

**Statement by the Nepali Delegation at the Fifty-Seventh Series of Assemblies of
Member States of WIPO
Geneva, October 3, 2017**

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates**

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by **Indonesia** on behalf of the *Asia Pacific Group* and **Bangladesh** on behalf of the *LDCs*.

At the outset, allow me to join other delegations in congratulating the **newly elected Chair** of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, **Ambassador Doung of Vietnam** and also other members of the Bureau for the 2018/2019 biennium.

My delegation appreciates and thanks the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry and his able team for the contribution to the overall progress made by the organization. WIPO's activities in training and capacity-building, modernization of national IP policy, strategy and institutions, establishment of technology and innovation support centres, providing knowledge-based platforms and transforming the informal sector are important for us.

My delegation joins our voice with other delegations urging WIPO to continue to ensure program priorities and budget allocations towards achieving development outcomes. We look forward to WIPO's further catalytic role in the areas of promoting productive human and social development with focus on providing employment opportunities to the youths in the LDCs. We in Nepal are very rich in genetic resources, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage, which can be beneficially utilized for poverty reduction, value addition in our products and services as well as ensuring the pathways to inclusive and sustainable development. Raising awareness on these issues and sensitization and capacity-building in the management and utilization of these important resources are therefore crucial.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Nepal adopted a comprehensive **national IP policy** in March this year. The policy provides a sound framework and meets standards of international IP regulation system.

Nepal is now in the process of formulating **IP Acts and Regulations** in tandem with relevant international treaties. Setting up an **integrated IP Office** to implement the integrated policy is our current priority. We believe that through this process of standardization of IP regime, all categories of IP rights will be provided with effective and adequate protection, accommodating both the rights of creators and the broader needs of the society for development.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns in favour of early conclusion of *Design Law Treaty*. We join our voice in having legally-binding provision of technical assistance and capacity building in the treaty text itself. Progress should also be forthcoming on *Marrakesh Treaty*.

We believe that effective regulatory protection of **GR, TKs and TCEs, along with geographical indication** is important to tackle the problem of possible misappropriation of such knowledge for commercial benefits. Adoption of a treaty in this area is urgent, so we call upon all countries for reaching a speedy consensus on an agreeable text.

Nepal places great value on the work of **Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)** within WIPO. We support active roles from this Committee to guide WIPO in its efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and WIPO Development Agenda to make IP *work for all*.

Finally, my delegation assures **Nepal's positive spirit in multilateralism and constructive engagement in advancing the global IP system**. We are hopeful of productive and output-oriented 57th Assemblies.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.