

Thank you Mr Chair

We would like to align ourselves with the statement of Senegal on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr Chair

We commend WIPO on the healthy financial situation as well as on the unqualified audit opinion of the auditor general, which augers well for the good financial management of the organisation.

We are regretful that an agreement could not be reached on the adoption of the budget in the last two Programme and Budget Committee meetings (PBC) and hope that this will be achieved in this General Assembly, to enable the smooth operation of the organisation, including the implementation of the capital master plan.

Mr Chair

We reiterate our belief that one of the key results of the budget process should be the integration of a development oriented vision for Intellectual Property (IP) and as such, the suggested WIPO key performance areas should be clearly aligned with that goal. We commend the attempts to integrate the DA into the results framework; however we still believe that there is still room for improvement.

We look forward to the adoption of the budget in this meeting.

I thank you