

Agenda item 15: Report on Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)
WO/GA/50/4

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

First of all, we welcome the fact that we shared a lot of information on various issues through the discussions at the 27th and 28th sessions of the SCP and that the Committee was able to reach an agreement on its future work at the last session. We highly appreciate the Secretariat's efforts and Member States' flexibility in this regard.

The most important issues for us are the quality of patents and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors.

We believe that it is important to consider the quality of patents from a practical perspective. Various factors, such as patent examination practices and opposition procedures, involved with patent-granting procedures, determine the quality of patents. We also believe that many countries share a common understanding that work sharing activities contribute to improving the quality of patents.

When it comes to the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, we feel that allowing patent advisors to claim confidentiality will enhance the reliability and stability of the intellectual property system, whether in developed countries or in developing countries. This would contribute to protecting the interests of all the relevant parties.

This delegation hopes that this issue will be continued to be discussed at the SCP so that Member States can agree on the importance of protecting communications between clients and their patent advisors.

This delegation strongly believes that the SCP should keep on discussing global patent issues. In addition, this delegation is committed to continue contributing positively to discussions on important patent issues, as it has been doing.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.