Government of the Republic of Fiji recognise and commend the Organisation for its continued support to Fiji such as through the WIPO Academy Courses and scholarships offered by the Distance Learning Program. With a combine participation alongside sponsorship opportunities Fiji has recorded a total of 20 participants over the years, we hope to further enhance our participation and collaboration in this area in the coming years.

Madam Chair, please also allow me to thanks the APG Coordination India for their sterling leadership and active engagement in coordinating a wide spectrum of membership together and we wish our new incoming coordination team the very best.

This statement is aligned to the APG statement delivered by India as well as the pacific statement delivered by Vanuatu. Thank you

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