

STATEMENT BY THE SULTANATE OF OMAN UNDER THE ITEM ON WEB FORUM IMPLEMENTATION, 11 NOVEMBER 2020

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the WIPO Regional Bureau for Arab Countries and the WIPO Development Agenda Coordination Division for organizing the webinar entitled “How to benefit from new tools and methodologies for effective technical assistance in the Arab Region”, in September 2019. This webinar was one of eight regional webinars organized by WIPO in various regions. Oman participated in that webinar through its representatives in Geneva and IP officials from the capital. The webinar witnessed good and useful discussions between the expert, WIPO officials and the participants. As mentioned in the report, the Arab Region ranked second in terms of number of participants, and third in terms of responding to the questionnaire, which proves the Arab Region’s thirst for and interest in IP and its desire to build human capacities in this field. According to the report, the webinars faced some challenges, such as Internet connectivity and the fact that the webinars were organized during working days and periods of intense work at the end of the year.

Oman agrees with the recommendations contained in the webinars’ evaluation report. It believes, however, that the COVID-19 pandemic has turned online training and remote work from an exception to a daily reality. It stresses the importance of organizing more than one activity per year for every region, in a way to ensure a phased and sequential training approach, with a focus on objectives and results rather than on numbers. In this regard, we would like to point out that during the last period, Oman, in coordination with the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries and other departments, held a number of virtual meetings with the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, the Omani Association for Intellectual Property and the Intellectual Property Department. Two additional virtual workshops on International Patent Classification (IPC) and International Patent Filing System (PCT), respectively, were also organized. Another virtual workshop on Enforcement will also be held next week. We take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries for its cooperation and understanding of our conditions during this period that proved to be difficult for everyone.

We look forward to seeing the continuation of such webinars and online training after the COVID-19 pandemic, as a complementary capacity-building activity, while maintaining WIPO country missions.

Thank you.