

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. All speakers thanked the Director General for all his work and untiring efforts in the cause of IP, together with the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the Assemblies meetings.
2. The Delegation of China took the opportunity to outline the country's latest development in the intellectual property (IP) area in the previous year. It highlighted that at the end of the previous year, the Government had issued the Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of an Intellectual Property Powerhouse under the New Circumstances, which set forth 106 specific tasks. It went on to stress that the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan on Intellectual Property, listed as one of the key special plans of the country at the beginning of 2016, laid out a new top-down design for the development of the IP system in China, and the construction of an IP powerhouse was being vigorously pursued in accordance with the above arrangements. The Delegation continued to report on the progress the country had made in the past year. In the first half of 2016, China received 553,000 patent applications on inventions, 19,000 PCT international applications, and 1.74 million applications for trademark registration, representing an increase of 30.5 per cent, 43.3 per cent and 32 per cent respectively year on year. The number of copyright registrations reached 1.641 million in 2015, an increase of 35.5 per cent year on year. With those figures, the Delegation observed that China remained one of the major engines that propelled the fast growth of global IP applications. It also applauded the numerous remarkable results of WIPO achieved in the previous year under the leadership of Mr. Gurry, Director General, and expressed its appreciation of WIPO's achievements in building the international normative framework for IP and assisting developing countries with capacity building. The Delegation was pleased with the further cooperation between China and WIPO, which had ensured the efficient operation of the WIPO Office in China (WOC), whose quality services to customers won positive evaluations from various parties. With regard to the relevant issues under the framework of WIPO, the Delegation shared the following observations. First, adequate attention should be given to the concerns of developing countries regarding related issues. As an international norm, IP should, subject to common principles and basic standards, face up to the reality of uneven development in the world and strive to achieve common development by putting in place institutional arrangements that were more inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all. For that purpose, its Government had for years organized IP training courses for developing countries, which had hosted more than 900 participants. It had also set up the China Fund-in-Trust (FIT) with WIPO to provide assistance to developing countries, and worked with WIPO to successfully convene the High Level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries Along the Belt and Road in July, 2016, which effectively promoted the development cooperation with countries along the "Belt and Road". The Delegation indicated its willingness to continue the efforts in that regard. Second, the important role of WIPO as the principal platform for international IP norm setting should be given full play. The Delegation called upon interested Member States to accelerate the ratification of and accession to the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (BTAP), and looked forward to positive results for the Design Law Treaty (DLT) at the current session of the Assemblies. It also expressed the hope that the work of the Intergovernmental

Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) could be steadily advanced. Third, the improvement and expansion of IP services and information provision should be continued. The Delegation suggested that development of PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems be promoted, and the provision of IP information be expanded, so as to further meet the demands of users. The Delegation expressed its support for opening up new WIPO External Offices first in Africa, and believed that that would contribute to the balanced development of global IP services. The Delegation stated that its Government highly commended the implementation of WIPO's Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2010-2015 and applauded the nine goals set out in the MTSP 2016-2021. It reaffirmed its readiness to deepen cooperation with WIPO and other Member States as a contribution to the common development of IP endeavors worldwide. As regards the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong SAR) of China, the Delegation reported that the passage of the Patents (Amendment) Bill 2015 that year had affirmed the establishment of a new patent system which was a major milestone for further development of innovation and technology as well as a robust IP regime in Hong Kong SAR. It was actively carrying out the preparatory tasks with a view to launching the "original grant" patent system as early as practicable so as to develop Hong Kong SAR as a regional hub for innovation and technology. The Delegation also indicated that, to facilitate the development of IP trading, Hong Kong SAR continued to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to build up their manpower capacity and organized advanced training programs in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. It affirmed its determination to foster the development of IP intermediary services by sponsoring various training courses on IP-related subjects in order to strengthen the nurturing of talents. The Delegation concluded by expressing its wish to share its experiences.

3. The Delegation of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the African Group, stated that it was troubled by the uninspiring state of the WIPO normative agenda and urged Member States to renew their commitment to achieving functional progress in WIPO's normative work. The African Group reported regional agreement on a number of outstanding issues. It believed that success at the General Assembly would come through flexibility, constructiveness and commitment. The Group anticipated a decision on WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria at the General Assembly. It counted on Member States to act in a spirit of fairness, inclusiveness and commitment to the decision adopted at the 2015 General Assembly, which had prioritized Africa. WIPO Member States had been kept informed of the election process in which Nigeria and Algeria became host countries of external offices, taking into account the requirements of the Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices. Africa was not geographically represented in the WIPO external network of offices, and the African Group hoped the situation would change at the 2016 General Assembly. As regards the IGC, the Group reiterated the priority it attached to the IGC negotiations and welcomed the thrust of the ongoing text-based negotiations, acknowledging existing difficulties while noting also that opportunities existed for consensus and advancement. It was of the view that the crucial technical work had been done on the genetic resources (GRs) text and the outcome of the first session on traditional knowledge (TK) had built understanding and narrowed gaps. It looked forward to progress on the TK text and counted on the constructive engagement of Member States for the remainder of the IGC work program in the 2016/2017 biennium. On the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), the African Group reaffirmed its support for the adopted work program and restated its view that the Committee should undertake more ambitious work, especially in the field of patents and health. The updated proposal of the African Group, contained in document SCP/24/4, would hopefully make a good starting point, bearing in mind the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), it welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Marrakesh

Treaty) and urged parties to the SCCR negotiations to aim for similar success in the future. It looked forward to early agreement on the convening of a diplomatic conference for the protection of broadcasting and cablecasting organizations from signal piracy. It equally called for a greater engagement in the Committee's work on access to knowledge and information through its exceptions and limitations agenda. Taking such steps would enable the SCCR to address the current issues and focus fully and more constructively on upcoming agenda items. As regards the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), the African Group welcomed the approval of specific capacity building projects for users and stakeholders in developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). It hoped that Member States could pursue the consensus lacking on other important issues, such as WIPO governance, technology transfer, contribution by WIPO to the SDGs, implementing the CDIP mandate and the coordination mechanism, among others. In the same context, it looked forward to the outcome of the independent review of the implementation of the Development Agenda (DA) Recommendations, as one of the tools for appreciating the impact and effectiveness of DA projects. Turning to the need for a balanced geographical representation in WIPO's workforce, the African Group took note of the report on geographical distribution and was eager to discuss the steps necessary to facilitate a more inclusive, balanced, transparent and accountable recruitment process at WIPO. On the DLT, the Group regretted that no agreement had been reached on technical assistance and disclosure at the 34th and 35th sessions of the SCT, as directed by the 2015 WIPO General Assembly. The Group remained committed to the disclosure of source and origin of GRs, TK and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) utilized in industrial design as part of the closed list of requirements for design registrations and was reserving the issue of technical assistance in the draft DLT.

4. The Delegation of India, speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, stated that a fair, just and balanced IP system should protect the rights of innovators and address the needs of society. The Asia-Pacific region attached great importance to IP as a major catalyst of socio-economic and technological development. The region held 60 per cent of the global population and accounted for 43.5 per cent of all PCT filings in 2015. Furthermore, the 9 per cent growth in the region's PCT filings, relative to the global rate of 1.7 per cent, attested to its great potential in using WIPO's global IP service efficaciously. As regards the hosting of WIPO External Offices, the Group believed that priority should be given to Africa, but also argued that, based on the Guiding Principles, the Asia-Pacific region deserved to host more WIPO External Offices. Member States should therefore give objective consideration to proposals submitted by Iran (Islamic Republic of), India and the Republic of Korea. The Group took note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the recommendations of the former Chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee and expressed the view that the Internal Oversight Charter and WIPO procurement principles and procedures should be revised in a manner that prevents the reoccurrence of these issues. It welcomed the major steps initiated by WIPO Member States and the Secretariat to enhance the development component WIPO's work. The CDIP, which was guided by the principle of mainstreaming development into all WIPO activities and making development an integral part of WIPO work, was a crucial entity within the Organization. Its work entailed implementing the 45 DA Recommendations which all relevant bodies of WIPO should mainstream into their activities. It was necessary to contextualize intellectual property rights (IPRs) within the broader framework of development to ensure that IP regimes were suitably designed and optimized in different countries to promote holistic socio-economic growth and sustainable development. The coming into force of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016 created an opportune moment for WIPO to recalibrate its efforts in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and create coherent linkages with the implementation of the WIPODA. WIPO activities should be in sync with the overarching dictum of the Agenda which is "no one left behind."

The Group expressed satisfaction with the sound financial status of WIPO at the end of 2015, took note of the report submitted by Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) and acknowledged the Committee's important role in assisting Member States with their oversight responsibilities. The Group lauded the meticulous work, substantive comments and specific recommendations made by the external auditor on the performance of various programs and activities by WIPO management in 2015. Regarding the normative agenda of WIPO, the Group welcomed the information that the IGC could resume its work in 2016. While supporting the methodology adopted by the current Chair of the IGC, the Group would like to see progress in the IGC's work with a view to narrowing the gaps in the draft texts as requested in the decision of the General Assembly in 2015. It was important for the Group to finalize the text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) that effectively protected GRs, TK and TCEs. The Group called for more progress on the broadcasting treaty, hoping for closure of the negotiations based on the 2007 General Assembly mandate to protect broadcasting organizations through a signal-based approach in the traditional sense. The Group noted that further work was needed in ongoing negotiations on the draft DLT, and congratulated all Member States on their earnest and sincere efforts in bringing the Marrakesh Treaty into force recently. Encouraged by the Marrakesh Treaty, the Group wished to engage actively in discussions with other members on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions and persons with other disabilities, as well as limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives.

5. The Delegation of Tajikistan, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), said that it welcomed the opening of the 56th session of the Assemblies and was confident that they would allow substantial progress in the consideration of the important items on the agenda. The Group supported WIPO's efforts to develop and strengthen the potential of national IP offices. That work required a balanced approach, in particular to meet the needs and requirements of countries with transitional economies, and should be based on expanding cooperation with WIPO to provide technical assistance to countries in the Group's region. The Group expressed its satisfaction with WIPO's work to implement the DA and emphasized the need to set out, in the near future, a specific path to bridging the technological gap between countries. It supported the proposal by Brazil to establish a 50 per cent discount on the Organization's patent services (under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)) for academic institutions from developing countries and countries with transitional economies. Despite the fact that the Group recalled each year that its region did not enjoy proportionate representation in the Organization, the situation remained unchanged. The Secretariat should uphold the principle of regional balance and transparency, and should continue work to ensure that the region was represented in its ranks. WIPO should make further efforts to remedy the situation, given the importance of balanced regional representation in the Secretariat. The Group supported the activities of the SCCR and emphasized the need to intensify work on the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, in order to be ready, in the near future, to decide on the convening of a diplomatic conference to conclude it. Activities on the draft treaty had progressed substantially, and with greater effort it could soon be ready for a diplomatic conference. The Group considered that the system for protection of broadcasting organizations should reflect the latest technological developments and be adaptable to the current and future operating models and activities of broadcasting and cable organizations. The Group highlighted the work of the SCP and emphasized the importance of considering the topic of patent quality. In that regard, it would be useful to States if that work rapidly identified a way to resolve the problems of so-called evergreen patents, which hindered the development of medicines and healthcare around the world. The Group expressed appreciation for the Committee's considerable efforts to study the issues of patents and healthcare, exceptions and limitations to patent law, technology transfer, and the confidentiality of communications between clients and patent attorneys. It supported the

conceptual review of the problems of balanced regulation of the relationship between society and patent holders. The Group attached great importance to the drafting and adoption of the DLT and considered that simplifying and harmonizing the registration procedures for industrial designs provided for in the Treaty would support innovation and development. The Group reiterated the need to quickly resolve all disagreements on matters of principle in the text, including those concerning the provision of technical assistance, with a view to convening a diplomatic conference to conclude the Treaty in the near future. The Group took note of the productive work of the Intergovernmental IGC. States had greatly advanced the development of international treaties to provide greater balance to the international IP infrastructure. The Group would spare no effort to lead the work of that Committee to a successful and mutually acceptable outcome. With respect to the OIOS report, the Group called on Member States to refrain from unnecessarily stoking tensions at WIPO and allow the Organization to focus on the substantive work of its immediate mandate.

6. The Delegation of Latvia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), stated that the CEBS Group felt that special attention should be devoted to the pending legislative agenda, which it welcomed, and looked forward to its adoption. The inability to reach agreement on convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, which had already been finalized, was regrettable. The CEBS Group was grateful to the Chair of the SCT for his dedication and efforts in steering the negotiations and exploring ways of reaching agreement for initiating such a diplomatic conference. The CEBS Group hoped that the agreement on convening the conference would be reached during the 2016 Assemblies. Failing a decision, no further work should be done on the treaty. Efforts should be made to finalize the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, which had already been widely discussed. Taking account of rapid developments in communication technologies, the CEBS Group underlined the importance of reconvening a diplomatic conference as soon as possible, to address the current situation. The CEBS Group, acknowledged the importance of WIPO's presence worldwide in facilitating IP systems that enhanced innovation and creativity. Turning to WIPO's External Offices, the CEBS Group restated its support for the Guiding Principles adopted during the 2015 General Assembly, which related to numbers and locations. While external offices could contribute to the enhancement of IP protection, and increased awareness, the CEBS Group believed that decisions should be honored and action taken in WIPO's best interests. It was to be hoped that during the 2016 Assemblies Member States would find solutions to benefit both WIPO and the regions and countries. WIPO Member States should consider the proposed changes in the WIPO General Assembly Chair and Vice-Chair election cycle, in order to improve preparations, emphasizing that the main aim of the proposal was to enhance intergovernmental processes at WIPO, which the CEBS Group considered far from optimal. The Group was unanimous that proposed changes be enforced and expressed a flexible attitude to their implementation. The Group attached great importance to the Lisbon System, which benefitted producers of traditional regional products, and supported its promotion. The positive outcome of discussions within the Lisbon Union and the Working Group regarding financial sustainability, including the readiness of several Member States to contribute to cover the projected deficit in the current biennium, was welcomed. The CEBS Group looked forward to a constructive session of the Assemblies and to collaborating with its Chair and the other delegations and regional groups.

7. The Delegation of Greece, speaking on behalf of Group B, welcomed the significant progress and results achieved by WIPO in recent years, particularly in global IP services. A steady growth in applications and membership could not be achieved without proper responses to the changing demands of the real world. The Delegation noted that WIPO had to stay in touch with the real world of innovators, creators and users of the IP system and that the Organization and its Member States should remain true to the objectives of the

WIPO Convention, in order to fulfill their responsibilities as members of the global community. WIPO was also making a significant contribution to the sharing and dissemination of IP information through its global IP infrastructure and services. As regards technical assistance, Group B remained impressed by the abundance and variety of WIPO programs that contributed to development through IP. It lauded WIPO achievements and wished that it would continue to respond to real-world expectations. Turning to the Agenda of the 2016 General Assembly, the Group welcomed the positive financial result for 2015, particularly the significant surplus of 33.27 million Swiss francs, largely attributed to the growth in PCT services. Although further growth was expected in the system, at least in 2017, a cautious approach was necessary, given the changeable economic situation and its impact on patent application trends. Furthermore, caution was also required in respect to the increase in WIPO expenditure and future liabilities. With regard to WIPO External Offices, Group B was confident that the 2016 General Assembly would find the most appropriate way to implement this important decision. In that respect, it believed that external offices should be established in accordance with the Guiding Principles and the 2015 General Assembly decision that emphasized the contribution of external offices to WIPO Strategic Goals and the value added to WIPO. Group B recalled the long history of the normative agenda and the issue of convening a diplomatic conference for the DLT. It was regrettable that considerations extraneous to the treaty were currently preventing users from enjoying the simplified formalities in the industrial design system. At the 2014 General Assembly, the Group had held the view that the text contained in document SCT/31/2 could be sent to a diplomatic conference. In that regard, although it appreciated the explanations provided during the 35th Session of the SCT about the relevance of the proposed disclosure requirement, it remained unconvinced of its necessity. With regard to the IGC, Group B believed that the work of the Committee had been undertaken in a constructive and positive spirit. Additionally, the Group expressed its gratitude to the IAOC, the IOD and the external auditor for their cooperation and reporting and for assisting Member States with their oversight responsibilities. A well-functioning oversight system was essential for the sound operation of WIPO, and Group B looked forward to further contributions to that effect. Finally, noting the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty on September 30, 2016, the Group believed that the new instrument would improve the lives of people with visual impairments and was a testament to the effectiveness of the multilateral IP system.

8. The Delegation of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), emphasized the strategic challenges faced by the GRULAC countries, and the Organization as a whole, in the dissemination of IP as an instrument of development throughout the world. The GRULAC countries accepted the challenge of identifying and moving ahead with the organizational and institutional topics that were in the best interests of the Organization—which in fact were the interests of its Member States. GRULAC placed priority on implementing the decision to open more WIPO External Offices and had supported six initial high-quality candidacies that were fully in keeping with the agreed-on principles—the technical level and the institutional support that a WIPO External Office must have. The Group had thus shown the importance it attached to IP in strengthening the economies of its countries and integrating them into the related new global economic environment. It had also shown its capacity for rapprochement—a quality that GRULAC brought to the Organization—having reached consensus on a single candidate out of the six initially submitted. As formally communicated and reported at the session of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC), the Group had decided to support the candidacy of Colombia to host an external office for the 2016-2017 biennium. The dynamism that the GRULAC countries had shown in recent decades, while integrating into the international economic system, even in a climate of slower growth, had turned Latin America and the Caribbean into a favorable environment for the development of IP—one of the goals of the Organization. GRULAC therefore hoped to install a WIPO External Office in Colombia in the

next biennium, leaving open the possibility of continuing to contribute to the work of WIPO in the next biennium by opening a new external office with a view to promoting IP throughout the region. The Group hoped that, in the taking of any decision, agreements could be reached that would satisfy the expectations of all parties. As an institution, GRULAC was, however, clearly interested in all substantive issues facing members. With respect to staffing, geographical representation was still a matter of interest. GRULAC was committed to working towards balanced representation in all regions at all levels. To that end, the Group would continue to participate in discussions of the WIPO Coordination Committee. Progress in WIPO committees and in the institutional and normative framework was vital; GRULAC would therefore participate in discussions covering the various agenda items. Since the previous Assembly, GRULAC had been participating in the IGC, whose work program would continue to be executed with a firm commitment. As for the SCCR, the Group was in favor of continuing its work with a balanced program on exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives as well as for educational, and research institutions and broadcasting, and the GRULAC proposal to analyze copyright in the digital environment. With regard to the SCT, the Group expressed an interest in the discussions on the proposal by Jamaica (document SCT/32/2) with respect to the names of countries. The Group was also prepared to review the independent evaluation of the implementation of the DA, a topic of the CDIP in the current semester. In the view of GRULAC, the development dimension should be reflected in all activities; therefore the debates on the role of WIPO in implementing Agenda 2030 were of paramount importance. With reference to the PCT Working Group, the GRULAC countries that were PCT members had therefore expressed their support for the proposal by Brazil (document PCT/WG/9/25) concerning discounts on international PCT rates for universities in developing countries. In the view of the Group, special mention should be made of the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. The historical relevance of that instrument, which had arisen from the agenda on exceptions and limitations, lay in the fact that half the ratifying countries thus far were from Latin America and the Caribbean, and that the members of GRULAC had shown a strong commitment to its gestation. GRULAC was pleased that the Chair of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly would be held by the Brazilian Minister for Culture, who enjoyed the unanimous support of the member countries of GRULAC. Finally, the Group reiterated its strong and unwavering commitment to the progress of the current series of meetings and to the pursuit of agreements that would enable the Organization to move ahead.

9. The Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Group, reported that ASEAN nations had experienced robust growth in the preceding year despite the increasingly challenging conditions. The region's GDP stood at 2.43 trillion United States dollars, confirming ASEAN's position as a global growth center. Future regional growth would depend on several factors, but the overall economic outlook for the next few years remained resilient. Given its strategic role in the shifting global dynamics, IP was perceived as a tool for innovation and competitiveness, and the opportunities and challenges presented by the emerging landscape would prompt ASEAN nations to respond proactively. Implementation of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2020 had commenced earlier in the year. The Action Plan, comprising four goals and nine initiatives, covered the full IP spectrum and had been adapted to underpin efforts to transform ASEAN into an innovative and competitive region. Accordingly, the Group thanked WIPO for the input provided during formulation of the Action Plan. Its implementation would hopefully encourage creativity and accelerate knowledge transfer, enabling the region to advance as a technology center. Over the next 10 years, ASEAN would focus on fostering a robust and inclusive IP system, developing a range of platforms and infrastructure and promoting asset creation and commercialization through a regional mechanism that would include activities on using geographical indications to enhance the value of local goods and services and of other creative ASEAN projects. The role of regional IP offices would also be

strengthened, and beyond their regional regulatory responsibility, their role as drivers of innovation would be reinforced to enhance engagement with relevant stakeholders. This would be done by strengthening the policy environment for the technology sector. WIPO support had been crucial to the initial implementation of the Action Plan and, in this regard, the WIPO Singapore Office had been a valuable partner, particularly through the regional capacity building initiative and the promotion of IP awareness in ASEAN countries. In the previous year, WIPO had established regional programs on product management, copyright, industrial design, trademarks, patent examination quality, the management and establishment of technology and innovation support networks. These customized packages had benefited stakeholders in the region. In further collaboration with WIPO, ASEAN had also carried out IP diagnostics, assisting ASEAN IP Offices to define the appropriate legal institutional framework. This work would enable IP Offices to fulfil their mandates and guarantee the delivery of services that meet the quality expectations of creators, users and the general public. As regards the ASEAN patent database, WIPO had also provided infrastructure support, and the service would hopefully be launched in the near future. WIPO had also continued to assist ASEAN in its endeavors to accede to international IP instruments. Four ASEAN member states had acceded to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, and further accessions were expected within the following year. In addition to the positive growth forecast for ASEAN, the region also expected an increase in regional IP filings and in demand for IP services over the next few years. In this context, the Group would maintain its strong partnership with WIPO and the WIPO Singapore Office, which would help it to implement its future plans.

10. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), said that in 2011, the LDCs ministers had adopted the WIPO deliverables for LDCs in Istanbul to guide LDCs issues into the next decade. In the wake of that declaration, 12 LDCs had already adopted IP policies to strengthen their development efforts. To enhance technical skills, a number of national, regional and interagency activities had been undertaken. By 2015, 2,866 people from LDCs had received training. There had been substantive developments in branding and promotion and making the appropriate technology available for branding projects was ongoing in four LDCs. Six LDCs had already benefited from the implementation of appropriate technology projects. With the assistance of WIPO, Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) have already been set up in 18 LDCs. 309 institutions and 37 LDCs were using WIPO's Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program. WIPO's Access to Specialized Patent Information platform was already available to all LDCs. The LDCs were grateful to all Member States for the support and assistance and to the Division for LDCs of WIPO for its hard work and dedication, and hoped that the drive to meet LDCs needs would continue. Regional offices had also made important contributions benefitting LDCs members within particular regional groups. The LDCs were pleased to learn that WIPO's technical assistance was contributing substantially towards development in LDCs, primarily based on needs assessment and analysis. The evaluation in the annual report of the IOD had highlighted many positive outcomes, further warranting the continuation of WIPO assistance to LDCs, preferably through the Division for LDCs, to ensure continuity and to avoid duplication by the regional offices, given that all LDCs had similar constraints and required similar solutions. A proper implementation of the DA was extremely important to the LDCs, which therefore requested that projects for LDCs, such as Start-Up Academies, be fast-tracked in the CDIP. In this regard, all relevant WIPO bodies should inform the CDIP of their efforts in line with the 2008 General Assembly decision on the coordination mechanism. The Delegate emphasized that development expenditure should not be affected on the pretext that there was a controversy regarding the income and expenditure of different WIPO unions. LDCs hoped that a number of agreements could be reached on GRs, TK, and

folklore covering all three areas dealt with by the IGC. LDCs were naturally rich in those resources and their experience had shown that without a binding legal agreement, those resources would not be effectively protected. The entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty was a positive development. LDCs expected that the next milestone in this area would be limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions and persons with other disabilities, along with limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives. LDCs strongly supported the inclusion of an article in the main body of the proposed DLT to guarantee technical assistance. They were also open to any constructive negotiation regarding the broadcasting treaty on the signal-based approach, in a traditional sense, as set forth in the 2007 General Assembly mandate. LDCs agreed with the report of the OIOS and with the recommendations of the former General Assembly and Coordination Committee Chairs. Nevertheless, they remained open to the proposed revision of the WIPO internal oversight charter and existing procurement principles and procedures. Within the ambit of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, nothing could be more important than securing sustainable development for LDCs and for everyone else. WIPO's role was very important for the achievement of the SDGs in the context of the development of LDCs, which hoped that what had started with the mainstreaming of the idea of development into every activity of WIPO would culminate in achieving the SDGs. The Group of LDCs at WIPO consisted of more than one quarter of the total UN membership. The LDCs Group pledged its total cooperation and support.

11. The Delegation of Slovakia, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member states, thanked Ambassador Duque of Colombia for his chairmanship and guidance—under which the Organization had made progress in numerous areas, in particular external offices, and reached consensus on Guiding Principles—and his oversight of an agreement on a new mandate for the IGC. The Delegation regretted that the SCT had been unable to conclude its discussions on the disclosure requirement, as proposed in Article 3 of the DLT, in line with the 2015 General Assembly decision to finalize the basic proposal for that treaty. The aim of the DLT, the text of which had been largely finalized, was to harmonize design procedures; however, there was some doubt that the proposed disclosure requirement would be relevant to industrial design or help to align and simplify registration. An effort would be made to find a compromise during the Assemblies in deciding whether or not to convene the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty late in the first half of 2017. If no agreement could be reached, there would be no further need to discuss this topic within the framework of the SCT. The Delegation underscored the need for the SCP to maintain a delicate balance among its five topics, which reflected regional interest and priorities, and welcomed the agreement of the SCP's 24th session on future work. Regarding the work of the SCCR, the Delegation reiterated the European Union's commitment to concluding a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations and looked forward to the SCCR's continued efforts to foster conditions conducive to a successful outcome. The European Union had contributed constructively to the first two meetings on GRs under the new mandate of the IGC and to the first of two meetings on TK and eagerly anticipated the second. Great importance was attached to the effective development and promotion of all areas of IP, including geographical indications, and the treatment of the Lisbon Union on an equal footing with all other unions administered by WIPO.

12. The Delegation of Indonesia observed that the importance of WIPO's role had grown in recent years, particularly in ensuring a balanced approach to the global IP system and hence the acceptance and achievement of development objectives. Indonesia—an emerging economy representing approximately 40 per cent of the Southeast Asian market with projected GDP growth of 5.1 per cent in 2016—stressed the importance of IP protection and promotion to the achievement of its development goals and the need to mainstream and strengthen WIPO's role in promoting the attainment of sustainable SDGs. WIPO should

contribute to the attainment of the SDGs in general. To ensure the greatest impact, goals must be clearly relevant to the Organization's mandate and mission. WIPO must play a strategic role in implementing the economic development pillar within the SDGs, particularly SDG 17 on means of implementation and SDGs 8 and 9 on fostering innovation and creativity. Indonesia's IP laws were being modernized in line with international standards and practices: national regulations on copyright and patents had been improved to promote innovation and provide enhanced protection, a more effective IP system and better management while regulations on trademarks and geographical indications were also being updated to ensure more comprehensive protection for both traditional and non-traditional marks. To complement its efforts, Indonesia's partnership with WIPO would be strengthened and enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Regarding the latest negotiation in the IGC, the Delegation observed that little progress had been made in the areas of IP, GRs, TK and folklore and fervently hoped for speedier negotiation and a more positive outcome at subsequent IGC sessions. It must be borne in mind that all communities have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop IP over their cultural heritage and that innovation and creation have no boundaries. Common recognition of both the economic and moral rights of cultural heritage, including GRs, TK and TCEs, must be prioritized. Indonesia called on others to demonstrate flexibility to find a win-win solution. Text-based negotiation of GRs, TK and TCEs would continue. The normative agenda to conclude a legally binding instrument or instruments could not be stalled without possible in-depth revisions.

13. The Delegation of San Marino mentioned the assistance program to modernize the Patent and Trademarks Office of San Marino, through which San Marino had received WIPO's assistance with installing the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) management software, which was now fully operational. It looked forward to subsequent programs to update IPAS functionalities, which would help to further rationalize the work of the industrial property office staff. The Delegation further noted that WIPO's international cooperation had enabled San Marino to raise awareness of IP issues among SMEs, and welcomed the organization of a conference in the coming weeks for SMEs representatives, in response to previously identified needs. In spite of a slight delay, San Marino had undertaken its accession to the Hague System and was finalizing the modernization of its copyright law, which no longer met the needs of a modern society whose economy relied on tools for disseminating information worldwide. The law was a fundamental working tool for a country like San Marino, which was in an almost unique position in relation to neighboring countries. The Delegation expressed satisfaction with the progress made with a view to organizing a diplomatic conference for the signature of the DLT, adding that industrial designs were a matter of keen interest to San Marino businesses, and looked forward to legislative developments intended to ease access to protection in as many countries as possible.

14. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) noted that the age of information and communication technology, while raising the profile of IP and promoting both innovation and access to global databases, facilitated rights infringements. Due consideration must be given to the capacity and development status of countries, the balance between rights and obligations and the establishment of norms in the common interest of both developing and developed Member States so that knowledge growth and innovation would continue to improve social and economic welfare and benefit individuals. The Delegation believed that external offices should be established transparently, in full compliance with the Guiding Principles and the General Assembly decision and on the basis of fair geographical distribution so as to avoid discrimination of any kind. Given its IP capacities, Iran (Islamic Republic of) invited the Member States to consider its proposal for the establishment of an external office in Tehran. The Delegation maintained that the DLT should contain a legally binding provision on technical assistance and capacity-building,

signaled its support for the proposed inclusion of a disclosure requirement in said treaty and stressed that outstanding issues should be resolved before a diplomatic conference was convened. The definition and planning of development programs and projects by the CDIP was greatly appreciated. The recommendations of the WIPO DA should continue to be mainstreamed into all WIPO activities, especially the agendas of standing and provisional committees, to ensure the prompt development, transfer and dissemination of technology among the Member States, particularly developing countries. The Delegation welcomed the revision of the Lisbon Agreement but stressed that the financial considerations of the Agreement should be handled such that they do not hamper the accession of the countries—particularly developing countries, which after all are the focal point of the revision. The Intergovernmental IGC, in accordance with the 2016-2017 Work Program, should endeavor to conclude ongoing discussions and submit a factual report to the 2017 General Assembly so that it could decide, based on IGC progress, whether to convene a diplomatic conference or pursue negotiations. While the IGC had yet to achieve the desired outcome, the Delegation hoped that the negotiations would give rise to draft international legal instruments and pave the way for the diplomatic conference by the relevant deadline. Continuous success in norm-setting activities within all WIPO committees—especially the SCCR, the SCP, the SCT and the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)—would depend on the development a balanced agenda that reflected the interests of all Member States. That was the only way to break the impasse in certain areas. The Delegation's views on the agenda of the present Assembly would be expressed in detail in the relevant meetings. Iran (Islamic Republic of) had taken a number of steps over the past year to promote and protect IPRs, including: the revision of IPR laws and regulations; the commemoration of IP Day; opening of the receiving office for filing of international PCT applications; implementation of the biennium project for the establishment of the TISC; and the organization of several national IPR training workshops and seminars in cooperation with the relevant national entities.

15. The Delegation of Algeria recalled that Algeria had long been committed to IPR protection as one of its core priorities, ensuring these rights would be translated into a living reality for the benefit of national economy, innovators and artists alike. Fighting counterfeiting was a prerequisite to creating an enabling environment conducive to a competitive market that promotes investment and safeguards both investors and innovators' rights. Cognizant of the importance of IPRs protection, Algeria aligned its legislation with regional and international obligations and enhanced its enforcement bodies through cooperation with WIPO and Member States. The nomination of Algeria to host one of WIPO's External Offices, to be established in Africa, emanated from its keen interest in supporting such cooperation and showed that Member States had put their trust into Algeria's capacity to establish an efficient hub providing insight into the use of various protection systems as well as capacity-building activities. Algeria would endeavor to offer IP services to all neighboring countries for the overall benefit of Africa and in line with WIPO's goals. The Delegation emphasized that the nomination of Algeria and Nigeria was the result of a transparent and democratic process within the African Group aimed at hosting two external offices during the 2016/17 biennium. The Delegation wished to express its deepest thanks to all Member States which supported its proposal and nomination, and invited all Member States to endorse the choice of the African Group in view of the decision adopted at the previous General Assembly which recognized the need to give priority to Africa, being the only unrepresented continent in WIPO's External Offices network. The Delegation announced that Algeria was in the process of acceding to the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties as they were critical to achieve tangible results. In conclusion, the Delegation said that it attached great importance to the issue of governance and supported discussions on that matter leading to further rationalization, transparency and equity.

16. The Delegation of Azerbaijan highlighted the unique nature of WIPO and the crucial role it plays in global cooperation and interaction in the field of IPRs protection and innovation. Accordingly, it congratulated the International Bureau and Mr. Francis Gurry in that regard. It also expressed its gratitude for the ongoing and fruitful interaction between Azerbaijan and WIPO, which sought to enhance training capacity and IPRs enforcement; establish TISCs in various scientific and educational organizations in Azerbaijan; develop the copyright protection system, especially in the digital sphere; and promote the adoption of IP policies and strategies in universities. These efforts matched Azerbaijan's reform of its public service provision to businesses, namely the facilitation of procedures and the promotion of small and SMEs. Recognizing the importance of creating incentives for innovative activity, the Delegation expressed the wish to continue working with the International Bureau in that regard. Furthermore, it was considering accession to other WIPO legal instruments. The Delegation attached importance to the principles of transparency and accountability, which were crucial to the proper and efficient operation of any international organization. Acknowledging the efficiency of the Chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee, the Delegation supported their conclusions, notably closure of the cases mentioned in their reports with no further action. The Delegation believed that Member States should immediately conclude the consideration of this matter, keeping in mind the long term interest of WIPO. It aligned itself with other Member States in appreciating the work carried out by the Director General for the benefit of the Member States and looked forward to furthering its mutually beneficial coordination with WIPO. It stood ready to cooperate with WIPO and its Member States to approve the existing rules and procedures so as to avoid a repeat of such cases.

17. The Delegation of Brazil welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty as a landmark for the entire international community. The first proposal for the Treaty was presented by Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay in 2009. Brazil hoped that the first session of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly would encourage further ratifications, accelerating the fall of barriers to the flow of knowledge between nations and, in the particular case of the Marrakesh Treaty, barriers to accessibility for persons with special needs. The full implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations adopted in 2007 was crucial to the legitimacy of the work of WIPO as a member of the UN family. In regard to the DA, Brazil was profoundly convinced that fair remuneration of intelligence, creativity and human ingenuity must coexist with the need to guarantee the rights of access to health, culture, work, knowledge, information and education. Thus, while the advances in the implementation of the DA Recommendations were laudable, it was still a work in progress and must incorporate the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The DA guidelines also informed the mandate of the WIPO Office in Brazil, which worked to promote the culture of IP through South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and in other regions. New external offices were a positive development in the decentralization of WIPO activities and they not only could, but must, work in synergy with existing offices. Among the policy issues WIPO was addressing, the Delegation highlighted discussions in the SCCR, the IGC and the PCT Working Group. The SCCR faced the major challenge of incorporating into its work new issues posed by the rapid dissemination of new information and communication technologies, such as how copyright fared in the digital environment, limitations and exceptions and the drafting of the new broadcasting treaty. Brazil welcomed the extension of the mandate of the IGC, which had produced a new document on GRs and was making progress on TK. The Delegation appreciated the broad support for Brazil's proposal, presented in the PCT Working Group, to reduce patent application filing fees for universities. As to administrative issues that had been deadlocked, Brazil reaffirmed its commitment to finding solutions that would serve WIPO's best interests.

18. The Delegation of India noted that the credibility of a nation was perceived by its ability to create, disseminate, and leverage knowledge to enhance its growth and development, particularly in a highly interdependent and interconnected world where a nation's ability to transform knowledge owned into knowledge shared would improve its competitive advantage. A resilient and dynamic IP ecosystem was essential for building a robust knowledge economy. An IP system should promote innovation, protect IPRs and safeguard the broader interests of society. India was building a robust knowledge-based economy. In order to foster a culture of creativity and innovation, India had launched various flagship programs. These programs sought to facilitate investment, enhance skill development, protect IP and create a world-class manufacturing matrix in the country. India's new National Intellectual Property Rights Policy envisioned a creative Innovative approach that would gather all IPRs on a single platform. India has a well-established TRIPS-compliant legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs, enabling it to meet its international obligations while utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its development concerns. In addition to increased human resources at the Indian IP Office and reduced processing times, there had been a rise in IP filing numbers. The last Global Innovation Index also acknowledged India's efforts to support IPRs and innovation. India was one of the applicants for hosting a WIPO External Office. This would strengthen the Global IP System and bring the benefits to the Central and Southern Asian Region, where there was no external office. The opening of an external office in India would not adversely affect any country's interests. The Delegation of India observed that one of the important functions of WIPO was the development of the normative framework and looked forward to more progress in that area. The creation of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) had been a significant achievement for India, a country with a vast pool of TK. India has been able to partially prevent attempts to misappropriate its TK with the help of this digital library, particularly with those countries that have included TKDL in their search, and looked forward to working closely with WIPO to make this pioneer digital library a part of PCT minimum documentation. India welcomed the incremental progress made in the work of the IGC and hoped for an early finalization of an international legal instrument for effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. India preferred disclosure, prior informed consent and equitable access and benefit-sharing based on mutually agreed terms to be included in any international instrument. From India's perspective, it was important to find adequate ways to protect freely available TK and TCEs that might subsist in codified and non-codified forms. India expected the early finalization of the text of the DLT and supported the incorporation of "technical assistance" as an article in the DLT. India reiterated its support for a treaty on protection of broadcasting organizations relying on the signal based approach in the traditional sense, consistent with the mandate granted at the 2007 General Assembly. However, the issue of the "rights-based approach" to protecting broadcasting organizations and the inclusion of any elements of webcasting and simulcasting required further discussion and exchange of ideas. WIPO Member States and the WIPO Secretariat had taken praiseworthy steps to ensure greater development orientation in WIPO's work and the mainstreaming of the DA. India supported an institutional mechanism which could monitor its effective implementation. India was the first country to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty and was pleased to note that the Marrakesh Treaty has come into force. As regards the report of the OIOS, the Delegation of India noted with concern that there has been an attempt to prolong the matter indefinitely. The erstwhile Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and the Chair of the Coordinating Committee had rendered a decision and Member States should respect that decision and bring a logical closure to the investigation process. At the same time, the Delegation of India welcomed the recommendation to revise the Internal Oversight Charter and reform WIPO procurement procedures. The larger interests of WIPO, its credibility, its reputation and its effective functioning should be borne in mind.

19. The Delegation of the United States of America fully endorsed the statement delivered by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B. It then stated that at last year's Assemblies, WIPO Member States were able to bridge key differences on several contentious issues and reach decisions on all outstanding items. The United States was approaching this year's Assemblies with the same constructive spirit and looked forward to the sessions accordingly. The Delegation then highlighted four issues deemed to be of particular importance. First of all, it remained concerned about the financial sustainability of WIPO's fee-funded unions, and in particular, the Lisbon Union. The United States of America would continue to expect the existing Lisbon Union to pay its required direct and indirect expenses into future WIPO budgets, in accordance with the Organization's treaty, without subsidies from other unions. Secondly, the United States of America generally supported the proposed MTSP for 2016-2021 as a high-level strategic vision for the Organization. However, it objected to the language which implied that WIPO would automatically administer the Lisbon Agreement without the approval of the full WIPO membership as required by the WIPO Convention. Thirdly, choosing up to three new offices for the current biennium would continue to be challenging. Nevertheless, it was highly important to use the Guiding Principles as the touchstone during consideration of this issue. These principles had been negotiated until the 11th hour at last year's Assemblies to ensure that any new external office would effectively contribute to the delivery of WIPO services to its Member States and stakeholders. Lastly, the United States of America's position on the OIOS' investigation was spelled out in the joint statement delivered on behalf of 13 WIPO Member States at the Coordination Committee meeting on September 12, 2016. The Delegation appreciated WIPO membership working together to find common ground on a constructive way forward and especially welcomed the commitment of the Member States to engage actively in institutional reforms that would ensure greater clarity, transparency, and accountability within WIPO.

20. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea observed that the key challenges faced by WIPO were promoting innovation and narrowing the IP divide between developed and developing countries. Progress in innovation and advances in the creative industries owing to artificial intelligence and big data had had a significant impact on society as well as on the IP community. Big data offered a new way to assess the current state of art and the use of an invention or technology on a global scale. A paradigm shift had bolstered IP protection by restricting certain actions, such as free riding and piracy. The international IP community was returning to its origins: the protection of new forms of creativity. The IP divide was likely to grow in coming years owing to the fourth industrial revolution. In light of the importance of bridging that divide among Member States, the Government of the Republic of Korea was working with WIPO to address the issue using Korea FIT. The advantages of data searching had been demonstrated at the Global IP-Sharing Korea event held in August 2016, which had been hosted by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and attended by the Director General. WIPO External Offices could play an important role in narrowing the IP divide among Member States. A new external office in the Republic of Korea could provide a consolidated service to users of the Madrid, Hague and PCT Systems, and could also disseminate information to Member States about the Republic of Korea's rise to economic power in less than a century. The establishment of external offices should not depend merely on political and geographical considerations, but take into account the goals of the Organization.

21. The Delegation of Japan was grateful for the condolences offered in the aftermath of the earthquakes that had occurred in Kumamoto in April 2016. Japan wished to reaffirm its commitment to supporting the activities of WIPO, particularly those that brought common benefits to all stakeholders, including system users. In view of its primary purpose of promoting the protection of IP, WIPO should focus on enhancing such global services as the

PCT, the Madrid Protocol, and the Hague Agreement. Accordingly, WIPO must listen to the opinions of users. As shown in the Memorandum of Cooperation concluded in June 2016 with the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), WIPO should strengthen its cooperation with both user organizations and with industry. Since its establishment 10 years before, the WIPO Japan Office (WJO) had worked to raise public awareness about the services that WIPO provided and to assist users. As of 2016, the WJO had taken part in assistance activities for countries in the Asian region, arranged by Japan FIT, whose thirtieth anniversary would take place in 2017. In fact, it was through FIT that the Government of Japan had made the largest financial contribution to the work of WIPO. Importantly, WIPO also provided assistance to developing countries by improving the international IP system, providing appropriate IP protection and supporting the digitization of filing procedures. Assistance activities in the Asia-Pacific region had included hosting 2,500 trainees over the course of three years and holding forums and workshops. Japan would continue to support the WJO with a view to enhancing its activities and contributing to WIPO's development; collaboration between the WJO and Japan should respond to business needs and make future assistance activities more effective. It was essential to improve the operability and user-friendliness of the information technology infrastructure for users around the world, particularly global databases and the WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE) network – which Japan had formally joined in 2015. As of July 2016, the Japan Platform for Patent Information had offered participants in the WIPO CASE network access to dossier information from the IP5 Offices. Positive feedback had been received from platform users. It would be easier to enhance user-friendliness by improving the information technology infrastructure than by formulating regulations or treaties. Priority should therefore be given to investments in information technology infrastructure. Japan wished to promote discussion on the formulation of treaties and to convene diplomatic conferences at the earliest date—in particular, the proposed treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. It would also seek early adoption of the DLT. In addition, it had been working to expand the Patent Prosecution Highway so as to ensure the prompt granting of IPRs. It had taken the lead in discussions to harmonize the IP systems of developed countries and to accelerate the examination process. Cooperative activities had been undertaken to contribute to the development of IP systems in developing countries and to strengthen enforcement activities, notably by the establishment of IP courts. In view of the fourth industrial revolution sparked by the emergence of such new technologies as the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence, Japan had initiated discussions on connections among emerging technologies and between those technologies and the IP system. In June 2016, the Heads of the IP5 Offices had agreed on the IP5 Joint Statement in Tokyo 2016, which had three major initiatives: to enhance the relationship with users, to provide high-quality and reliable examination results and to and explore readiness to respond to emerging technologies. In addition, the Heads of the IP5 Offices had agreed to launch a pilot framework on the joint preparation of international search reports for international applications filed under the PCT. The greater globalization of business activities against a background of IPRs restricted by sovereignty had given rise to an IP gap. The importance of WIPO's work would therefore continue to grow, fostering innovation in the global IP system.

22. The Delegation of the United Kingdom supported the statements of the European Union Presidency and Group B. The United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union would impact IP, but negotiations would take time and no immediate change to the United Kingdom-European Union relationship was foreseen. In the meantime, the Government of the United Kingdom would project the image of an unchanged, outward-looking, globally-minded, big-thinking country; one that remained open for business and that attached fundamental importance to IP for its future prosperity. It also remained a committed Member of WIPO, firmly believing it to be the one, truly global policy forum for all stakeholders to address evolving IP issues jointly. The United Kingdom had long believed

that IP, its value, protection and exploitation were crucial to global economic development and called for all to improve their joint working practices in WIPO. The Organization had been actively pursuing its normative agenda in recent years, concluding the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties and the new Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The Delegation therefore welcomed the MTSP adopted by the PBC and the emphasis on supporting Member States to ratify and implement WIPO treaties. The Delegation had been encouraged by continued annual growth in the membership of key WIPO systems, such as the PCT which had reached 150 members. Furthermore, the United Kingdom was working to join the Hague Agreement in its national capacity. The Delegation was also encouraged by the progress of the Madrid Working Group in improving the Madrid System. The United Kingdom had been working to raise its customers' awareness of the Madrid System and welcomed the proposals contained in the future development paper. In conclusion, the Delegation applauded the WIPO Conference on the Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) held in April 2016 and expressed its strong belief that further engagement by all Member States would enable WIPO to adopt a bespoke approach which would produce an effective impact on the global IP system.

23. The Delegation of Chile said that it supported the statement made by GRULAC and congratulated the Chair and the Vice-Chair for leading the current series of meetings. Chile was certain that, under the guidance of the Chairs, the meeting would be a success and would exemplify the role of WIPO as a forum for IP in the 21st century. The Delegation also thanked the Secretariat for its preparation of the working documents and its constant support to the Member States. The current series of meetings would address topics that were of great importance to members and which represented major challenges for the Organization. In its view, progress had been made in the projects for implementation of the DA and the independent evaluation of the DA, as well as in the work of the IGC, the SCP and the SCT, among others—grounds for optimism with respect to both the near future and the debate under way about the WIPO External Offices. Hailing the work done by the SCCR, Chile reiterated the need to move ahead with the items on the agenda in a balanced way and to work harder on exceptions and limitations. The recent entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty showed that IP could evolve without constituting an obstacle to such essential resources as reading and information. It also showed the importance of exceptions and limitations and demonstrated that multilateralism was a consensus-building tool. The Delegation called attention to the results achieved by the National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI), which with the help of the WIPO Academy had successfully, and for the third time, held a summer school attended by young students from Latin America and Europe. Also with WIPO assistance, the Institute had organized and hosted a regional seminar about the SCT. It had also entered the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreement phase, recently signing a PPH agreement between the offices of the countries of the Pacific Alliance and the Regional Cooperation System on Industrial Property (PROSUR), and had successfully taken part in a pilot experiment for joining the WIPO CASE system, as both an accessing office and a providing office. The Institute had increased its capacity-building efforts for IP offices in South America and the Caribbean, covering such fields as online platforms, treaty implementation, and the promotion of IPRs as tools for encouraging innovation. The Delegation drew attention to the role of the Department of Intellectual Rights in mounting campaigns to promote knowledge of copyright and related rights as well as respect for those rights from the earliest possible age, and in particular, the website *Yo creo, tú creas, ellos crean* (I create, you create, they create), a key educational tool for building awareness of the importance of copyright and related rights from childhood onwards, hosted jointly by the Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Finally, the Delegation noted that it was prepared to assist the

Chair of the General Assembly in generating the necessary consensus to ensure a successful outcome.

24. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statement it made on behalf of the African Group. The WIPO normative agenda was a cause for concern in terms of promoting and protecting TK, creativity and innovation in a modern international IP system; facilitating access to knowledge and information for common human and societal development; adjusting the international IP system in order to increase participation and competition in the global IP space; and enshrining equitable representation in the WIPO workforce. Consequently, much work remained to be done. However, the competing interests of WIPO members were not an obstacle but rather an opportunity to demonstrate the advantages of multilateralism. Accordingly, the 2016 WIPO General Assemblies were an opportunity to make a bold move towards establishing balanced and effective systems for everyone. Cognizant of the state of normative work at WIPO, the Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty and expressed its intention to accede to it. On external offices, it welcomed the decision to host an external office in Nigeria in line with the Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices. Africa, a continent that abounds with human and material resources, was not geographically represented within the WIPO external office network. Establishing WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria would bring the Organization closer to the region and improve its ability to deliver results through its goals and programs, such as facilitating the use of IP for development. It was therefore fitting for the 2016 Assemblies to adopt a decision establishing external offices in Nigeria and Algeria. Nigeria was strengthening its domestic IP infrastructure and the industrial sector continued its work to digitize IP records and employ innovative tools to solve local development challenges, including through a TISC. The country had been implementing copyright reform for a few years and an updated and modernized draft copyright law had been produced with input from both domestic and international copyright stakeholders. Once enacted, the draft law would enable Nigeria to respond to the challenges of the digital environment, honor its international IP obligations, upscale sanctions for IP infringements and enhance the rights management outlook. As regards the development and use of its infrastructure, Nigeria appreciated the support and partnership of WIPO provided in the form of workshops and interventions to reposition the collective management of IP in the country. It counted on this collaboration to strengthen IP respect and commercialization, especially in the area of institutional and human capacity building. Finally, the Delegation intended to work with interested delegations during the 2016 WIPO Assemblies to enhance the transparency, integrity and accountability of WIPO.

25. The Delegation of Ethiopia emphasized the importance of technology in ensuring inclusive and sustainable development. The DA which the international community had set out the year before stood a better chance of success if technology were embedded as an enabler in its implementation. The provision of technologies which were cost effective, appropriate and supported environmental development, were an integral part of success. Ethiopia had embarked on a critical journey to bring about structural transformation by enhancing productivity in sectors where technology played a crucial role. The Government had started to provide the effort necessary to strengthen innovation, development, capacity-building and acquisition of skilled manpower for technology transfer, thus providing the capacity for quality accreditations and infrastructure for the manufacturing and service sectors to achieve quality and productivity to ensure competitiveness in the international market. Such efforts would no doubt require the support of Ethiopia's development partners and WIPO was one of the most important organizations in this endeavor. Its mandate of developing a balanced and effective international IP system, that enabled innovation and creativity, made it an ideal partner. WIPO's technical assistance program, which was development-oriented, demand-driven and transparent and took account of the priorities and

special needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, would be crucial. Ethiopia had a strong manufacturing base, critical for its transition to a middle-income country by 2025. The emphasis WIPO placed on the needs of SMEs and institutions dealing with scientific research and industries, along with assistance to Member States in setting up appropriate national IP strategies needed to be further strengthened. Ethiopia greatly valued the capacity-building assistance it received from WIPO, whose experience and leadership continued to benefit Member States and in particular LDCs. The case against the Director General should be ended so that WIPO could continue to work for the benefit of Member States. Thanks to Ethiopia's innovative development programs and assistance from WIPO, local agricultural producers, farmers, businessmen, individuals, inventors, educational and other institutions were introduced to the concept of how IP could improve the value of their products and their living conditions. Ethiopia was pleased to see the continued focus on LDCs with national science, technology and research organizations and institutions. Ethiopia believed that technology and advanced know-how were vital for increasing competitiveness and productivity. The economy could benefit from better protection of the intangible and tangible aspects of TK, folklore and GRs. Finalizing the treaty text must be given priority for the international community to effectively address the challenges surrounding the protection of those resources. Regarding the DLT, Ethiopia considered that a diplomatic conference should be convened as a matter of urgency.

26. The Delegation of Germany noted that Germany hoped to contributing to a constructive and fruitful dialogue and fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. IPRs were not only essential for enterprises and developers; consumers and society also benefitted substantially from knowledge-driven innovation. As the premier global organization for IP, WIPO continued to serve as the key focal point for global discussion, the exchange of views and legislative advancement. As a leading international organization, WIPO had to meet the highest possible standards of transparency and good governance. Therefore the Delegation welcomed the assessment and recommendations of the 72nd session of the WIPO Coordination Committee meeting concerning the report of the UN OIOS on irregularities within WIPO for further improvement of governance. Germany was convinced that a constructive and forward-looking discussion of further improvements to the already high standards would make WIPO stronger rather than weaker. The Delegation accordingly called on Member States to take a constructive approach to the decisions and recommendations of the Coordination Committee and contribute to the revision of WIPO's Internal Oversight Charter, General Procurement Principles and Whistleblower Protection Policy. Thanks were due to the Director General, who had warmly welcomed any review of procedures that would lead to better governance structures, improve governance procedures and make for greater transparency. The Delegation was convinced that the Director General would implement any necessary changes transparently and effectively and thereby pave the way for meeting any further challenges. The principles of transparency and good governance should not be limited to the matters raised in the OIOS report, but should also be consistently applied in all WIPO decision-making. In that context, Germany wished to address the difficult and controversial issue of external offices. During the 2015 General Assembly, WIPO Member States had agreed on a process based on the "Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices". The Delegation continued to support the idea of a small, limited, strategically positioned and geographically representative network of WIPO External Offices on the basis of a clear set of criteria and procedural mechanisms. In adopting the Guiding Principles, Member States had set themselves clear goals and their performance was to be measured by how efficiently they achieved those goals. The Delegation was confident that all new external offices would ultimately meet the set objectives. The Government of Germany considered IPRs to be an integral aspect of the legal, economic and cultural framework within which businesses and

society as a whole operated. IPRs remained a complex, passionately and globally discussed issue. WIPO faced the challenge of providing guidance in the search for an adequate response to issues of moment and of fulfilling its mission to promote IP and to protect it effectively in order to foster sustainable development and create wealth. One of its major and most delicate tasks was to allay the persistent concern that WIPO favored certain groups and to demonstrate repeatedly that WIPO's unswerving aim was to strike the best balance between rightholders and many different segments of society, including in the areas of health and the environment. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to endeavor, within the purview of its mandate, to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and to identify areas where it could make a contribution in close cooperation with other Geneva-based institutions. The Government of Germany supported a robust and coherent international IP framework that was fit for purpose, balanced various interests and concerns, encouraged innovation and fostered the development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Stakeholders, including IP offices, would benefit from a simpler and more harmonized international framework, including substantive provisions governing such areas as copyright law, patent law and trademark law. As the guardian of global legislation and harmonized practices in IP, WIPO was a forum uniquely suited to these tasks and should retain such harmonization of legal concepts on its agenda. As the deliberations within the SCCR had demonstrated, the international harmonization of legal concepts in that field was a complex task requiring time and dedication. However, if Member States sought consensus and were determined to strike a fair balance between all interests involved, WIPO would continue to serve as the framework within which positive results could be achieved. Germany was committed to improving the protection of broadcasting organizations by reaching a consensus on an international treaty with a scope that encompassed modern technologies. It was necessary to update the protection offered and to address technological developments that had occurred while the treaty was being discussed. Germany would therefore actively support the work of the SCCR in order to advance text-based work on an international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations and considered it useful to have a road map guiding discussions in upcoming sessions. Germany would also engage meaningfully in sharing national experience regarding exceptions and limitations for certain organizations and purposes as well as for people with disabilities other than print disabilities. Although Germany was convinced that there was no need for a legally binding international instrument on these aspects, it was keenly interested in other Member States' legal concepts. Nevertheless, it would be useful if the General Assembly could provide more clarity on the expected outcome of discussions on exceptions and limitations. Germany was also interested in sharing views on other issues such as the resale right and challenges to copyright in the digital environment. From the beginning of international IP cooperation and the founding of WIPO as an international agency for IP, patent law had been of core importance, both in theory and in practice. Users of the patent system around the world were calling for the further development and improvement of the patent system—a call that should be heeded by WIPO and its responsible standing body, the SCP. Germany was satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues and warmly welcomed the agreement on future work reached at the previous SCP session. Germany was particularly eager to continue work on issues of patent quality, including opposition systems and the confidentiality of communications. Further work in this area was beneficial for all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. The Delegation of Germany to the SCP has also considered the issue of patents and health and would continue to do so, having regard to the efforts and activities undertaken in this area by other WIPO committees and other international organizations. Given that WIPO was the proper forum for addressing patent law questions, Germany welcomed the plan to prepare a study to examine the constraints faced by developing countries and LDCs in making use of patent flexibilities and their impact on the

access to affordable and, especially, essential medicines for public health purposes in developing countries and LDCs. The latest figures on application numbers under the PCT reflected the core importance of the PCT System for the flourishing of innovation and wealth. The PCT was still the most important tool for disseminating a functioning patent system in an ever more globalized world. As a highly patent-active state, Germany was grateful for the work of the PCT System. In 2015 the German Patent and Trademark Office processed 6,443 international applications—again an increase compared to the previous year—of which over 85 per cent were filed by applicants from outside Germany. For that reason, Germany remained committed to all necessary further developments in the PCT System and encouraged all WIPO Member States to take advantage of it. Germany appreciated the numerous improvements to the PCT System achieved by changes to the legal framework in the past 15 years. The Delegation took the view that the recent meetings of the PCT Working Group had made good progress in dealing with the necessary adjustments to the PCT rules. As regards the 34th and 35th sessions of the SCT, agreement could not be reached in the two specific areas of technical assistance and the disclosure requirement, as stipulated in the SCT's mandate. In consequence, there was no common ground for the convening of a diplomatic conference. The inevitable conclusion was that after these fruitless sessions, the negotiations on the DLT had finally reached an impasse. The DLT had been mature and ready for adoption some time ago, but this opportunity had been lost. Germany remained open to any reasonable proposals that might be raised in the 2016 General Assembly. After successful establishment of the Geneva Act, there was a clear opportunity for the Lisbon Union to stabilize and strengthen the Lisbon System. Germany strongly supported the efforts of Lisbon Union members to build an efficient and sustainable system for the future. The protection of geographical indications served as a means of protecting traditional regional knowledge for both agricultural and non-agricultural products. There was broad consensus among Member States to continue work in the WIPO IGC. Germany recognized the importance of the IGC's work. There was much still to be done to achieve consensus on a *sui generis*, non-binding instrument that took account of the vested interests of holders of TK, GRs and folklore and, at the same time, did not impair the functioning of the international IP system. Germany was willing to continue participating in the process. Germany remained fully committed to further progress in the field of development, particularly in light of Agenda 2030, and supported the continued implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations in a balanced and consensus-driven manner. In the past year, the CDIP had garnered meaningful achievements as regards the Independent Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations and the International Conference on Development and Intellectual Property. It was to be hoped that the areas within which discussions have been strenuous and time-consuming would diminish thanks to the constructive spirit displayed by many delegations at previous CDIP sessions. The Delegation was confident that such a spirit would allow Member States to overcome those challenges in the near future. As the past meetings of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) were widely perceived as a success, Germany was looking forward to the ACE's 12th session. The effective protection of IP required a solid framework for enforcement at its core. The Delegation was cognizant of the need to find solutions which took account of all interests concerned in a balanced manner. With the ACE's issue-oriented approach, its previous sessions had provided very useful insights into the various approaches to tackling infringements of IPRs. The topics agreed upon in the 10th session of ACE and expanded on in the 11th session provided ample space to accommodate discussion and the exchange of ideas at future meetings. The Secretariat had selected appropriate speakers while ensuring a balance of interests. The Delegation hoped that the ACE could continue to contribute to a comprehensive discussion on the technical aspects of IP enforcement. Germany attached great importance to the needs of people with disabilities and therefore the Government of Germany welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty on September 30, 2016. Equally welcome was the proposal of the

European Union in mid-September 2016 for a regulation and a directive for the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. It was hoped that the proposal would lead to swift implementation in the European Union and ensure that visually impaired and print-disabled people could benefit from the new opportunities as soon as possible. As regard cooperation activities, in the previous year the *Deutsche Patent- und Markenamt* (DPMA) had continued its successful cooperation with WIPO, European-level and national offices and IP organizations. These included a workshop in October 2015, jointly organized with WIPO and the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) in Malaysia and a January 2016 meeting of WIPO and DPMA representatives to discuss the WIPO TAG of Excellence project. The series of joint Roving Seminars with WIPO would also be continued. In the previous year, the DPMA again implemented a range of successful cooperation projects including regional seminars and the continuation of the well-established cooperation between DPMA and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Shanghai Administration for Industry and Commerce (AIC), the German international cooperation agency (GIZ), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), The United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO). The DPMA also hosted a number of international events, among which a symposium on the future of supervision of collecting societies, a roundtable for paralegals and trademark administrators, a roundtable on patent priority and the third Munich International Patent Law Conference.

27. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. The entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty would put an end to the book shortage experienced by persons who were visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. The adoption and entry into force of the treaty was an example of constructiveness and political will. The Republic of Moldova would continue to engage with the entire WIPO membership to find valuable solutions for convening the diplomatic conferences that would adopt a DLT and a treaty on the protection of broadcast organizations. On April 11, 2016, the Republic of Moldova had signed the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and had launched the internal procedures for ratification of that important treaty. The financial difficulties associated with the Geneva Act should be addressed without prejudice to the existing unitary contribution system. With regard to the program and budget and oversight matters, the Delegation believed that full compliance with WIPO financial regulations and rules and related documents was critical to the Organization's financial and political stability. It welcomed the commitment of the WIPO Secretariat to address the shortcomings noted during 2016 and to ensure continuous improvement of the system of controls. On WIPO staff matters, the Republic of Moldova had taken careful note of the OIOS report and supported the proposal to close with no further action all investigations regarding alleged misconduct in both the DNA and procurement cases, since there had been no problematic issues. The entry into force of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on July 1, 2016, offered the country a framework for boosting trade and economic growth, creating a favorable environment for foreign investments and implementing the European patents validation system. It was also an incentive to stimulate the transfer of technologies and encourage innovative entrepreneurship. Such performance had been possible only with the support from the Republic of Moldova's development partners. Accordingly, the Delegation extended its gratitude to WIPO and its Member States for their valuable assistance and support.

28. The Delegation of Switzerland aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, and underscored a certain number of points. First of all, WIPO's attention should remain focused on its core mandate. A key example was the

development and modernization of registration systems managed by the Organization. The proper operation of such systems was crucial to implementing WIPO's mandate as a global provider of IP services. The attraction of users to these systems was closely predicated on the quality of international registrations, which meant the shortest possible processing times and appropriate information technology solutions. Secondly, normative work was also at the core of WIPO's mandate. It should be recalled that the Organization had successfully concluded such work in recent times. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty and hoped that the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement would soon follow suit to ensure that the greatest number benefitted from the new international registration system for appellations of origin and geographical indications. Switzerland also wished for a positive outcome to the normative work underway on industrial designs, GRs, TK and folklore and country names. On the latter point, the Delegation remained keen to continue discussions on the online protection of country names, geographical names and other distinctive signs within the SCT. In that regard, it was regrettable that the governing principles of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) did not apply to country names, despite the recommendation adopted by the relevant Assembly in 2002. The Delegation wished that the names of countries, regions and other geographical names would eventually benefit from a protection mechanism to prevent misuse and strengthen transparency. Thirdly, Switzerland was closely monitoring the ongoing process to open new WIPO External Offices. A decision to that effect had been taken the previous year during the Assemblies and Guiding Principles had been adopted. The decision and the principles should form the basis of any future agreement that the Delegation hoped could emerge from the current session. As stated in the Guiding Principles, the network of WIPO External Offices should bring real value-added to the Organization and contribute to its strategic objectives. In conclusion, the Delegation undertook to contribute to a positive outcome for the Assemblies.

29. The Delegation of South Africa aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. Citing innovation as a critical factor for economic growth, the Delegation noted the potential of innovation-driven development to arrest the current global economic downturn, as underscored in the 2016 Global Innovation Index report. The report had noted that, while more developing countries were intensifying their efforts to stimulate the development of innovative concepts and models to improve their competitive edge within the global economy, there was still a divide and Africa in particular continued to lag behind. Given its central position in the innovation value chain, IP could either stifle or aid the efforts of African countries to facilitate creativity, innovation and the scientific and technological transformation of their economies. To promote innovation and economic growth, IP regimes must not only protect inventions but also accommodate the particular developmental needs and public policy objectives of countries in line with the DA. The Delegation highlighted WIPO's capacity to facilitate a balanced IP regime and thus unleash the potential of all its Member States. Specifically, it could achieve this by helping developing countries to maximize their returns in sectors with a clear competitive advantage, such as GRs, TK and TCEs. Accordingly, the Delegation urged WIPO to establish legally binding norms through the IGC against misappropriation and deemed it vital to protect traditional designs by including a disclosure article for GR, TK and TCEs in the draft Law Treaty. Similarly, finalizing an international instrument on exceptions for libraries and archives and for educational and research institutions could potentially unleash the talents of millions of poor people, including disabled persons with limited access to information and knowledge. Signal-based protection of broadcasting organizations as envisioned by the 2007 mandate would boost the creativity of artists and increase the contribution of creative industries to national economies. The Delegation reiterated its view that implementation of the DA Recommendations was critical in promoting innovation and access to knowledge by Member States, particularly developing countries, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It called upon WIPO and its CDIP in particular, to ensure the full implementation of DA Recommendations and mainstream the development dimension into its work. The Delegation looked forward to receiving the report on the recent review of DA implementation. South Africa was carrying on with the drafting of IP policies supportive of its national and international policy objectives, in particular its development plan and the African Union (AU)'s Agenda 2063, and was grateful to WIPO for its ongoing support in this area. The Delegation would fully engage in all issues that build consensus and reflect the needs and interests of all Member States.

30. The Delegation of Singapore supported the statement made by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and declared that the defining economic challenge of our era was disruption. The pace of globalization and technological change was rapid and relentless and our societies, enterprises and governments would need to continually adjust to keep pace. While acknowledging that these changes were unsettling, we should rather view them as opportunities rather than threats and work together to find ways of navigating them in order to continue improving the lives of our people. Accordingly, IP was increasingly critical. Every enterprise, regardless of its size, had IP that deserved to be protected and commercialized. IP was therefore not just about the law. Rather, it was a means to support the many innovative enterprises and creators in our countries and help them bring their ideas and concerns to the world. Since IP could empower enterprises, it was crucial that the global IP architecture should be not just balanced but be perceived as balanced by all stakeholders. Our outcomes and victories should not just be economic in nature. In this regard, the Delegation noted with delight the very recent coming into force of the Marrakech Treaty. WIPO's leadership was crucial in achieving this balance. No effort should be spared in achieving progress in norm-setting where possible. However, where this proved to be challenging, we had to remain patient and steadfastly focus on what can be achieved through other means. For example, the classification of goods and services in the trademarks context remained a difficult issue for many trademark examiners, given the different classification systems. Although there had been some convergence, more needed to be done in this area to increase harmonization in order to save time for examiners and cut costs for businesses. Singapore fully supported WIPO's normative agenda and took note of its excellent work in many other areas. The Delegation noted and welcomed the decisions and recommendations of the Chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee relating to investigations on two allegations against the Director General. These decisions allowed WIPO to refocus its attention on its core activities. One of such activities was the WIPO Singapore Office which celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. Over the last decade, Singapore had worked with the WIPO Singapore Office to carry out many assistance and capacity-building activities in the Asia-Pacific Region. Singapore's partnership with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center had always been of invaluable help to many of the Councils and institutions in the region. Singapore reaffirmed its strong commitment to work with the community of IP innovation officers to ensure that IP made a positive difference to our economies and societies.

31. The Delegation of Paraguay reaffirmed its commitment to the development of a balanced and effective IP system promoting innovation and creativity for all. To advance that goal, the Government of Paraguay would continue to use IP as a strategic tool for eradicating poverty through the efforts of the National Directorate of Intellectual Property (DINAPI) with regard to IP, copyright and enforcement. In 2016, DINAPI had carried out a number of activities to strengthen the protection and enforcement of IPRs. In March, the second session of the *Naranjaite* Project had been held, consisting in a series of workshops to enhance and strengthen the competitive spirit among persons involved in IP through the creative industries—which served to generate economic, social and cultural development.

The event, focusing on software, applications and videogames, had been attended by over 200 people: six national and regional experts had given presentations, and a fair had been held at which 10 companies showcased their products and services. In April, a seminar had been held on the role of patents and their impact on innovation, as had a workshop on drafting patent applications, attended by over 50 people from the public and private sectors and academia, including the Rector of the Universidad Nacional de Asunción and the deans of several faculties. In September, DINAPI had submitted two documents to the ACE: one relating to the awareness-raising programs it offered and another on the imperative need to protect IPRs against piracy and counterfeiting. On October 7, 2016, DINAPI would sign an MoU with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, designed to promote extrajudicial dispute settlement methods for IP in that country. All of those initiatives had enjoyed the constant support of the WIPO Director General and his team of highly skilled staff members. The Delegation gave its thanks for the assistance provided and for the constant willingness shown by the WIPO Secretariat. It was grateful that the IGC had resumed its work, and hoped that negotiations would wrap up in 2017. It called for a prompt decision on the matter of the WIPO External Offices; and for a halt to the investigation being conducted by the UN OIOS, which in the long run stood to harm and discredit the image of WIPO in the international community. The Delegation wished to draw special attention to the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, which Paraguay had supported from the outset. Paraguay was proud to belong to the region of the world that had provided the strongest backing both for the negotiations and for the ratification process. Lastly, the Delegation reiterated its call for greater presence within the Secretariat for Member States not yet represented, which would serve to strengthen the diversity of nationalities and enhance the WIPO workforce.

32. The Delegation of Malaysia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam on behalf of ASEAN, and by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group. It welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, which facilitated access to published works by print disabled persons and urged WIPO to continue building an inclusive global IP system that benefits all Member States. In Malaysia, IP awareness and interest were growing and the Global Innovation Index 2016 ranked the country 35th in the world and 2nd among the 34 upper-middle income economies. The Delegation hoped to improve Malaysia's international ranking and noted that, in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020, innovation had featured prominently on the government's DA. Several measures had already been taken to promote industrial innovation, including the promotion of science-industry linkages and knowledge transfer, in line with the national agenda goal of fostering collaboration. The Delegation hoped that collaboration with WIPO to establish a TISC in the country would promote awareness of IPRs and create an environment conducive to a high level of innovation. Nine universities and one research institution had signed an MoU to establish a TISC in Malaysia. The domestic patent law was being amended to enable Malaysia to accede to the Budapest Treaty and to accept the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement on Public Health. The trademark law was also being amended to facilitate accession to the Madrid Protocol. With WIPO support, the necessary operational and regulatory adjustments would hopefully ensure accession to the treaties in 2017 and 2018. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 was a milestone in regional economic integration, offering a huge market of 2.6 trillion United States Dollars and bringing 622 million people. As ASEAN strove to become a competitive and dynamic economic hub, the demand for IP services would naturally increase. Accordingly, Malaysia looked forward to WIPO's continuing support and cooperation in achieving the ASEAN Intellectual Property Strategic Action Plan for 2016/2017. The Delegation underscored the importance of striking a balance between protecting IP and promoting development, while affirming that such mutual grounds did exist. With the entry into effect of the UN SDGs in January 2016, it was even more crucial for WIPO to work in harmony with the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Delegation

acknowledged the contribution of TK, GRs and TCEs to global development; undertook to work with all Member States to narrow gaps on the issues currently being discussed at the IGC; and looked forward to early finalization of an international instrument. Malaysia also believed that the work of the SCCR should continue on the basis of the current mandate with a view to reaching practical outcomes. Turning finally to the SCT, the Delegation urged Member States to engage in constructive and complete resolution of outstanding issues so that they would be able to convene a diplomatic conference within the prescribed time frame.

33. The Delegation of Poland associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. Poland supported Latvia's proposal for a new electoral cycle of the WIPO General Assembly officers, as it would considerably increase the smooth functioning of the WIPO Assemblies. Poland acknowledged WIPO's continuing efforts to improve the global IP systems (PCT, Madrid and The Hague), provide new IT services to users, institute user-friendly amendments and increase efficiency. Poland supported the activities of the PCT Working Group geared towards enhancing the PCT System. As a member of the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI), Poland contributed to the proper functioning of the system by providing high-quality services to users in Poland and other countries who had appointed the VPI as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and Preliminary Examination Authority (IPEA). It was still important to implement further improvements to the international normative framework for a balanced and effective international IP system. Poland welcomed the agreement reached during the 23rd session of the SCP to continue discussions on the five topics. With regard to the SCT, it was regrettable that the 55th Assemblies did not agree to convene a diplomatic conference on the DLT, the long-negotiated text of which was already mature. Poland was firmly convinced that the treaty would bring real benefits to Member States' businesses wishing to operate abroad. Simplifying and aligning application procedures would render the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs more effective, thereby significantly contributing to the reduction of costs and formalities linked to exporting. It was to be hoped that the 2016 Assemblies would take a decision on a date for a diplomatic conference on the DLT in 2017. If that again proved impossible, there would be no merit in referring the matter back to the SCT, burdening it with unproductive work. Poland recognized the importance of the technical work of the CWS. Given that the CWS was purely technical, its work could not and should not be politicized. Poland urged all parties to seek consensus on the organizational and special rules of procedure of the CWS, since its deliberations were of value to all WIPO members. Poland saw the importance of the work of the IGC and was willing to work towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome. The main priority for the SCCR was that the SCCR should finalize the proposal for the treaty on the protection of the broadcasting organizations such that it would meet the current and future needs of broadcasting organizations. Poland invariably recognized and supported calls by broadcasters for the introduction of a global solution to signal piracy, which jeopardized their legitimate and necessary investments. Poland had been very supportive of a broad program of work for the ACE, sharing with other Member States its own experience in this regard and seeking to build respect for IP among the general public. For that reason, it was in favor of regular, annual ACE meetings. As regards the on-going work on WIPO's DA, Poland reaffirmed its support for the appropriate implementation of DA Recommendations, fully acknowledging the need to provide further technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries and LDCs. In 2015, the Polish Patent Office continued to focus on promoting industrial property by organizing a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops and training events. Some of them were organized in cooperation with WIPO representatives. The Polish Patent Office had also organized educational activities targeting various groups. In a new, special initiative, the Polish Patent Office had organized workshops in 2015 during which secondary school students met with young people who had

made inventions and utility models. Another initiative worth mentioning was the Internet Educational Platform of the Polish Patent Office, which is available at www.ipe.uprp.pl. Particular thanks were owed to WIPO's Department for Transition and Developed Countries for outstanding cooperation and assistance to Poland.

34. The Delegation of New Zealand thanked WIPO for its continued support and cooperation over the past year and acknowledged the Madrid Fellowship, which was of mutual benefit to New Zealand and WIPO. Given its small size and geographical isolation, New Zealand understood the importance of innovation and investment to gain a competitive advantage that ultimately delivers a higher standard of living for its people. However, it was crucial to have an efficient and reliable IP regime that strikes an appropriate balance between the interests of rights holders and users. The Delegation underscored its commitment to the continuous improvement of its IP regime and had launched an effective program to this end. Parliament was currently considering a bill on ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would entail changes to domestic IP legislation. A public consultation had also been conducted on accession to the Marrakesh Treaty, which would require the amendment of the national Copyright Act. A decision was likely to be made on this issue in early 2017. New Zealand was working hard to identify how best the IP system could protect TK and TCEs. The Delegation reiterated its support for the work of the IGC, and looked forward to devising meaningful and workable solutions with other Member States. A study on how New Zealand's creative industries use its copyright and design regimes in a rapidly evolving digital economy was being conducted to determine if an appropriate balance was being struck between promoting innovation and providing adequate protection to drive the development of new creative products. A modern, single trans-Tasman regulatory regime for Australian and New Zealand patent attorneys was also being implemented. Steps were being taken to implement legislation on geographical indications for wines and spirits. The IP Office of New Zealand was pursuing its goal to deliver more efficient online services to clients in 2016 by joining WIPO's Digital Access Service (DAS), continuing as a member of WIPO's ePCT national phase entry pilot group and redesigning its website to accommodate the needs of clients and stakeholders.

35. The Delegation of Tunisia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation recalled that Tunisia attached great importance to international IP norms believing it was a driving force for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship which was, in turn, conducive to development worldwide. In that spirit, the Government had spared no effort to align its national laws and regulations with international norms, facilitating accession to international IP treaties. Such commitment was enshrined in the new Tunisian Constitution which provides that IP and creative expression shall be guaranteed and that the State shall protect cultural heritage and guarantee it for future generations. The Delegation highlighted the recent ratification of the Beijing Treaty by Tunisia in March 2016 and the Marrakesh Treaty in June 2016. In addition, Tunisia's commitment to the development of IP, in all its forms, and participation in the related international and regional processes resulted in the country being chosen as the new host country for the OAPI. It hoped that this would help promote IP in Africa through close collaboration with all stakeholders in the continent. The Delegation recalled the unique ties between Tunisia and WIPO and how the national programs and initiatives benefitted from many support projects and activities. It looked forward to future cooperation in institution-building for national economy, *inter alia*, by leveraging the competitiveness potential offered by the IP system through supporting innovation and technology; protecting creations and inventions; and encouraging young entrepreneurs. In that regard, the Delegation reiterated the need to mainstream development considerations into WIPO's programs and activities, exploring ways for the Organization to contribute to the implementation of SDGs. Moreover, it expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in

WIPO's committees. On the other hand, it stressed the need for WIPO's decisions and discussions to be based on dialogue and consensus, taking into account the expectations of developing countries for progress and equitable development. In conclusion, the Delegation reaffirmed its full commitment to the international IP system, wishing these series of meetings would achieve the desired progress for the equitable development of all countries.

36. The Delegation of Bulgaria aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. It commended WIPO for its substantial results and consequent fulfilment of its strategic goals, and expressed satisfaction with the development and enhancement of the international IP system aimed at protecting innovation and creativity. The Delegation also noted progress in discussions relating to the deficit anticipated in 2016-2017 and the long term financial stability of the Lisbon Agreement. It believed a solution would be found, which may include attracting new contracting States. Bulgaria pledged to continue supporting WIPO efforts to serve as an international forum for dialogue on IP issues. The Delegation also expressed the hope that international agreements would cover more areas lacking core standardization. In that regard, it would welcome a decision on the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. Finally it reaffirmed its commitment to assist WIPO in improving the international and legal IP framework for addressing emerging global issues and thanked the Organization for raising IP awareness in Bulgaria.

37. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and wished to highlight some important issues. The presentation made by the Director General on some of the Report's items during the morning session offered a positive outlook for the Organization's activities in the field of IP services. Unfortunately, the same could not be said about norm-setting activities due to the lack of a firm political will. The Delegation looked forward to reaching a consensual solution to conclude the DLT, subject to (i) a disclosure requirement of the origin of GR, TK and TCEs in design applications; and (ii) technical support and capacity-building activities for Member States on treaty implementation. Regarding the ongoing IGC consultations, the Delegation affirmed that a constructive dialogue would eventually lead to a consensus on legally-binding international instrument(s) to protect the resources in which developing countries have a comparative advantage, achieving balance within the global IP protection system and filling the economic and development gap among countries. As regards the copyright agenda, the Delegation mentioned the deceleration of SCCR's work since the adoption of the MVT. On the other hand, it welcomed the entry into force of that treaty. Cognizant of the importance of the MVT, Egypt attached great importance to its dissemination and making it available to the public. To that end, it is currently collaborating with WIPO on preparing an accessible format of the Arabic version of the treaty for the benefit of visually-impaired and print-disabled persons, building on the experience of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in that area. Furthermore, Egypt will spare no effort in pushing forward the finalization of the copyright exceptions and limitations in order to enable access to knowledge for development. The Delegation then explained that the challenges that face the copyright agenda also affected the patent agenda which experienced great difficulty to address some priority topics for developing countries such as the interface between patents and health. As for cooperation in the field of patents, Egypt supported Brazil's proposal to reduce registration fees for educational and research institutions and universities in developing countries. The Delegation stated that the ongoing consultations could not move forward without overcoming the changing difficulties that face the global IP system as raised by the Director General during the morning session. Thus, it was critical to address those issues in order to optimize the use of IP tools, enabling the implementation of the DA and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable DA. The Delegation took the opportunity to raise the issues faced in the implementation of

WIPO's DA and most notably the lack of a coordination mechanism to keep track of the implementation of the relevant recommendations by various sectors and how the CDIP had merely become a body that recommended the implementation and follow-up of some projects that do not reflect the entire spectrum of the holistic and integrated DA which goes well beyond technical cooperation. The Delegation recalled that it was awaiting the results of the external review of DA implementation undertaken by an external reviewer in Egypt in February as an illustration of the country's commitment to such an important process. Furthermore, it looked forward to more details on the contribution of WIPO's activities in achieving the SDGs and in particular within the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and its work on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM). With regard to governance, the Delegation stressed the need to adopt a holistic vision and identify any shortcomings affecting efficiency and performance. One of such related problems was the ongoing circulation of unsubstantiated allegations against the Director General on alleged violations of WIPO's Regulations and Rules which undermined the confidence in the chain of command and staff morale and shifted the focus away from the outstanding and urgent matters currently being addressed by Member States. In that spirit, the Delegation supported the recommendations made by the WIPO General Assembly and the Coordination Committee Chairs to close the matter. It then recalled that the "Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030" was launched in the previous year and was mainly based on knowledge economy. In addition, Egypt had launched the following year its 2030 National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Egypt (STI-EGY 2030) aimed at setting up a knowledge and technological base capable of generating knowledge and driving innovation by creating an enabling environment that fosters STI through access to knowledge, databases and relevant IP tools. The Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB) was established at a cost of 60M USD and made available to the public depending on the nature of the targeted research. The TTO network was completed and covered most universities, research centers and institutions, R&D departments and innovation clusters in addition to the existing technology incubators and knowledge networks. Recognizing WIPO's role in enhancing countries' capacities to make optimal use of IP tools, the Delegation called for support to the projects, promotion of the innovation ecosystem, transfer and localization of technology taking into account the national visions in order to help Member States fill their economic gaps and acquire the necessary means to achieve sustainable development.

38. The Delegation of the Holy See noted that WIPO had achieved substantial outcomes, as evidenced by the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, which sent a strong signal that multi-literacy was alive and could serve as an effective system for the concrete implementation of the common good. Such an achievement had made a difference in the daily lives of the beneficiaries of that treaty, providing easier access to a vast field of knowledge which would enrich them personally and enable them to contribute more to society. A global knowledge economy had come into being and the key to progress would be to excel at turning discoveries and additional knowledge into new, marketable products and technologies. Justice required the products of scientific progress, particularly GRs, to serve everyone equally and not only the sectors with the greatest potential. Fundamental principles for the common good needed to be applied to ensure that progress in research on such resources benefitted all mankind. The Delegation emphasized that the ultimate purpose of IP was the protection of humanity and its works in two ways, namely as a means for expression and growth of the individual and as a contribution to the common good. The legal framework for the protection of IPRs sought to promote literary, scientific and artistic production and inventive activity for the good of all. Innovation was vital for achieving the 2030 Agenda goal of improving the health and wellbeing of all peoples at all ages and it appeared in a number of targets sought by the SDGs. SDG 3 would require conducting a more holistic situation assessment. It was vital for the funders of health research and

development (R&D) to prioritize the most pressing public health needs. Equitable, sustainable financing and a more prudent and strategic use of public and private resources were equally important. Transparent, reliable and widely available data were crucial for informing policymaking processes at various stages. WIPO was to be commended for making a significant contribution to IP information-sharing and dissemination through its global IP infrastructure network. The Delegation noted that the contribution to society from patented inventions did not consist solely of the invention as such, but also of the provision of the related technical information. The global patent system needed continued improvement to move towards increased transparency and efficiency.

39. The Delegation of Pakistan supported the development of a balanced international IP system responsive to the diverse needs of all Member States at different levels of development, thus providing countries with policy space to safeguard public welfare. In the Program Performance Report (PPR), the rating indicators appeared too broad and did not provide a concise and qualitative overview of the actual achievements or projected results. Relatively few target indicators were directly linked to the implementation of the DA Recommendations and missing information on utilization of the budget for development expenditure made it difficult to objectively assess performance against actual achievement of the recommendations. The Delegation of Pakistan had closely followed and actively participated in the debate on external offices and agreed to the adoption of the Guiding Principles at the previous session of the WIPO Assemblies, despite reservations which had proven to be justified in view of the acute difficulties experienced in achieving any rational consensus. Pakistan supported the establishment of two external offices in Africa in line with the principles of inclusiveness and equity, and all other applicants should be judged equitably on merit. The Delegation strongly believed in the continued importance of the DA, its effective implementation and its mainstreaming in all organs of WIPO; progress in the CDIP was also crucial. The DA was not merely a vehicle for technical assistance, but also a mechanism for identifying and correcting imbalances in the IP system, thereby ensuring that it actually contributed to development goals. The DA Recommendations on impact assessment must be considered based on priority. In the work of the committees, access to educational materials and medicines were of critical importance and the SCP needed to address the whole range of IP issues that affected innovation and access to medicines at fair prices, especially in view of global health emergencies like Ebola and Zika and of antimicrobial resistance. Many of those issues had been identified in the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines (UNSG HLP), but WIPO, as the leading international IP institution, should consider them seriously through frank and open discussions. The Secretariat should exercise extreme care in making statements on those issues, especially in view of the ill-advised statement by a WIPO Secretariat official on the UNSG HLP. Regarding educational materials, Pakistan was concerned at the lack of progress in the SCCR on exceptions and limitation for libraries, archives and educational institutions, which were essential for facilitating the realization of the basic human right to education. The Delegation supported the African Group's request regarding the disclosure agreement in the DLT and believed that it would serve against misappropriation and foster true innovation and creativity. An organization could function only as well as it was administered and his country was deeply concerned at the accountability and administrative issues that had come to light, especially at the highest level. An organization's reputation and effective functioning would not be enhanced if there were constant attempts to obfuscate and avoid serious consideration of those issues. Member States would be remiss in their duty of oversight if those issues were not squarely addressed. Strict accountability, revision of the oversight charter and progress on governance issues were accordingly essential.

40. The Delegation of El Salvador aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC. Giving thanks for all of the cooperation it had received for

the promotion of IP, the Delegation said that it was enthusiastic about future projects under development. It wished to draw special attention to assistance received for the implementation of decisions adopted at the Fourth Central American Ministerial Meeting on Intellectual Property, which had resulted in IP development and awareness-building in Central America and the Dominican Republic. The Delegation thanked Member States and friends that had supported those activities and had held events that El Salvador had taken part in. The Delegation announced with great satisfaction that El Salvador had ratified the Beijing Treaty and planned to deposit the corresponding instrument of ratification with the Director General on October 10, 2016. One of the strategic thrusts of El Salvador's IP policy was the promotion of cultural development and the creative and artistic industries. In that respect, the Beijing Treaty would give an extra boost to national activities under way in recent years, and would strengthen the legal framework for the protection of performers' rights, a prerequisite *sine qua non* for the advancement of those industries in a spirit of equity and inclusion. El Salvador also wished to draw attention to the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, which held special meaning for that country since one of the priorities of the five-year Development Plan—agreed on by national consensus—was to promote education with inclusion and social equity. As the first country in Latin America to deposit the instrument of ratification, and the second worldwide, El Salvador looked forward to the preparations for the first set of meetings of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly. While thanked the Director General and members of the staff for supporting that goal and for continuing to support Member States in ratifying that instrument, it also expressed its appreciation to the concerned sectors that had fought hard for that instrument and the civil society sectors that had supported them. El Salvador was committed to a successful launch for that social inclusion tool, which would facilitate access to knowledge, education, employability and entertainment for a great number of men, women and children to whom the world still had a debt; the entry into force of the treaty should give them hope.

41. The Delegation of Turkey wished to emphasize that, under the guidance of the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, WIPO functioned as a results-oriented agency. IPRs could best serve the purpose of improving people's lives under democratically elected governments and a steadfast application of the rule of law. The Government of Turkey had been subject to a coup attempt, on July 15, 2016, carried out by the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization. That horrific attempt on the essence of democracy had taken the lives of 241 Turkish citizens and had left more than 2,000 wounded. The brave citizens of Turkey had courageously thwarted the attempt in fewer than 12 hours, restoring democracy and order. The Government of Turkey wished to thank all the Member States and national offices that had offered their solidarity. Turkey reiterated its resolve to respect the principles of democracy, to which the citizens of that country were wholeheartedly loyal. In the wake of that major incident, Turkey had seen how strong its economy was. The Turkish Patent Institute had made an important contribution to the country's economic health by establishing a modern IP structure; that structure had arisen, by and large, from the establishment of the European Union-Turkey Customs Union and the TRIPS Agreement. Over time, changes had occurred in European law as well as in the Turkish economy, compelling policy makers to enact new rules. A new draft industrial property law was expected to be adopted in 2016 that would benefit Turkish society as well as both domestic and foreign IP owners. The draft law consolidated all existing decree laws on patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications into a single text. It contained chapters devoted to specific IPRs, and several amendments that harmonized industrial property law with the European legal framework, while meeting the needs of the Turkish economy. Those reforms enhanced the administrative capacity of the Turkish Patent Institute, established an IP Academy, enhanced the protection of IPRs, introduced the international exhaustion regime, facilitated the registration process, improved the quality of registration and examination processes and restored articles of law revoked by decision of the Turkish Constitutional Court. In 2016,

Turkey and the WIPO Academy had launched a Masters of Law Program on Intellectual Property Rights at Ankara University. Candidates had applied from many neighboring and other countries; over 40 international applications had been accepted. Credit was due to WIPO for the large number of domestic applications; the Organization had also provided financial and technical support. To ensure the program's success and its benefit to a broader geographical area, IP offices were asked to encourage staff members to take part. The program aimed to build cooperation between national offices and to contribute to the international dissemination of IP information. With help from WIPO, Turkey would soon establish an IP Academy, which, together with the Masters of Law Program on Intellectual Property Rights, would fill the national and regional need for specialized IP professionals. The Turkish Patent Institute, for its part, conducted its activities in accordance with three national strategies. In 2016, under the national IP strategy, 10 out of 28 goals had been met, while half the goals of the national geographical strategy had been fulfilled. It was hoped that remaining goals would be met on schedule. Strategies had proven to be useful tools for the national IP offices, facilitating management activities by providing reachable goals and foreseeable results. The Delegation would be happy to share its related experience with other interested IP offices. Moreover, Turkey had retained its position as one of the most important service providers for IP applicants. In 2015, the Turkish Patent Institute had received the highest number of trademark applications of any IP office in Europe, and more than 40,000 design applications. The number of domestic patent applications had increased markedly, a trend that had continued in the first half of 2016. It was hoped that the appointment of the Turkish Patent Institute to serve as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority for the PCT would be approved during the General Assembly of 2016. In preparation for that appointment, the Turkish Patent Institute had enhanced its infrastructure, especially the patent examination system; recruited new patent examiners; upgraded examination documentation and established a quality management system. The IP offices of Spain and the Republic of Korea had assisted with the preparatory work. Since the previous General Assembly, the Turkish Patent Institute had signed cooperation protocols with the IP offices of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Korea and Serbia, and was continuing to deepen its cooperation with the IP offices of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. In addition, two major IP events had been organized in Turkey in 2016. On April 13, the WIPO IGC had taken place in Ankara; the Director General had attended. The Turkish President had attended the Fifth Turkish Patents Awards Ceremony, which had helped to raise public awareness about IP. Many delegates from national and international IP offices had also attended the event. Cooperation from WIPO on the seconded national expert program had continued to assist Turkey in working with the Madrid System; plans were afoot for a similar project under the PCT System. In addition, working with the EUIPO under the seconded national expert program had helped to align the Turkish registration system with European Union practices. As an observer to the EUIPO Convergence Programme, Turkey continually updated trademark and design examination guidelines. While appreciating the arduous efforts of the SCT, the Delegation of Turkey agreed that a diplomatic conference should be held, as soon as possible, on the adoption of the DLT that would also address the concerns of all Member States. Regarding the IGC, the Delegation trusted that Member States would find common ground to conclude negotiations with regard to holding a diplomatic conference. It was important to follow the DA Recommendations, and, accordingly, all Member States should enter into result-oriented discussions during the upcoming session of the CDIP. Turning to the PBC, the Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, and congratulated WIPO for maintaining sound financial management. The IAOC, IOD and External Auditor should be seen as means for increasing the efficiency of the Organization, rather than the reverse. The Assembly should close deliberations on that issue and focus instead on technical and developmental aspects. Notwithstanding that position, any amendments to the Internal Oversight Charter or other rules and procedures merited consideration. Finally, the

Delegation asserted that a WIPO External Office in Turkey would create synergy with a branch, in Turkey, of the proposed Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, which would help innovators and researchers identify appropriate technologies for their research subjects and act as a mediator on the conclusion of licensing agreements. The involvement of WIPO in the Technology Bank would ensure the sustainability of the project and the success of both efforts.

42. The Delegation of Mexico, thanking the Director General for the report he had presented, said that it intended to play an active and constructive role, with a view to reaching the necessary agreements so that the committees could go on with their work and make progress in topics related to the international normative framework. Welcoming the positive opinion of the External Auditor and the favorable financial results registered in 2015, it pointed out that challenges remained that would need to be dealt with during the present series of meetings. Mexico would continue to advocate balanced geographical diversity among the members of the staff, the appropriate use of resources, and better procedures for strengthening transparency and accountability at WIPO. It reiterated its willingness to continue working with the Secretariat and all Member States to bring about those improvements. Some of the topics discussed in the report of the PBC, would require Member States to display flexibility and imagination, such as, for example, the launching of external offices and the revision of the Internal Oversight Charter. The Delegation planned to go on participating, with a positive outlook, in the review and consideration of topics of great importance to the Organization: the holding of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on industrial design law; development and IP; GRs, TK and folklore; and the PCT, among others. In that regard, it would continue to communicate to other countries—in particular Latin American and Caribbean countries—the benefits for trademark owners of acceding to the Madrid System. Mexico, committed to the promotion of and respect for IP, had two bodies for that purpose: the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI) and the National Institute of Copyright (INDAUTOR), whose directors were attending the current series of meetings. The country also had an effective IP office that kept up a fertile exchange with other countries—mostly Latin American and Caribbean—and had already granted over a million trademarks. Moreover, two out of every three patents in Latin America and the Caribbean had been issued in Mexico. That Delegation viewed culture as a source of intellectual riches for the enhancement of development. Mexico was therefore committed to promoting, defending and upholding copyright and the right to IP, and to making use of extrajudicial dispute settlement mechanisms. The country was working to strengthen ties with both the universities and the patent registration centers; it also boasted IP promotion tools which it shared with other countries in the region and beyond, including the Support System for Patent Applications Management (CADOPAT) and initiatives like “My first registration, my first work,” an educational game promoting respect for copyright law. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, to which Mexico was a party, and expressed its willingness to keep working towards the promotion and implementation of that instrument. It supported WIPO’s multilateral agenda, on the understanding that IP was a valuable tool for economic, social and cultural development. In view of the above, the Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC, namely that the Latin American and Caribbean region wished to contribute by establishing a WIPO office in Colombia during the current biennium, and hoped to contribute still more by opening a new office in Latin America and the Caribbean in the biennium 2018-2019.

43. The Delegation of Ecuador endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Chile on behalf of GRULAC. Its country promoted respect for IP rights and the creation of the human mind as a tool for encouraging development. That perspective had resulted in new legislation, due to enter into force shortly, which recognized creativity, encouraged research,

fostered innovation and promoted a balanced system between society, inventors and authors, so as to ensure that the rights of all were fully guaranteed and respected. With that inclusive approach, efforts would be made to implement the guidelines laid down in the Ecuadorean Constitution and the National Plan for Good Living. In view of the fact that Ecuador was committed to helping all knowledge actors become acquainted with IP, the Delegation drew attention to the renewal of the IGC's mandate and the fact that it was continuing its work. As Ecuador was megadiverse, plurinational and multicultural, the Delegation was particularly interested in the IGC, whose work had to ensure effective protection of GRs and TCEs that took into consideration such aspects as disclosure, prior informed consent and distribution of benefits. The Delegation also attached great importance to the work of the CDIP, as it offered a means of ensuring that the IP system was consistent with the goals of the DA for 2030, by means of initiatives geared to technology transfer and dissemination. In that context, Ecuador was participating in the project on "IP, Tourism and Culture" and in the project on "Use of information in the public domain to promote economic development". With regard to copyright and related rights, the Delegation was in favor of moving towards a balanced work plan with discussions on limitations and exceptions for educational institutions, teachers and researchers, as well as broadcasting organizations. In the Delegation's view, the agreement which GRULAC had reached to support Colombia's candidature to host a WIPO External Office during the current 2016-2017 biennium reflected the commitment of Ecuador and the Latin American and Caribbean region to the smooth functioning of the Organization. Accordingly, the Delegation stressed the importance of ensuring that one of the external offices allocated during the current biennium was earmarked for the GRULAC countries. In addition, it welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty as a key instrument for democratizing knowledge, since it not only guaranteed the rights of authors and owners of works but also backed IP as a means of ensuring the exercise of fundamental rights. The Delegation noted the official visit to Ecuador by the WIPO Deputy Director General in charge of the Development Sector, together with the Director and an official from the Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean hosted at WIPO headquarters. It expressed appreciation for the support to and participation in the National Seminar for Judges and Prosecutors on IP Enforcement, held in Quito in September 2016. Finally, the Delegation reiterated its constant support for WIPO.

44. The Delegation of Canada noted that Canada viewed innovation as the path to inclusive growth and prosperity for all, opening new economic, social and environmental possibilities. For that reason, Canada was now pursuing an inclusive innovation agenda, which was a coordinated strategy to support innovation. Accordingly, the 2017-2022 business strategy of the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) would support Canada's innovation agenda by focusing on encouraging invention, discovery and commercial success through modernization, international harmonization, and more streamlined, efficient ways of achieving IP objectives. Canada continued to pursue an ambitious IP modernization program and was making progress towards implementing the Madrid Protocol, the Singapore and Patent Law treaties, and The Hague and Nice agreements, having acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty in June 2016. On June 30, 2016, Canada adhered to the Marrakesh Treaty. It was an honour to be one of the countries which, together, had brought the treaty into force the previous week. Canada strongly supported WIPO as the key forum for the development of international norms that promoted an efficient, balanced and accessible IP system. Those objectives were in line with those of Canada's innovation program. It was nonetheless regrettable that the SCT was as yet unable to find consensus on a DLT, including on the issue of disclosure, which was also a matter for discussion at the IGC. Canada hoped to continue working with all Member States at the IGC and elsewhere towards balanced, mutually agreeable outcomes and called on the IGC, and WIPO as a whole, to resolve differences through fact-based processes.

45. The Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of ASEAN, lauded the Director General's comprehensive report on WIPO's accomplishments over the past year and fully supported WIPO's continued cooperation with Member States to develop a balanced global IP system for the economic development of all countries. The Delegation observed that the IP landscape had evolved with the increasing participation of developing countries and LDCs which strived for a balanced IP system that is more responsive to their day-to-day needs. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had recently become the first ASEAN country to join the Madrid Protocol and hoped to reap the benefits of a more developed trademark regime both domestically and abroad. In the near future, the Lao People's Democratic Republic planned to develop its potential and become a more active player in the global IP system by leveraging technology transfer and the attendant flexibilities. The Delegation pledged to continue working towards the Lao People's Democratic Republic's accession to the Hague Agreement in order to open up its local industrial designs to foreign markets and encourage foreign investment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic by affording businesses easier access to its industrial design system. Emphasis would be laid on the further development of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's geographical indications system to protect and ensure the quality of its geographical indications both domestically and in other jurisdictions with a view to increasing their commercial value. The Delegation expected WIPO to continue ensuring that the global IP system accommodated the needs and capacities of all Member States and hoped to continue working with WIPO to deliver more responsive technical assistance that took account of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's capacity and level of development. Finally, it commended WIPO on the progress made over the past year and urged it to observe proper institutional governance in the interests of all Member States.

46. The Delegation of Morocco aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and praised the work of the Director General, who had put WIPO in the vanguard of international efforts to protect IP. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, an historical agreement that sought to give new momentum to the goal of sharing published works with millions of persons who were blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. That treaty marked the culmination of several years of work, and prepared the way for further treaties seeking to provide equal access to knowledge, social justice, empowerment and tolerance. Its entry into force clearly showed that the matter of IP could be of benefit to persons who were visually impaired. Aware of the growing understanding of the value of intangible assets in IP, and of the importance of protecting those assets in a knowledge-based society, Morocco attached great importance to the IP system and to the role of the WIPO committees and bodies. Its goal was to make rational and strategic use of IP assets for economic and social development, thereby helping to fulfil the noble objectives of the National Human Development Initiative launched by the King. Morocco called on the delegations to overcome the rifts still present in some WIPO negotiations, in the spirit of multilateralism and with a view to concluding those debates. Morocco hoped to achieve some of its goals in that same spirit: the imperative need to cultivate an IP system that would balance the interests of rights holders and those of the broader society: the availability of medicines and food, access to knowledge, the challenge of climate change, narrowing the digital divide, and better use of the flexibilities offered by international agreements, including the TRIPS Agreement and other WTO agreements; the need to protect TK, TCEs and GRs against unlawful appropriation or misuse and any other unfair business or non-business practice or activity; the ongoing implementation of the WIPO DA, which was a collective commitment on the part of the international community to mainstream the development dimension into the work of all WIPO committees and to launch cooperation programs with development actors within the framework of the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries. In 2016, Morocco had celebrated its

industrial property centenary, by holding the Casablanca IP Week-sponsored by the King and attended by the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, along with 1,300 participants from 37 African, European and Asian countries. The celebration was the culmination of a series of events arranged by Morocco in recent years to raise the profile of the Moroccan IP system, which included a large number of reforms to national laws related to IP; the Moroccan innovation strategy, which had galvanized a collective effort by both public and private actors involved in R&D related to the promotion of innovation in Morocco; the IP strategy of the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office, which was grounded in the desire and determination of the competent national authorities to strengthen the capacity of the industrial and commercial sector to operate in world markets and to create a more competitive business environment; the establishment of an interministerial standing committee to combat counterfeiting and piracy and a national industrial property and anti-counterfeiting committee; the launching of the Moroccan Academy for Intellectual and Commercial Property, which had offered a considerable number of training courses in topics related to IP; the signing of an MoU between WIPO and the European Patent Office (EPO) to promote and disseminate information on patents in Arab countries (with the first online patent dissemination platform); and the signing, in 2016, of two MoUs between Morocco and WIPO related to the topic of industrial property, which strengthened, *inter alia*, South-South cooperation and cooperation in the matter of copyrights.

47. The Delegation of Australia noted that IP was playing an increasingly central role in the knowledge-based economy and that the work of WIPO and its Member States was instrumental in ensuring that the international IP system adapts to emerging and increasingly global issues. The challenges of norm-setting in the multilateral arena were considerable and Member States should focus on their shared interests and those areas where advancing the normative agenda could help to sort out their differences. The Delegation was heartened by ongoing discussions in the IGC and recognized both the genuine progress made and the recent contributions of Member States to meaningful discussions. It strongly supported constructive reforms to the global IP system, particularly the PCT and the Madrid Protocol. The Delegation also noted that efficient IP architecture with greater reach promoted global trade in IP-invested products, thereby boosting economic growth and development. It congratulated Cambodia on its recent accession to the PCT, the Lao People's Democratic Republic on its accession to the Madrid Protocol and the Cook Islands on becoming a WIPO member. WIPO CASE system had continued to make great strides and the prospect of all five IP5 offices participating by the end of the year was eagerly anticipated. The Delegation urged offices not using WIPO CASE to consider the benefits of the system, such as more efficient IP offices and higher quality decision-making. The Delegation proudly announced the launch of the second iteration of the WIPO Australia FIT program in February 2016: IP Australia, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was working with WIPO to help developing countries and LDCs improve their IP systems and capacity to facilitate innovation, investment and technology transfer in the Indo-Pacific region, in line with Australia's focus on aid as a catalyst for economic growth and poverty reduction. Activities under the FIT program would target major social and environmental issues. For instance, WIPO GREEN connects green technology providers to those seeking innovative solutions to challenges such as climate change. Australia would support the expansion of WIPO's research program in the Indo-Pacific region and continue to back the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). The Delegation lauded the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty as a tangible solution for real problems faced by some of the world's most vulnerable people and an example of what Member States could achieve together. Australia was ready to continue working with other Member States to address current and evolving issues and to ensure that the international IP system serves creators, innovators and business leaders well into the 21st century.

48. The Delegation of Liberia expressed its gratitude to WIPO for supporting Liberia with its Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP). The Delegation aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs. Liberia supported the implementation of the recommendations of the Coordination Committee. Moreover, it welcomed WIPO's contribution to the enhancement of Liberia's IP system and had fulfilled many of its legal obligations, including the amendment of IP and relevant commercial laws and the ratification of various international protocols, conventions and treaties to which Liberia was a signatory, as a major part of its WTO accession program. Liberia's accession to and ratification of the Beijing Treaty and the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) were still outstanding; accession to the Beijing Treaty would be achieved shortly. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry had established a MSMEs Division which was offering mobile registration for small businesses. Liberia was still relying on WIPO under the IPDP for the requisite technical and financial support to enhance the activities of the income-generating sector of the Liberian economy and construct a new IP Building to facilitate the amalgamation of its two IP offices.

49. The Delegation of the Philippines noted that the Philippines had sustained its momentum in building an innovation hub in the region. Since the country started scaling up the capacity needed to launch an ecosystem conducive to innovation, it had been able to lay down a solid foundation that required ongoing nurturing and enhancement. In 2016, it had advanced in the Global Innovation Index by nine notches and had improved by six notches in the Index of Economic Freedom. The country's Innovation and Technology Support Offices network was now taking the lead in IP creation, IP protection and, it was hoped, IP commercialization. WIPO and other international partners had noted what the Philippines had started and, with the influx of assistance, attention and activities in the country relating to innovation, the Delegation was confident that it could attain its goal of a demystified, democratized and development-oriented IP system by 2020. The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPIL) had crafted a seven-point IP agenda that would further strengthen and support the innovation ecosystem. The Smelt IP initiative (new services that IPOPIL sought to establish in the coming year) encompassed the entire spectrum of IP from creation to commercialization, in order to introduce the best of inventions, creations and innovations from the Philippines to the world. Smelt IP would likewise ensure IPOPIL's ability to meet the requirements and challenges of a thriving innovation ecosystem, as initiatives under the agenda would entail rigid housekeeping of internal policies, procedures and infrastructure to make IP services more accessible. Smelt IP was also anchored in initiatives that espoused an aggressive dissemination of IP knowledge to ensure that the challenges of lack of awareness and appreciation were addressed. The use of the system by local industries, resulting in the creation of innovative local products, contributed to an enabling environment for an IP culture of mutual respect and understanding. In the field of IP adjudication enforcement, the legal and institutional reforms initiated in 2011 had made for significant progress, as noticed by countries and stakeholders in the region. Regarding GRs, TK, and TCEs, the Philippines had already taken steps to ensure the protection of the knowledge systems and practices of the country's indigenous peoples and cultural communities, thereby preventing their misappropriation. The Delegation expressed the hope that the international community would take steps so that those invaluable assets would not only be protected, but would remain as testaments to human ingenuity.

50. The Delegation of Spain said that it supported the statement made by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, as well as the statement by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the EU and its member states, while strongly believing in the importance of protecting and promoting both IP and copyright and related rights with a view to enhancing the economic development of society. It recognized that WIPO had a fundamental mission

to develop a balanced and effective international IP system that would permit innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. Spain drew attention to the importance of the Spanish language and of multilingualism in WIPO for the achievement of its goals and the dissemination of its work to a broader public. Spain took part in the principal international systems for IP protection. The Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) was one of 21 patent offices that were recognized, throughout the world, as International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities. Owing to the experience it had gleaned over the years, the OEPM gave advice to other IP offices; recently it had provided assistance to the Turkish Patent Institute. Cooperation between WIPO and OEPM had been long and fruitful. The year 2015 had been the tenth anniversary of Spain FIT, administered by WIPO, whose main objective was promoting knowledge and the use of IPRs for the benefit of Ibero-American countries; with emphasis on their companies, which were mostly SMEs. Spain had contributed over four million Swiss francs to that fund, which every year benefited some 200 professionals in the framework of numerous projects, including the LATIPAT patent database, which enhanced the visibility of Ibero-American technological innovations; trademark and patent manuals for Central America; and many courses and seminars. In 2016, activities had been carried out in alliance with other countries that also had FITs, like Mexico and Brazil. Spain was also working together with WIPO to develop training programs in other regions. Throughout 2016, Spanish experts had travelled to the Republic of Moldova, Uzbekistan and Ukraine to participate as speakers in seminars. Those educational programs included roving seminars that had been tested out in Spain, and which offered first-hand information to potential users on the tools and protection systems administered by WIPO. The OEPM also promoted extrajudicial dispute resolution methods, working together with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. It should not be forgotten that, within the system for the protection of the results of any Research and Development plus Innovation (R&D+I) process, the transfer of technology played a greatly important role. To meet that demand, a multidisciplinary working group had been set up in Spain (in which OEPM and WIPO took part), with the task of designing model technology transfer contracts—which had been well received by users. Another basic pillar of collaboration with WIPO was technical cooperation. The OEPM was actively involved in developing tools for introducing IP to citizens and streamlining and modernizing the work of such IP services as the WIPO Global Databases and WIPO CASE. Spain would host the next session of the XML Task Force, where technical solutions for standardization and harmonization would be discussed. Aware of WIPO's fundamental role in the development of international standards related to IP and copyright and related rights, Spain hoped for new results satisfactory to all Member States. The Delegation pointed out that Spanish experts were participating in WIPO committees and working groups, and drew attention to the Spanish proposal before the SCP regarding the exchange of experience on inventive step, which it hoped would yield substantive results. Within the framework of the CDIP, the Delegation had made efforts to reach a consensus that would improve technical cooperation at WIPO, in line with the DA. As for the opening of new WIPO External Offices, the Delegation would like agreement to be reached on the basis of the Guiding Principles adopted by the Assemblies; it wished to emphasize that efficiency and budgetary prudence were concepts of great importance. WIPO, aware of that situation, was striving to improve efficiency and productivity. Budgetary prudence should, however, remain a key consideration despite the increase in revenue. That increase had been accompanied by an even higher increase in spending. Spain therefore urged the Secretariat to make the necessary efforts to limit spending. Lastly, the Delegation called on States to be guided by a spirit of cooperation in the current meetings that would allow them to reach agreements for improving the work of the Organization.

51. The Delegation of Yemen reaffirmed that it was fully committed to the ongoing processes in order to achieve expected results, taking into account interests of Member States in a balanced and fair manner. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his

detailed and thorough Report on WIPO's achievements, challenges and prospects during the previous biennium. The Secretariat was also commended on its tireless efforts in preparation for the meetings. The Delegation expressed its great appreciation for WIPO's understanding of Yemen's circumstances which hindered the implementation of several planned objectives in the field of IP. Nevertheless, Yemen was pleased to announce that it had celebrated World IP Day by organizing a number of awareness-raising events about WIPO's role. Thanks were also extended to the WIPO Academy for its continuous cooperation. Indeed, a number of IP officials had benefitted from DL courses offered by the Academy which significantly enhanced their capacities, skills and knowledge. With regard to development cooperation and technical assistance, the Yemeni General Department for Intellectual Property Protection, Ministry of Industry and Trade, was in the process of integrating new systems related to industrial property registration expected to become operational by the end of the year. Yemen had long attached great importance to IP as an essential driving factor for economic development and technological advancement. The Delegation was pleased to note the measures taken to mainstream development into WIPO's activities. IP situation in LDCs such as Yemen was underlined, especially the challenges faced in institutional and individual capacity-building, enforcement of rights, IP culture dissemination and integration into development plans. To overcome such challenges, the Delegation hoped that the current embargo on providing equipment to Yemen would soon be lifted. In addition, WIPO's assistance was needed in drafting a National IP Strategy. The Delegation also looked forward to increased participation of specialists, decision- and policy-makers in regional and international events. In conclusion, the Delegation extended its thanks to the WIPO Director General, the Arab Bureau, SPD and the Academy.

52. The Delegation of Argentina supported the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC, and noted that the current series of meetings had to consider various issues crucial to Member States, such as the DLT. In that regard, the work done within the SCT constituted a sufficient basis for considering that the basic proposal had been finalized and that it was possible to move on to the next phase and convene a diplomatic conference to adopt the treaty in the first half of 2017. Another normative issue of importance to Argentina was the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation noted that negotiations on that topic had been ongoing for many years and considered that it would be appropriate to set a firm time frame for prompt conclusion of the proceedings. It further hoped that progress could be made with regard to exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives, educational institutions and persons with visual and other disabilities. Argentina attached great importance to a balanced IP system and, therefore, reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of the DA. It was confident that the discussion on the independent assessment of the application of DA Recommendations would provide more cogent reasons for mainstreaming development issues into WIPO activities. With regard to training, the Delegation underscored the important role that the WIPO Academy played in training human resources from Latin American and Caribbean countries through the regional Master's degree program in IP jointly offered by WIPO and the Universidad Austral of Buenos Aires. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for supporting that activity, which it hoped would continue in the future. It welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty on September 30, 2016, which was a milestone not only for WIPO but also for millions of visually-impaired persons who would have easier access to books. It was crucial to effectively apply the Treaty and achieve its goals, and Argentina was prepared to contribute to that process. In conclusion, the Delegation thanked WIPO for its assistance with various activities, in particular the process of analyzing and evaluating the PCT, to which Argentina hoped to accede in the very near future. It also expressed the hope that cooperation could be strengthened and broadened in future so that IP would become a tool for promoting Argentina's economic development.

53. The Delegation of Portugal aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, and raised a number of generic considerations regarding the Lisbon System. Following the mandate granted by the previous Assemblies, Portugal welcomed the progress made in the last few months by the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon Union. The Delegation highlighted the willingness of members of the Lisbon System to seek solutions that would uphold the principles of solidarity and equal treatment for all industrial and IPRs, thereby addressing the deficit in the Lisbon System in the short and long term. From a financial perspective, it was important to bear in mind that the Lisbon System deficit was residual, having regard to WIPO's overall budget, especially given that WIPO's accounts posted a very healthy surplus. Portugal welcomed the excellent financial results of 2015 during which WIPO achieved a surplus of 33.3 million Swiss francs. The Members of the Lisbon System had taken concrete measures to address the deficit and had agreed at their most recent Assembly to increase the threshold of contributions and again review them in future. As a member of the Lisbon System, Portugal would naturally continue to shoulder its responsibilities in implementing solutions adopted by the Lisbon Assembly to correct the deficit during the 2016-2017 biennium and improve the financial health of the Lisbon System. Portugal would participate actively in mechanisms seeking to promote the use of the system, which was global and open to any country, and would contribute to its smooth functioning and financial sustainability. The Delegation further emphasized the importance of the system to business people, SMEs and the regions, in addition to its role in guaranteeing the use of appellations of origin, which were closely linked the historical and cultural heritage of territories.

54. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates recalled that the United Arab Emirates had achieved substantive progress in developing its IP system within a more comprehensive development process defined in "UAE Vision 2021" that called for the establishment of a sustainable and highly-productive knowledge economy. The directives were clear in that regard: establish the role of innovation and make it a driving factor for sustainable socio-economic development. Such directives were anchored in a deep belief that innovation was essential to increase business attractiveness and attract foreign investments. Indeed, the United Arab Emirates had been in the vanguard of countries that took important and tailored measures to protect IP. It was among the first countries to ratify various WIPO-administered treaties, drafting its laws and regulations in accordance with the application requirements of such treaties. The most recent one was the Marrakesh Treaty aimed at ending the "book famine" and building a more accessible world for disabled persons. In addition, the Government had signed a series of MoUs and Agreements with a number of governments and global expertise hubs in order to scale-up cooperation in the field of innovation and IP. Work was underway on developing the legislative framework, knowledge and expertise sharing and providing technical and technological support areas. Such IP protection policies and initiatives resulted in outstanding results which further established its pioneer position in that field. Indeed, several initiatives were undertaken – namely the International Center for Registration of Patents (ICRP) established according to the highest standards to represent, once completed, a substantive body stimulating innovators and creators and strengthening innovation's socio-economic role. The United Arab Emirates also maintained close cooperation with WIPO in developing and defining mechanisms related to IP services, putting the country on track towards complete smart transformation. Such efforts were made under the overall integrated framework of activities adopted by the United Arab Emirates to lay down the foundations of a knowledge economy and enhance its global diversity and competitiveness. Moreover, achievements were reflected in many reports and global indicators as illustrated by the United Arab Emirates becoming the top Arab country in the GII rankings, moving up six places to the 41st worldwide. In addition, the United Arab Emirates took the top spot among Arab countries

ranking 16th on the GCI. Such achievements were brought about by United Arab Emirates' initiatives in the field of IP. In conclusion, the Delegation expressed its firm belief that WIPO's critical role and cooperation during meetings would further improve United Arab Emirates' IP landscape, leading to overall economic and societal benefits to the country.

55. The Delegation of Thailand aligned itself with the statements by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of ASEAN. It was necessary to seek convergence on pending issues and find the political will to make progress in the various norm-setting activities in which WIPO was engaged. Thailand supported constructive discussions on mechanisms for the protection of GRs, TK, and TCEs under the IGC and hoped that effective protection would be instituted in good time. Certain issues arising in the draft DLT, including technical assistance and disclosure requirements, required further consideration. IP and innovation played a significant role in economic, social and cultural development. It was essential to have an IP system that appropriately balanced the rights of IP owners and public interests. Thailand was enthusiastic in taking part in WIPO's activities to achieve such a balance, taking into account the importance of mainstreaming the DA in WIPO's activities. Thailand appreciated the work done by the previous Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Assembly on the review of the OIOS report and fully respected their decisions and recommendations. The 2015 General Assembly had decided that priority should be given to Africa in the establishment of WIPO External Offices during the 2016-2017 biennium. The Guiding Principles regarding WIPO External Offices directed Member States to give due consideration to developmental aspects, regions without external offices and the location of users of WIPO premier global IP services. The Delegation expressed the belief that all these considerations would guide Member States in making an appropriate decision leading to a positive outcome that would be acceptable to all. There had been positive developments in IP in Thailand. The trademark law had been amended to prepare for accession to the Madrid Protocol. Thailand also intended to join The Hague Agreement in the near future and was exploring the possibility of joining the Marrakesh Treaty. The Government of Thailand recognized the importance of an efficient and dynamic national IP regime and had developed an IP roadmap to support innovation and creativity, in order to strengthen the protection and enforcement of IPRs and to promote IP utilization and commercialization. All of these developments reflected the importance of IP in the national policies of Thailand, which sought to establish a value-based and innovation-driven economy.

56. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took note of the efforts that WIPO had made to strengthen the IP system and the protection of IPRs in the era of the knowledge-based economy. The early entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty was encouraging, as was progress in drafting the DLT. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was satisfied that decisions taken at the 55th series of meetings of the Assemblies regarding financial stability and the operations of the Lisbon Union were being implemented. In the view of that country, the work of WIPO should focus on protecting IPRs in order to address global challenges through the use of science and technology. The IP system should be grounded in impartiality, ethics and morality; it should ensure that the rights of scientists and research staff are protected, and that science and technology contribute to the well-being of humankind. The Delegation emphasized how important it was for WIPO to offer assistance to developing countries in building governmental IP frameworks and in strengthening their capacity to protect IPRs through the design and implementation of national strategies. The Delegation supported the proposal to convene a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the DLT—which should include a provision on technical cooperation. Organizational efficiency must be enhanced and the granting of assistance must be depoliticized. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had put forward the Five-Year Strategy for National Economic Development (2016-2020), which

was aimed at laying a solid foundation for the national economy. Science and technology, with the protection of IPRs, should play a pivotal role in achieving the goals of that Strategy. The validity and vitality of national science and technology policy had been demonstrated by the launch, in February 2016, of earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong-4, which had been manufactured domestically. Such satellite launches would continue in future. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea encouraged intellectual and creative activities that responded to the requirements of a knowledge-based economy. In that regard, the national strategy for IPR protection was implemented in close cooperation with WIPO through regular updates and improvements. In 2016, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had ratified or acceded to four WIPO treaties, including the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation reaffirmed its readiness to further improve national protections for IPRs and to consolidate international cooperation to that end.

57. The Delegation of Chad said that it fully supported the statement and recommendations made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. It thanked WIPO yet again for its praiseworthy efforts to promote development on the continent of Africa, and above all for seeking to make up for the lag in the area of IP. Congratulating the two Chairs for their reports and for the recommendations that had arisen from the final report of the OIOS, the Delegation of Chad said that, since there had been no fault or irregularity on the part of the Director General, it was time to close the matter and avoid damage to the reputation of WIPO. Lastly, the Delegation requested that the choice of Algeria and Nigeria as hosts for the two external offices in Africa should be confirmed by the Assemblies.

58. The Delegation of Lebanon expressed appreciation to the various WIPO Sectors and Departments for their efforts in developing the IP landscape in Lebanon. It thanked the Director General for the attention he always paid to Lebanon's needs. It recalled the official visit of the Director General to Beirut, Lebanon, in 2009 and its lasting impact. For Lebanon, 2016 was a special year marked by the resumption of WIPO's activities in Beirut after more than two years. Hence, the country was keen to fully engage in all WIPO's initiatives. The Delegation recalled that the country benefitted from several capacity-building and technical-assistance projects, in particular upgrading the IP Office of Lebanon. It looked forward to further cooperation with WIPO on upcoming projects aimed at raising awareness and mainstreaming of IP topics in the main relevant sectors, namely universities, research centers and the Institute of Judicial Studies; as well as officials, including judges, inspectors, etc. Lebanon also planned to develop its National IP Strategy, to draft new legislation and update existing ones related to geographical indications, industrial designs, literary and artistic property well as non-traditional types of marks together with relevant national support mechanisms. In this regard, Lebanon would count on the continuous support of WIPO. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to all staff members for their preparatory work and the Director General for the quality of the documents which reflected the results of implemented activities during the past biennium. Lebanon looked forward to WIPO's activities in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda given its great impact on filling the economic gap among countries. It hoped that Member States would reach a consensus regarding the way to move forward, leading eventually to the convening of a diplomatic conference to conclude a DLT and the preparation of an international legal binding instrument for the protection of GRs, TKs and TCEs which are critical for Lebanon. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty and announced that its country will prepare for accession as soon as possible. It commended the hard work done by the regional groups in order to establish new WIPO External Offices taking into consideration the principle of geographical balance. Furthermore, Lebanon had followed closely the investigation into WIPO's governance and transparency, reviewed the related documents, especially the Coordination Committee Report, where no evidence on the

Director General's alleged violations were to be found. Thus, it believed that the matter did not warrant any further investigation. In conclusion, the Delegation supported the recommendations made by the WIPO General Assembly and the Coordination Committee Chairs and aligned itself with other Member States in calling for the closure of the matter, in order to safeguard the integrity of the Organization and focus on the critical issues at hand.

59. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed the hope that joint efforts and a desire to balance the interests of Member States would yield positive results for the development of international cooperation in the field of IP. The Delegation recalled some of the achievements of the previous year. Despite economic difficulties, the number of examinations of inventions had increased by 17 per cent compared to 2015, while examinations of trademarks had increased by 10 per cent. In addition, in the first half of 2016, an increase had been recorded in the electronic filing of applications for patents of inventions and utility models and the registration of trademarks. A number of important proposals had been submitted for discussion regarding the procedures for establishing the legal protection of industrial property. They included a proposal to establish an opposition procedure for trademark applications and introduce in the legal framework preliminary applications and licensing at the application stage, in order to improve the performance of academic institutions. An important event for the Russian IP office, Rospatent, had been the establishment of the Quality Council, which was intended to provide an objective and independent evaluation of the comprehensiveness and quality of services. Discussions were being held on the development of an institute of patent attorneys, with a view to providing greater self-regulation and establishing quality standards overseen by the professional community. An important event that had taken place in the Russian Federation on June 20 to 22, 2016, was the meeting of the heads of the IP offices of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). The Delegation noted in particular that, in May 2016, the Director General Mr. Francis Gurry had spoken at the Sixth Saint Petersburg International Legal Forum, where he had participated in a discussion on the development of the institutional environment of IP. In addition to its main activities, Rospatent had been preparing for its role as sole regulator in the field of IP. The Delegation noted the successful cooperation with the WIPO Russia Office (WRO), including on awareness-raising. In that connection, a network of more than 130 TISCs had been established. The WRO regularly held events aimed at developing the IP system in the context of making progress on global registration services for the educational and research institutions of the Russian Federation. The Government of the Russian Federation supported those efforts. Discussion of the strategic direction of the work of the WRO was ongoing, including on the key issue of cooperation to draft a National IP Strategy. The Delegation noted that, during the Assemblies, a broad range of issues related to WIPO's activities would be addressed. It welcomed WIPO's stable financial position: the biennium had ended with a surplus of 70.2 million Swiss francs. It also drew attention to staff costs, which comprised 62 per cent of total budgetary expenditure and which had grown in comparison to the previous biennium. The Secretariat should continue working to curb that expenditure, while taking into account the recommendations of the oversight bodies. The Delegation had carefully studied the recommendations of the UN OIOS and the conclusions contained in its report. In the view of the Delegation, the investigation had been conducted properly and the outcome was clear and definitive. It considered the matter closed. The Delegation called on all Member States to conclude work on the draft DLT as soon as possible. It supported the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the treaty in 2017. Stimulating the economy of the Russian Federation would require more active participation in global IP protection systems. The accession of the Russian Federation to the Hague System was currently under consideration. In the interests of convergence in Member States' approaches to the unresolved aspects of the draft DLT, the Delegation proposed the inclusion in the treaty of a provision on offering technical assistance to developing countries, in order to facilitate their

effective implementation of the treaty. The Delegation was prepared for constructive work during the current session of the Assemblies and would make every effort to achieve positive results.

60. The Delegation of Belarus welcomed the opening of the 56th series of meetings of the WIPO Assemblies and expressed the hope that, under the guidance of the Chair of the General Assembly, Member States would be able to make progress on many agenda items. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Tajikistan, on behalf of the CACEEC Group, and said that it wished to elaborate on a number of points concerning Belarus. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the results of the productive work of all WIPO working committees. It supported the intensification of work in the SCCR, in particular on the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation called on Member States to finalize and conclude the DLT as soon as possible. Belarus recognized the importance of the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties and was therefore working on accession to those treaties. The President of Belarus had signed a law on accession to the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) that would enter into force in October 2016; work to implement it in national legislation was underway. With the support of WIPO's Patents and Technology Sector, efforts were being made to establish a network of TISCs in Belarus. An agreement between the National Center of Intellectual Property and WIPO was scheduled for signature during the current session of the Assemblies. The Delegation welcomed the Organization's efforts to implement the DA Recommendations and related principles in its work. It noted with regret that the region to which Belarus belonged remained underrepresented at WIPO. In that connection, it appealed to the Secretariat to uphold the principle of regional balance when recruiting staff. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the preparation of the OIOS report, and its support for efforts to review WIPO procedures in the interests of ensuring greater transparency in future. The Delegation also expressed the opinion that further politicization of that issue would undermine the Organization's public image and divert time from substantive agenda items directly concerning the Organization's activities. Furthermore, it took the view that the established procedure had been observed in full and that there was no need to prolong discussion. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its support in organizing national and regional seminars on different aspects of IP, and in particular the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its constructive and fruitful work to effectively implement projects and programs for the region to which Belarus belonged. The Delegation hoped for success in forthcoming work.

61. The Delegation of Benin aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. The Delegation hoped that before the close of the Assemblies fruitful discussions would be held with a view to strengthening the role and activities of WIPO with regard to the promotion of IP innovation, technology, social and economic growth and sustainable development. The report provided by the Director-General indicated that many activities, initiatives, projects and programs had been developed and carried out, some of them designed to benefit the LDCs—one of which was Benin. In the view of the Delegation, the purpose of those projects could be substantially summarized as follows: strengthening the human, institutional, national and regional capacity to promote IP as a development tool and encouraging research and innovation to support sustainable development. The Delegation wished to highlight the importance of the principal orientations and strategies set forth in the MTSP for WIPO for 2016-2021. It appreciated the connection between the needs of developing countries, and in particular the LDCs, and the areas of cooperation covered by WIPO. All those areas of cooperation contributed substantially to the value of the cooperation for development between WIPO and Benin, and enabled that country to strengthen its ability to make effective use of the IP system for development purposes. With regard to the draft treaty on industrial models and designs, the Delegation reiterated its full

support for the calling of a diplomatic conference and reaffirmed its hope that the technical assistance and capacity-building facets of that treaty would be duly considered, taking into account the development level of the LDCs, the constraints they faced, and the assistance they would need to implement the treaty once it was finalized and adopted. Benin wished to thank all of its technical and financial partners that had supported initiatives devoted to enhancing development and improving living conditions. In that regard, the Delegation gave special thanks to the Government of Sweden for its generous contribution within the framework of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs, and in particular its IP training program for those countries. Benin also emphasized the need to hasten the completion of the two WIPO External Offices in Africa. That country was certain that the prompt launching of those offices—in Algeria and Nigeria—would usher the multilateral system for the promotion of IP into African countries and regions, offering them greater encouragement and support. Innovation, after all, created opportunity in all fields and sectors. In conclusion, the Delegation expressed its support for the recommendation of the Coordination Committee that the investigation by the external auditors into the handling of the 2015 WIPO accounts should be halted.

62. The Delegation of Sudan aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. The Delegation commended the Director General and Secretariat on their efforts in preparation for the meetings which it hoped would yield fruitful results. Undoubtedly, social development is built on the backs and minds of individuals striving for a better social, economic and cultural life. Indeed, intellect and body form a whole that is essential for social development hence the importance of IP for developing countries and LDCs. To that end, Sudan attached great importance to IP which was enshrined in its legal framework – namely the 1998 Constitution, 2005 Interim Constitution, 1969 Trademark Law, 1971 Patent Law and 1974 Industrial Designs law as well as many IP-related rules and regulations. Sudan had also been cooperating with WIPO, under established development plans in 2013, to update its existing legal framework in line with regional and international treaties, benefitting from WIPO's technical assistance and capacity-building programs in developing its IP system. In order to promote IP culture and ensure the enforcement of IP legislation, Sudan had established the Sudanese Court of Intellectual Property in Khartoum, as the first specialized court of its kind in the Arab region. Many cases had been settled by the court constituting fundamental case law. In addition, the Delegation noted the establishment of a Specialized Prosecution Authority for IP infringement cases, as well as the creation of a Specialized Police Department for cases involving literary and artistic works. All these bodies were contributing to the effective enforcement of IP legislation. It was recalled that geographical indications were important identifiers of the origin of agricultural and industrial products, indicating their unique characteristics and qualities. Indeed, these are the result of human activity specific to places of origin, such as industrial skills acquired in a given place, or the fruit of a combination of natural factors. Sudan was proud to be home to abundant *sui generis* agricultural and animal products – namely cotton, hibiscus, sesame, Gum Arabic, Hamari and local sheep. Moreover, Sudan was the home of the *Banu Kinanah* tribe. As such, great efforts were undertaken to protect Sudan's wealth on the regional and international levels. The Delegation indicated that a national project was set up to protect plant and animal GRs. As a further illustration of Sudan's commitment to IP, work was underway to join WTO by 2017 and already resulted in economic growth and the promotion of the IP system across the country. In addition, the Government's political support and commitment have triggered a marked increase in registrations in all areas of intellectual and industrial property. Trademarks, industrial designs and patents registrations showed a sharp increase, with the first almost doubling. Furthermore, the Delegation was pleased to mention that the country had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty and welcomed its entry into force on September 30, 2016. In conclusion, thanks and appreciation were

expressed to WIPO in general and the Arab Bureau, and the Secretariat, in particular, for their help in providing technical assistance and capacity-building activities in various areas of IP.

63. The Delegation of Gabon aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and wished to make a few additional remarks related to Gabon. The Delegation was pleased that Member States had overcome their differences with regard to certain items on the WIPO agenda, allowing the Organization to carry on debates under way in the committees during the current year—and in particular the CWS. It was satisfied, as well, with the conclusions of the 56th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, which had made significant strides, permitting WIPO to better promote IP as a catalyst of innovation and development, and to assist countries in understanding the concept of IP as a source for comprehensive development. In the view of Gabon, the conclusions of the 56th series of meetings, which chose Africa as the host for two new external offices to be launched in the current biennium, represented a powerful achievement that reinforced the role of WIPO in the promotion of IP. Gabon hoped that the decision of the African Group to install the offices in Algeria and Nigeria would be fulfilled within the given time frame. In the view of that country, it was urgent that shared solutions should be found to the common challenges facing all countries, largely as a result of globalization. The Delegation affirmed that, as a stakeholder in the UN system, WIPO had a part to play in achieving the SDGs. In the current multilateral context, which was marked by the globalization of economic, social, health and other challenges, solidarity was not so much an option as an ethical imperative. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, and encouraged WIPO to seek alternative ways of advancing its mission to establish standards to confront the challenges of the day. As for the IGC, the Delegation felt that discussions on the draft text had reached a satisfactory level of convergence; it called on countries to show goodwill in overcoming obstacles arising from principles. It hoped that strong recommendations would arise from the meetings with a view to galvanizing the debate on improving standards, in particular on draft agreements relating to the IGC, the DLT, the protection of broadcasting organizations and the PCT. According to Gabon, the disclosure requirement that its country espoused was a guarantee of fairness that was wholly compatible with WIPO objectives. The Delegation was therefore glad that strengthening development cooperation was among the goals of the Director General's MTSP for the coming six years, and supported the vision he set forth in that plan, while at the same time encouraging him to strengthen activities for SMEs and to support the research centers of developing countries—in particular to guarantee transfer of technologies. The Delegation also said that Gabon hoped to adopt a national IP development plan, and planned to launch related events in the coming months, under a joint agreement with the competent WIPO Departments. In conclusion, the Delegation thanked WIPO for its assistance in revitalizing the Gabonese copyright office, and reiterated its confidence in the Director General's tireless efforts to cultivate an appreciation of IP among users.

64. The Delegation of Peru aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Chile on behalf of GRULAC. It thanked WIPO for its essential technical and financial support to Peru, which had accordingly grown to be a valuable partner in the region, through the joint organization of regional events to disseminate and increase awareness of IP, its limitations and its challenges in Latin America. The National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property (INDECOP) had played a key role in that respect. Peru's contribution could also be seen in the WIPO bodies which the country chaired thanks to the support of Member States, such as the CDIP, the SCCR and the Coordination Committee. The role that Peru played on those committees reflected its commitment and desire to make an effective contribution to the international system. Reiterating its country's commitment to the work of those bodies, the Delegation further noted that regarding the normative agenda,

it attached great importance to the negotiations conducted within the IGC. In 2016, two IGC meetings had been held at which significant technical progress had been made. Accordingly, a list had been drawn up of pending issues on which a policy decision should be taken in 2017. The Delegation stressed the need for WIPO and its Member States to continue to deliver tangible outcomes. In that respect, more work was required to advance the technical progress made in the texts on TK and TCEs, with a view to taking a policy decision in 2017 that was consistent with the existing mandate. The Delegation underscored the strengthening of the Lisbon System, which ensured effective protection of appellations of origin. That essential tool contributed to the inclusive development of countries and offered them an opportunity by effectively improving the living conditions of their inhabitants. The Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. Latin America and the Caribbean, and in particular Peru, had played a key role in the negotiations on that instrument, which reflected not only the possibility of arriving at agreements in WIPO but also the practical value of such agreements. In the Delegation's view, that was the spirit which should guide the international agreements being negotiated at WIPO and on which the consolidation of WIPO's normative agenda depended. The Delegation urged those Member States which had not yet ratified the Treaty to do so. In conclusion, it emphasized the need for further reflection, within WIPO, on the Organization's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, especially those related to its work. Accordingly, the Delegation underscored the importance of developing a mechanism to ensure effective follow-up of actions taken to achieve the SDGs.

65. The Delegation of Oman extended its thanks to the Director General and his team for their preparatory work for the Assemblies and their continuous collaboration with the country in promoting the IP sector. Oman was in the process of implementing IP-related programs as part of its National Innovation Strategy. In that regard, the Delegation thanked WIPO for choosing Oman as one of the pilot countries for teaching IP to young students. Furthermore, necessary tools were put in place to help countries develop their own curricula and strategies in that area. Oman looked forward to the continuing cooperation of the Organization in implementing its outstanding programs in a timely manner. The Director General was also commended for his Report to the Assemblies, reflecting WIPO's achievements and challenges. Moreover, the need to safeguard IPRs for development was underlined. In that regard, the Delegation highlighted the importance of implementing DA Recommendations for the benefit of developing countries given that they formed an integral part of WIPO's mandate. The need to offer adequate technical assistance to developing countries was also emphasized should a DLT be adopted. With regard to external offices, the Delegation looked forward to the General Assembly decision on that matter, taking into account the accepted Guiding Principles. In that spirit, Oman supported Algeria's proposal to host one of such external offices during the following biennium. Finally, the relevant Chairs were praised for the transparency of the OIOS report and it was hoped that the matter would be closed so Member States could focus on the more urgent negotiations and processes. In conclusion, the Delegation expressed appreciation to the Arab Bureau for providing Arab countries with technical assistance in cooperation with WIPO's relevant sectors.

66. The Delegation of Romania, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, as well as with the statement presented by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, reaffirmed its commitment to the development of the IP system and to the furtherance of the WIPO agenda. Romania took note of the entry into force of the Marrakech Treaty, and hoped that the international IP framework would continue to ensure an ideal balance between the interests of rights holders and those of the general public. That country attached great importance to the work of the SCT and hoped that a consensus would be reached for the holding of a diplomatic conference in the coming year with a view to adopting

a treaty in the area of industrial design. Simplifying and harmonizing formalities for the registration of industrial designs would profit both applicants and national IP offices. With respect to the work of the SCP, the Delegation warmly thanked all Member States of WIPO for the cooperation and support they had provided to Romania when it chaired that committee and welcomed the agreement reached in the 24th session on its future work. With regard to the work of the IGC, Romania recognized the importance of both GRs and TK. Enhancing the transparency of the patent system should be seen as a political objective, and within that scope, the request for disclosure of the origin or genetic source may be acceptable (on the understanding that such a disclosure request would be limited to patents). With respect to the SCCR, Romania was greatly interested in the holding of a diplomatic conference to prepare a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations that would be fully adapted to the technological realities of the 21st century. It also encouraged a dialogue on the exchange of best practices related to limitations and exceptions, and was open to exploring new topics. Romania was also closely following the debate underway in the ACE and reaffirmed its commitment to combating counterfeiting and piracy. In the current year, Romania had offered to launch a WIPO External Office in Bucharest during the 2016-2017 biennium, with a view to boosting the development of the IP system in the sub-region and to promoting WIPO services, and taking into account the strong connection between IP and economic, social and cultural development. In the view of Romania, any decision on that matter should be based on the need for a balanced geographical redistribution of the external offices, as stated in the Guiding Principles agreed on by all Member States at the previous meeting of the WIPO General Assembly. Romania sought to raise awareness among the younger generation of the importance of respecting and protecting IPRs, and had accordingly introduced an optional course on IP into the national high school curricula. The Delegation thanked WIPO for the support it had given to that initiative; and reiterated the commitment of Romania to working alongside WIPO in the area of education.

67. The Delegation of Djibouti fully supported the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and urged Member States to promote IP in all countries, and particularly in Africa and the LDCs. Djibouti supported WIPO activities to foster the transfer of technology and increase the benefits of innovation and creativity. On June 23, 2016, Djibouti became the 150th Contracting Party to accede to the PCT that entered into force on September 23, 2016. Its accession demonstrated the existence of political will at the highest level to make IP a national development priority. The Delegation deemed it vital to open Africa's two WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria without delay. The Offices would play a central role in promoting and developing IP in Africa. It was essential to demystify this issue that was highly crucial to the continent's economies, growth and development. Given its rich biodiversity, Djibouti had placed TK associated with GRs at the heart of its socio-economic development strategy. In that regard, the Delegation expressed its unconditional support for the African Group proposals on GRs, TK and folklore. Djibouti had benefited from many concrete technical assistance actions, particularly in the form of capacity-building, the imminent creation of TISCs and the formulation of a national IP strategy.

68. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire supported the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. Côte d'Ivoire was committed to transforming IP into a development tool. Its 2016-2020 national development plan intentionally included and promoted the strategic use of IP. Accordingly, the National Intellectual Property Office had conducted promotion and awareness-raising campaigns nationwide while implementing the national project on geographical indications and collective marks. Furthermore, the National Anti-counterfeiting Committee had also implemented large-scale actions, mainly targeting counterfeit medicines and textiles. As regards literary and artistic property, a new law on copyright and related rights had been enacted. That law included relevant provisions from

the most recent IP conventions, particularly the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties that came into force on September 30, 2016. The ratification process for both treaties was under way. As regards collective management, reform of the National Copyright Office with WIPO support was beginning to bear fruit, mainly in terms of a significant improvement in the collection of royalties in recent years. Côte d'Ivoire appreciated its inclusion in phase two of the project to strengthen and develop the audiovisual sector in Burkina Faso and other African countries. It was grateful to WIPO management and the Secretariat for such exemplary cooperation. The country welcomed the significant progress achieved by WIPO in recent years and hoped that this effort would continue in the interest of all stakeholders, including Member States and the staff. Accordingly, without wishing to preempt the outcome of the report from the OIOS, Côte d'Ivoire urged all delegations to adopt an attitude of compromise and constructive dialogue in order to close the matter by the end of the Assemblies. The Delegation concluded by raising two pending issues for consideration by Member States. The first issue related to GRs, TK and TCEs for which there was no consensual text, despite some significant advances. The second issue was external offices on which the principle of assigning two offices to Africa as a matter of priority had been challenged by a lack of consensus and good faith. The Delegation was convinced that the resolve to achieve satisfactory results and a spirit of compromise would prevail and smooth out any disagreements during the two-week discussions.

69. The Delegation of Italy aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, and pointed out that WIPO's mandate involves the promotion of economic, social and cultural development in all Member States through a global and effective international IP system. That included the Lisbon System, which protected Appellations of Origin under the Lisbon Agreement and, once the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement adopted in May 2015 has entered into force, the broader category of geographical indications. The Lisbon System and the Geneva Act would greatly benefit not only developed countries but also developing countries and LDCs in line with the DA, particularly SMEs and rural producers and populations. Related investment would reduce poverty by increasing shares of international trade and improving income distribution among different regions in line with sustainable development principles and the UN SDGs. The Delegation emphasized the need for the effective and focused promotion within WIPO of the overall Lisbon System, including the Geneva Act, with a view to attracting new Contracting Parties, in which regard Italy, while supporting WIPO's efforts to increase transparency, favored the long-standing principle of financial solidarity among Unions and believed that the Lisbon Union should be placed on an equal footing with other WIPO Unions. The flexibility of the current budget made WIPO's policies more efficient by allocating costs and resources among unions in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity, enabling more balanced and effective IP development. Regarding the opening of WIPO External Offices, the Delegation expressed its confidence in the ability of the General Assembly to appropriately implement the important decision on the Guiding Principles adopted in 2015 in line with the strategic goal to secure as broad a geographical distribution as possible. Concerning the normative agenda, the Delegation supported the harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration through the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty in 2017. The Delegation also encouraged the continuation of discussions on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations to achieve meaningful solutions consistent with the current technological environment. Finally, Italy acknowledged the importance of the new mandate of the IGC as an opportunity to restore a cooperative spirit among Members and establish a common understanding of core issues while preserving a secure IP legal framework that stimulated innovation and creativity.

70. The Delegation of Bangladesh aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of India on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs Group. Bangladesh was aware that WIPO, as the global IP institution, was serving as a catalyst in developing a worldwide IP system, with special attention to the LDCs. In January 2015, a Service Level Agreement was signed between WIPO and the Department of Patent Design and Trademarks (DPDT). In pursuance of that agreement, the DPDT had established two TISCs. Khulna University of Engineering and Technology had introduced an Innovation and Innovator Cell (IIC) for developing technology transfer and innovation management of science, technology and innovation, IP development and its commercialization and industrialization. Bangladesh was currently amending and updating its IP laws and had already implemented a project on the IPAS, for the management of IP applications, in collaboration with WIPO. A short course on IP at the Bangladesh Institute of Management had been introduced with the assistance of WIPO. Bangladesh was planning to join the PCT and Madrid Protocol and the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for helping to prepare draft IP policies which followed the national IP roadmap provided by WIPO. Bangladesh hoped to see substantive development in the negotiations toward legally binding instruments for GRs, TK and folklore as well as an article on technical assistance and capacity-building in the DLT. Development expenditure should not be stalled or reduced over disagreement on issues to which LDCs were not party. Bangladesh would support an agreement on broadcasting unions on a traditional signal-based approach. The Istanbul Ministerial Declaration of 2011 had identified specific priorities where Bangladesh encouraged WIPO to continue its focus on IP-related technical cooperation for LDCs.

71. The Delegation of Ghana aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. Ghana continued to support the activities undertaken by WIPO as part of its norm-setting agenda and acknowledged its unique role in promoting the protection of IP worldwide. Regarding the drive towards social economic development, Ghana stressed the importance of the knowledge economy, as well as TK and GRs. It had launched a national IP policy in January 2016 as a testament to that importance. The policy aimed to harness potential for innovation and creativity at the national level and to enable the public sector to provide effective and efficient services to users of the IP system in order to promote creativity and competitiveness. The IP Division of the Registrar General's Department had made significant strides in its efforts to provide an enabling environment for a robust IP system. Those efforts had produced results, as evidenced by the increasing number of applications for registration, especially in the area of trademarks and trade names. In that respect, Ghana appreciated WIPO's commitment, as manifested by the establishment of TISCs in Member States. Ghana had benefited from that initiative and had identified key areas at the national level that could also benefit from the program. It was looking forward to signing a service level agreement with WIPO to initiate the program and hoped to collaborate with WIPO in the improvement of its IP system by implementing activities identified under the WIPO Ghana IP Development Plan and the national IP policy. Ghana welcomed specific initiatives to address its capacity development needs and to improve its performance at the national level. There had been progress in the IGC and in the norm-setting for an international instrument to govern TK and GRs; Ghana hoped that the outstanding issues would be resolved in a manner that would ultimately serve the interests of all concerned. Ghana continued to follow with keen interest the ongoing discussions on the proposed DLT and the efforts of the SCT in order to bridge the differences among Member States and to create the necessary conditions for the convening of a diplomatic conference in 2017. Ghana hoped that the SCT in its ongoing discussions would address the issue in the interests of all Member States. Ghana also expressed its profound appreciation to Member States for extended technical cooperation activities in the area of IP. The Delegation was particularly grateful for the support received from the Government of Switzerland under the

Swiss/Ghana IP project. Phase Two of that project had been implemented by the Swiss IP Institute and the relevant ministries, departments and agencies.

72. The Delegation of Zimbabwe aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, took note of the Director General's report and underscored the need to consider WIPO's future normative agenda and sustainable framework for IP development that benefits all. Since the 2015 Assemblies, Zimbabwe had domesticated the provisions of the Madrid Protocol, thus giving legal certainty to users who registered their marks in the country. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its technical support during that process. Zimbabwe's national IP policy and strategy, developed with WIPO assistance and technical cooperation, would be launched in early 2017. Zimbabwe had benefited immensely from WIPO training programs offered in conjunction with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). These programs had built the capacity of Zimbabwe and other African States in the area of IP. WIPO's work in the field of TK, GRs and folklore required commitment from all Member States. The Delegation commended the IGC for managing to reconvene in 2016 to find ways of reaching a consensus to propose international legal instruments and hoped that the process would yield positive results for all WIPO Member States. Zimbabwe continued to value the normative processes of the various committees and hoped that all delegations would continue their positive engagement with a view to ensuring that WIPO achieved its mandate and set objectives. The Delegation concluded that Zimbabwe would continue to cooperate with the Secretariat and other Member States to create a more effective IP system at the international level and to build respect for IP for the benefit of the general public and rightholders.

73. The Delegation of Guatemala endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC. It was proud that its country was one of 20 which had secured the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, thereby establishing a tool that would facilitate access to education and culture for persons with visual disabilities. The Delegation paid tribute to WIPO's norm-setting efforts and the establishment of multilateral negotiating fora with a view to drafting and implementing legal instruments that met the needs of Member States. Accordingly, the Delegation urged Member States to pursue, in a positive spirit, the work of the IGC and discussions within the SCCR on exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives and educational and research institutions. It thanked WIPO for its support and cooperation as regards technical capacity-building and project development, as well as ongoing training provided to the National Office of Guatemala and sectors working on IP issues. It looked forward with interest to the continuation of discussions in the ongoing Assemblies and hoped to make a constructive contribution that would facilitate concrete agreements of benefit to millions of people who believed and trusted in IP.

74. The Delegation of France stated that it was convinced that substantial progress would be made in the different items on the agenda of the Assemblies under the leadership of the Chair. The Delegation supported statements made earlier on behalf of Group B and the European Union, and wished to acknowledge and thank the Director General and all WIPO teams that had worked to promote all aspects of IP in the past year—efficiently and in the interests of each Member State. The Delegation also thanked the Secretariat for preparing the vast number of documents that would be considered during the Assemblies. It wished to reiterate, as well, that it attached great importance to the goal of adopting the treaty on models and designs in the next few months. The treaty, whose purpose was to simplify and harmonize the procedures related to models and designs, was nearing completion. The Delegation now felt that there was no longer any justification for further postponing a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting the treaty. A consensus should therefore be reached in the coming days, and a decision made at last. Beyond the matter of models

and designs, the Delegation recognized that it was of fundamental importance to users that each of the IP protection systems should be well operated and administered. Whether the PCT, the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs or the Lisbon System for the International Registration of Appellations of Origin, all WIPO systems and treaties contributed to the objectives of the Organization, as enshrined in the constituent Convention. France was particularly attached to the principle of solidarity that had ensured the successful progress and effective operations of WIPO and its unions for many years. Concerned about the proper management of the Lisbon System, the Delegation applauded the outcome of efforts to ensure budget balance and sustainable funding achieved since recent Assemblies. In that spirit, France was determined to carry on those efforts in the coming days, not solely in the interests of all Member States of the Lisbon Union and States wishing to accede to the Union, but also in the interests of the worldwide users of systems protecting geographical indications. In conclusion, the Delegation undertook to play a role in ensuring the success of the Assemblies.

75. The Delegation of Botswana aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. It welcomed progress in the IGC and anticipated the adoption of a legally binding instrument to protect and benefit communities. The delay in concluding the matter deprived many WIPO constituents of the opportunity to exploit resources for the benefit of their people. The same applied to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights and its work on exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives for educational and research institutions. The Delegation urged Member States to accommodate these issues, given the role they play in education and access to information in developing countries. Accordingly, it encouraged the General Assembly to support the continued work of these bodies. Botswana welcomed progress within the Standing Committee on Patents as regards patents and health, a vital issue for developing countries wishing to improve access to medicine and public health. Progress had also been made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications with regard to the protection against the registration and use of country names as trademarks. On copyright, the Delegation took note of the accessions to and ratifications of the new Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties and announced its own imminent accession to the latter treaty. This would enable Botswana to mainstream the interests of persons living with disabilities into the national agenda. The Delegation welcomed the progress towards the establishment of WIPO External Offices in Africa during the 2016/17 and 2018/19 biennia. Having commemorated its Golden Jubilee barely three days earlier on September 30, 2016, Botswana wished to thank WIPO for its support in developing its national IP system. WIPO was assisting Botswana through the IP model office project for providing online IP services. It had also enabled Botswana to effectively benefit from the Madrid System by sensitizing the business community. Capacity-building on processing international trademarks applications had also been provided. As it transitioned into a knowledge-based economy, Botswana had developed, an IP-policy framework for government-funded research organizations and academic institutions with WIPO support. This would stimulate innovation, improve the institutional management of IP and build bridges with industry. In July 2016, Botswana had hosted a regional workshop organized by WIPO and its partners, where the Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties, WIPO Connect and the TAG of Excellence for Collective Management Organisations were discussed. The outcome for Botswana was an informed decision to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty and greater clarity in the relationship between the copyright office and the collective management organization.

76. The Delegation of Georgia hoped that the meeting would be successful and achieve tangible results, especially regarding the adoption of the DLT, the text of which had already been finalized. In regard to the WIPO External Offices, the Guiding Principles in the previous

General Assembly and the distribution of the WIPO network should be key factors in the decision and priority should be given to the regions without an external office. It was particularly important that a number of interesting projects, particularly those addressing the capacity of different businesses, and various initiatives including the special training sessions for judges, had been initiated. Georgia was in favor of all new initiatives which led to the creation of special platforms with networking possibilities, including the initiative for the creation of a pool of international IP trainers, and the WIPO Academy's efforts to facilitate networking between IP professionals. Georgia attached great importance to the work of the ACE and welcomed its report; that had been of prime concern to various Member States, including Georgia. The Delegation emphasized the importance of elaborating an appropriate legal framework, stating its support for the proposed changes to improve the efficiency of the Assembly. Georgia had taken note of discussions on the report issued by the UN OIOS concerning governance issues at WIPO. It was in favor of resolving those matters in a suitable manner and it welcomed any steps towards improving the transparency of the Organization. Regarding the pressing issue of the deficit of the Lisbon Union, Georgia, together with the Governments of France, the Czech Republic and Italy were prepared to provide financial assistance to ease the existing deficit. Georgia hoped that, through constructive deliberations, solutions would be found for the creation of an appropriate framework which would ensure the sustainability of the system.

77. The Delegation of Bhutan stated that the national IP office was finalizing amendments to the Copyright Act and the Industrial Property Act in a bid to strengthen Bhutan's IP system. These amendments were consistent with international practice and Bhutan hoped to continue improving its administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPR and meet its international obligations. The IP office had also finalized the national IP policy which was awaiting cabinet approval. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for technical assistance in drafting both the amendments and the policy. Bhutan had recently upgraded its IP office from a division to a department, thus giving it access to extra resources to carry out its mandate of protecting and utilizing IP to promote the country's socio-economic development. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's continued role in assisting Member States to use the IP system to develop, protect, enforce and exploit IPR with a view to achieving cultural, social and economic development. In that regard, it welcomed the programs and activities implemented in Bhutan during 2015/2016, such as: technical support in upgrading and maintaining an IPAS; a national workshop on Access to Technology for Innovation and on establishing a TISC Network in Bhutan; training on substantive patent examination using external examination works; a national workshop on TK, TCEs and GRs; and a national workshop on copyright and related rights (CRR). Like many LDCs, Bhutan had not been able to take advantage of IP benefits. Accordingly, the Delegation requested that the continuation of WIPO assistance to LDCs should become one of the priorities in WIPO programs and budget.

78. The Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Tajikistan, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, and it then spoke in greater detail on a number of issues. The Delegation stated that Ukraine welcomes the gains that have been made in the development of a balanced and accessible IP system, and also in facilitating its use through harmonious cooperation among countries and regions. The Delegation expressed the hope that fruitful cooperation would continue within the framework of the PCT, the Singapore Treaty, the Madrid Agreement, and the Madrid Protocol. It also supported the proposal calling for a diplomatic conference to be convened in the near future for the adoption of the DLT. The Delegation was gratified to note the results of the work by all of the committees and working groups and welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Government of Ukraine has begun work towards the country's accession to this Treaty. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the Director General for the confidence shown

within the framework of the PCT, which was reflected in the designation of the Ukrainian Patent Office as an international searching and preliminary examining authority. The Delegation informed the session participants that, with the aim of improving the protection of IPRs, the new Ukrainian Law on the Judicial System provides for the establishment of a Higher Special Court for IP Issues. The Delegation expressed the hope that WIPO will continue in the future to support national IP office in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the interests of establishing an equal partnership among all WIPO Member States. With regard to the OIOS report, the Delegation called on WIPO Member States not to strain the atmosphere within WIPO unnecessarily and to allow the Organization to focus on substantive work within the context of its direct mandate. The Delegation assured WIPO of Ukraine's commitment to the common goals of strengthening the global IP protection system and expressed its full support for efforts aimed at establishing harmonious cooperation among all of the Member States. In conclusion, the Delegation wished everyone success in their work.

79. The Delegation of Rwanda aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. The Director General's report had highlighted both excellent progress in all IP systems and efficient resource management and the Secretariat was to be commended for those results. Turning to the link between IP and development, in the context of the recently adopted SDGs, the Delegation called on all WIPO Member States to promote the role of WIPO and all IP systems in fulfilling the SDGs through dissemination of knowledge and technologies for innovation. The Secretariat should continue its current efforts in technology transfer, while also assisting with the effective use of those resources for innovation. The Delegation expected steady progress in the normative work of WIPO and did not doubt that such progress would be achieved.

80. The Delegation of Hungary, associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. Hungary remained a responsible and active WIPO Member State, contributing to the maintenance and improvement of a balanced and effective international IP system. Hungary fully supported WIPO and the Director General in fulfilling WIPO's mandate and cooperation between WIPO and Hungary had always been excellent. The Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) had had the honor of organizing, jointly with WIPO, the worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications in Budapest in October 2015. It had proved to be a great success and marked Hungary's exceptional cooperation with WIPO: Hungary had been a determined promoter of global protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin for many years. Regarding the budget deficit in the Lisbon System, the Delegation noted the progress made in that respect in the Lisbon Working Group and appreciated the contributions offered by the governments of several Lisbon Union Member States. Hungary remained committed to finding reasonable and balanced solutions in order to establish the long-term financial sustainability of the Lisbon System. However, it was worth emphasizing that WIPO's budgetary principles and programs should be respected, as should financial solidarity and the capacity to pay and cooperate among the different unions. Hungary also wished to underline the importance of an enhanced promotion of the current Lisbon System, including the Geneva Act, with a view to attracting possible new Contracting Parties. Hungary had followed the discussions on the report issued by the UN OIOS relating to the governance issues within WIPO with great interest. The Delegation considered the decisions and recommendations of the Chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee following a review of that report as final and valid. Those decisions needed to be implemented, which meant that the cases contained in the OIOS report were closed, with no need to reopen or renegotiate them or to review the report in various WIPO bodies. At the

same time, Hungary was open to participation in the negotiations that could lead to improving the transparency of specific procedures within WIPO. The Delegation reaffirmed its strong commitment to the adoption of the DLT and regretted that the SCT had been unable to reach decisions on the unresolved issues. The text of the DLT had been finalized and Hungary encouraged Member States to find agreement on convening a diplomatic conference for its adoption. The Delegation recalled that the VPI had been appointed as an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT at the PCT Union Assembly in October 2015 and was pleased to inform the meeting that the VPI had become operational on July 1, 2016, with the participation of the Industrial Property Offices of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The VPI offered favorable and effective options to Central European users for entering into the international patent system and they would therefore benefit from being able to communicate with the PCT in their own language. Hungary considered that those advantages contributed to fostering innovation and creativity and to promoting economic growth and competitiveness in the Central European region. The Delegation hoped that the discussions during the Assemblies would take place in a broad-minded atmosphere.

81. The Delegation of Senegal associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and welcomed the quantitative and qualitative improvements made by the Organization, thanks to the constructive attitude of Member States motivated by the constant strengthening of WIPO's normative and institutional frameworks. Accordingly, the mandate of the IGC had been renewed and the IGC, which had hitherto remained largely dormant, had held two thematic sessions on GRs. Similarly, a decision had been taken to expand WIPO's administrative structure by opening two external offices in Africa, which had been the only continent excluded from the Organization's decentralized network. Furthermore, there had been the satisfactory implementation of the DA, which included several projects such as the strengthening of the audiovisual sector in Burkina Faso and other African countries, including Senegal. In that regard, the Delegation welcomed the decision of the CDIP to carry on with phase two of the project. While such significant progress should indeed be applauded, it was essential to bear in mind the many remaining challenges. The completion of negotiations to open external offices in Africa and the culmination of discussions on a legal instrument governing GRs, TK and folklore remained crucial to the achievement of a more balanced international IP system. Furthermore, optimal implementation of the ambitious DA, which was a benchmark in terms of justice and equity in the IP domain, required that special emphasis be laid on Cluster A (technical assistance and capacity building) and Cluster C (technology transfer, information and communication technologies (ICT) and access to knowledge).

82. The Delegation of Mongolia appreciated the work and achievements of WIPO in updating the global IP infrastructure, which contributed to the development of a more balanced and inclusive global IP system that guarantees the prosperity and the development of all. Mongolia reported the successful implementation of crucial projects with WIPO, such as the establishment and development of TISCs in the country, as well as an information technology cooperation project that had made Mongolian trademarks accessible on the Global Brand Database since August 2016. Mongolia looked forward to the successful continuation of ongoing IT projects that would enhance and speed up the operations of the national IP organization and make it possible to join PATENTSCOPE and the Global Design Database in future. The Delegation thanked WIPO for efficient cooperation and looked forward to future constructive work that would benefit all IP stakeholders in Mongolia. It attached great importance to implementation of the DA which is crucial for closing development gaps and working jointly towards an inclusive and balanced international IP system. Accordingly, the Delegation emphasized the importance of conducting regular reviews and assessment of the overall implementation of the DA Recommendations in all

areas of WIPO's work. WIPO had a key role to play in ensuring the effective implementation of the UN SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Delegation strongly believed in the constructive engagement of Member States in providing appropriate guidance to WIPO on possible SDGs-related activities. Mongolia highly valued the progress made by Member States in recent years under the leadership of WIPO to develop the international IP framework, including the adoption of new treaties and the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation supported continued efforts to advance negotiations on international legal instruments for the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs as well as to convene the diplomatic conference for adoption of the DLT. It hoped that the spirit of multilateralism would drive the process of holding diplomatic conferences in the near future. The Delegation supported the position of the Asia Pacific Group that priority should be given to Africa when establishing WIPO External Offices. However, Mongolia believed that, based on the Guiding Principles, its region deserved to host more WIPO External Offices and supported the proposals submitted by the Republic of Korea, India and Algeria. With regard to the oversight investigation raised in the report of the OIOS, Mongolia considered that this issue should be closed in line with the decisions and the recommendations of the former Chair of the General Assembly and the Chair of the Coordination Committee, in accordance with the WIPO Internal Oversight Charter. The Delegation held the strong belief that closing this matter would serve the greater interest of WIPO and enhance its effective functioning for the benefit of all IP stakeholders.

83. The Delegation of Kenya aligned itself with the views expressed by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and observed that in the current information age, creativity and innovation had driven technological progress; facilitated access to medicine and food; preserved biodiversity; and addressed the many challenges posed by disease, hunger, poverty, unemployment and climate change. Noting the pressing need to ensure consistent growth in productivity and competitiveness, the Delegation recognized that the resulting procompetitive and transparent market was a by-product of an effective IP system characterized by adequate protection and effective enforcement founded on a balanced and appropriate set of collateral policies, as well as legal and institutional frameworks. In this regard, Kenya was grateful to WIPO for helping it to upgrade and maintain its IPAS; digitize its patent and trademark registries; facilitate various copyright and creative industry activities; organize awareness-raising events for the public and policymakers; organize a workshop on IP and branding in Kenya; strengthen its institutional capacity to exploit TK-based assets; provide training and scholarships for IP officers; modernize its IP administration; and participate in numerous international events. It also lauded WIPO's DA which was yielding clear results in Kenya and included critical projects for Africa, such as the development of national IP policies and implementation strategies. The Delegation was also grateful to Japan, South Korea and Australia for working with WIPO to support Africa. Furthermore, the Delegation observed that it was crucial for WIPO members to have a common understanding of the need to achieve effective progress on protecting TK, GRs and TCEs. Kenya had already enacted a law in this regard and was therefore keen to get the wholehearted support of the IGC and all Member States, despite their differences, in order to ensure a speedy conclusion of all pending issues, including patent disclosure and access to GRs, TK and TCEs. Kenya recognized the importance of IP to human endeavor and continually modernized its IP policies and legislation to reflect national, regional and international frameworks and best practices and to address emerging issues such as biotechnology, ICT, food security and counterfeiting. The Kenyan Constitution required the government to support, promote and protect the IPRs of Kenyan citizens. Accordingly, the Trademarks Act was being repealed and the 2001 Industrial Property Act was undergoing amendment. The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with international agencies and through IP offices, had continued to raise public awareness of the role played by IP and innovation in adding value to local products in a global market. Kenya and WIPO were

working together with a view to branding sisal baskets from Taita-Taveta County and identifying opportunities to leverage the market potential of Kisii soapstone through innovation and IPRs. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its continued support to the TISC project, which provided better access to scientific and technical information and helped researchers to overcome technical challenges in developing countries. Accordingly, Kenya was promoting the establishment of TISCs in educational as well as R&D institutions. Recently WIPO had sponsored an audit in Kenya and the Delegation hoped that the report would be of great help to the Organization. The Delegation extended gratitude to WIPO for the positive progress made in physical infrastructure development at the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, particularly the digitization of its registries and training of its staff. In conclusion the Delegation expressed the hope that Kenya would be considered as a potential site for an external office given its location in Africa and its advancements in the area of IP.

84. The Delegation of Cuba said that the Council of State had adopted a policy on the industrial property system and was now carrying out its implementation in accordance with national development goals and public policies. The protection of IP figured in the strategic thrusts of the Cuban economic development model, approved up to the year 2030, which in turn strengthened the institutional development of IP. As for the current series of meeting of the Assemblies, the Delegation considered that the WIPO MTSP for 2016-2021 should mainstream development into all WIPO activities and also guide the work of WIPO with a view to fulfilling the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030. Cuba attached great importance to the work of the IGC during the current biennium, given that, according to its mandate, the IGC had to continue to “expedite its work, with a focus on narrowing existing gaps, with open and full engagement, including text-based negotiations, with the objective of reaching an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to IP which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs.” In that regard, the Delegation observed that Member States must show the necessary political will to continue the work of that body and to arrive at a consensual solution. The WIPO DA was one of the fundamental pillars of the Organization and its Member States, and the results achieved in the application of certain DA Recommendations, through the execution of various projects, represented progress. It was necessary, however, for Member States to initiate a dialogue about IP and development, as part of the third pillar of the CDIP, and to continue using the WIPO ordinary budget for both the effective application of the DA Recommendations and for other cooperation and technical assistance activities, in particular those relating to the Program “Business Solutions for Intellectual Property Offices” and to the IPAS—a tool in use in over 80 countries, constituting a genuine worldwide IP infrastructure. There was also a need to move ahead with research on technology transfers, limitations and exceptions to IPRs, the application of IP flexibilities, and promotion of the public domain, among other topics. The DA had to guarantee a balanced international IP system that harmonized with national development policies. As for the SCCR, the Delegation hoped that its work would lead to tangible results related to exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives, as well as for research and education, and would guarantee access for persons with disabilities to those tools for learning and human development. Similarly, the future work of the SCP should be geared to pursuing research into patents and health, specifically the section on exceptions and limitations, and emphasizing that patents erected barriers to the transfer of technologies. Studies on exceptions and limitations had to address questions related to development and the conditions for its implementation. The Delegation drew attention to the support provided by WIPO, and in particular the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at WIPO headquarters, with the launching of national capacity-building programs for the different social actors in the national IP systems, and with IT infrastructure for the implementation of IPAS (including system updates and the new management tool), which had helped to

achieve better results in institutional management. In conclusion, Cuba said that it supported the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC.

85. The Delegation of Sri Lanka aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and welcomed the important steps taken by the WIPO Secretariat. WIPO had garnered achievements in the normative area, especially the Marrakesh Treaty. Furthermore, there had been developments in WIPO's work and the mainstreaming of the DA. It was also necessary to develop substantive discussions on the larger conceptual framework of development to ensure that IP regimes would contribute to set much store by the work of the IGC and welcomed the renewal of the IGC's mandate. It was to be hoped that the negotiations process would culminate in consensual, legally binding international instrument(s) that would protect and foster the IPRs pertaining to GRs, TK and traditional cultural practices. While there had been progress regarding the draft DLT, further work was still necessary to reflect the different levels of development of Member States. Implementation of the treaty would require augmenting the capacity of States to perform the attendant obligations. Adequate provision for building capacity to meet these obligations would make achieving its desired outcome a more realistic prospect. The progress made regarding the broadcasting treaty was encouraging. A technologically neutral approach should be adopted with regard to the working documents and the protection granted under the treaty should be in line with the mandate with which the SCCR had been vested in 2007. The decision on the new WIPO External Offices for the next biennium should be made in an inclusive, transparent, and consensual manner, in line with the approved Guiding Principles for external offices. Priority should be given to Africa, while giving objective consideration to proposals submitted by members from the Asia and Pacific Group. Sri Lanka had taken note of the report of the OIOS, and recommendations of former Chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee, and believe that the issue of revision of the Internal Oversight Charter and WIPO procurement principles and procedures should be undertaken in an objective manner in order to prevent such incidents in the future. Sri Lanka recognized the significance of IP as an important tool for technological advancement and socio-economic development, which was in line with government policy of orienting the country towards a knowledge and innovation economy. In this context, Sri Lanka wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation for the valuable cooperation extended to the Government of Sri Lanka by WIPO in developing with Sri Lanka and supporting the implementation of a 10-point action plan, which could serve as a model to countries similarly placed. Such cooperation included a steering committee on IP which regularly exchanged views with WIPO officials. Early in 2016, Sri Lanka had been elected for the first time as one of the four pilot countries to participate in the Intellectual Property, Tourism and Culture project of the CDIP. Sri Lanka had launched an Innovation Dashboard to provide a bird's eye view of the country's innovation ecosystem and WIPO would assist with its further development. Another WIPO mission had travelled to Sri Lanka in June 2016 to provide technical assistance for the development of a national innovation index. A further mission to Sri Lanka took place in June 2016 to create IP hubs bringing together a group of public and private sector stakeholders. An IP office diagnostic mission was undertaken in August 2016 to assess the capacity and resources of the National IP office and enhance the IP registration system. The Government planned to implement an action plan in 2017/18 to accede to the Madrid Agreement and Protocol and expected to complete the accession by the end of 2017 or early 2018 with WIPO's technical assistance. A Madrid awareness-raising session would be held in November 2016. An inter-ministerial working group was envisaged to formulate a national policy for the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs and possible legislation with the aim of ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty. Sri Lanka was preparing amendments to the national copyright laws to facilitate access to published works for persons who were blind, visually impaired or print disabled and looked forward to expanding cooperation with WIPO.

86. The Delegate of Sri Lanka, speaking behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), said that the G-15 strove to foster and promote sustainable development among its Member countries through identified common goals and leveraged capacities. Since 2013, the G-15 had identified IP as one of four focus areas of cooperation and WIPO had emerged as an important partner in the endeavor to achieve their shared goals. The G-15 has been actively engaged with WIPO during the last three years on several spheres, particularly with regard to capacity-building among G-15 member countries. WIPO had generously sponsored a workshop in Algeria in April, 2016, during which experts from member countries shared experience and built capacity on technical aspects of IP related to TK. The G-15 attached great importance to the IGC and welcomed the call to renew the mandate of the IGC. The Group hoped for a conclusion of the negotiations that would result in consensual, legally binding international instruments that would protect and foster the IPRs pertaining to GRs, TK and traditional cultural practices. The G-15 also valued the efforts to build capacity in developing countries to better deal with these IPRs. The G-15 welcomed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key global process which required the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation. As a member of the UN system, WIPO should consider how it could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and create linkages with the implementation of the WIPO DA. Accordingly, the G-15 welcomed the important steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure mainstreaming of the DA in WIPO's work. The G-15 would continue to advocate the integration of the development dimension into WIPO deliberations. It was more important than ever in the existing climate to make IP a real lever and a significant contributor to growth and socio-economic development. South-South cooperation should be a tool for developing important and strategic partnerships which could play an important role in achieving the objectives outlined in the DA Recommendations as regard the promotion of sustainable development. The range of activities and projects designed to make IP a dynamic part in the national development strategies in developing countries were welcome. The Group also applauded the progress made in the SCT, in respect of the negotiations on the DLT, highlighting that further work was still needed to reflect the different levels of development of Member States in the text of the DLT. Implementing the proposed would require that States be equipped with extra capacity to fulfill their obligations under the treaty. Ensuring that the draft treaty made adequate provision for building such capacity would contribute to achieving the outcome sought through the treaty. The G-15 remained committed to the success of WIPO and its work.

87. The Delegation of Barbados noted that substantive work that had been done in the various committees and commended the SCCR for its work and reaffirmed its support for the SCCR's continued deliberations in view of adopting appropriate instruments of protection for broadcasting and cablecasting organizations, limitations and exceptions, libraries and archives, as well as education and assistance for persons with disabilities. Regarding the SCT, Barbados supported the continuation of discussions pertaining to the protection of country names in the registration of trademarks, given their importance to developing countries. Concerning the IGC, Barbados had taken note of the work done in 2016 and of the issues which remained to be addressed at the following session in order to reach consensus on the draft articles. Barbados also followed with interest the ongoing program of the CDIP and assured the General Assembly of its full support for the work of the CDIP. Barbados was grateful to WIPO for ongoing technical assistance, which had been of considerable benefit in further strengthening the capacity of its IP office and, by extension, furthering the development of its economy.

88. The Delegation of Nicaragua, after aligning itself with the statement by the Delegation of Chile on behalf of GRULAC, said that its country had been striving to strengthen the IP system as a tool for promoting development with social inclusion, and thanked WIPO for its

dedication and hard work in the sub-region of Central America and the Dominican Republic. Nicaragua had been Acting President of the Central American Parliament during the 2015-2016 biennium and wished to express its gratitude to WIPO for the series of seminars, workshops, studies and other activities conducted within the framework of commitments made in the declaration by the Fourth Central American Ministerial Conference on IP. The Delegation urged WIPO to continue such efforts, which enabled countries to make progress and strengthen their technical and institutional capacities with a view to promoting IP in the sub-region. It strongly believed in the idea of working on the basis of a balanced IP system which benefited all Member States and which helped to close the existing gap between developed and developing countries. Clearly, IP could help achieve that goal. The Delegation underscored the support received from the WIPO Academy, responsible for building capacity among the officials of each country by giving them the necessary tools to wage the daily struggle in the field of innovation, science and technology, as well as the management, promotion and protection of the rights of those who used the IP system. It appreciated the support provided by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean which was hosted at headquarters and assisted with the implementation of activities for Central America and the Dominican Republic. In conclusion, the Delegation wished to make a positive contribution to the discussions in the present series of meetings and would do its utmost to promote a balanced solution to further the interests of all WIPO Member States.

89. The Delegation of Costa Rica said that it wholeheartedly supported the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC. The year 2016 had been a period of major change for the Costa Rican office, in particular with regard to technological infrastructure and progress made in strengthening human resources and services for users of the IP system. That country wished to thank WIPO, since much of the progress made had been facilitated by cooperation from the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at WIPO headquarters. Costa Rica was greatly pleased to report that the month of June 2016 had marked the initiation of the procedure for the national ratification of the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties, and that the Copyright Registry had begun to organize workshops and capacity-building seminars on the application of both treaties. Convinced of the benefits that Costa Rican SMEs manufacturers could derive from the IP system, the Costa Rican office was continuing its efforts to strengthen the National TISC Network, whose services were extremely useful, especially for national manufacturers and inventors. The IP office had also helped to host information fairs and seminars for micro-entrepreneurs, manufacturers, inventors and students, leading to a considerable rise in recent years in the number of requests for patent searches and in the number of national consultations held and applications filed in comparison with 2015. Costa Rica was strongly committed to innovation, as attested by the fact that it was ranked second on the Global Innovation Index 2016 for Latin America and the Caribbean. Costa Rica was serving as acting Coordinator for the TISC Network for Central America and the Dominican Republic (CATICAR) in 2016; significant progress had been made in the standardization of sub-regional forms and in the preparation of informational leaflets and technology reports. The Delegation planned to continue to participate actively in the working sessions of the WIPO committees. Lastly, Costa Rica said that, since it was convinced of the importance of IP as a tool for promoting the socio-economic and cultural development of countries, it would work together with other interested parties to design and carry out projects to generate greater innovation and creativity, thereby building a more and more dynamic and efficient IP system.

90. The Delegation of Slovakia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and with the statement made by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. Regarding the work of the SCT, Slovakia emphasized the urgent need to move forward after a failed attempt to convene the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a DLT. The DLT had been discussed

at length and it would simplify and align design registrations. Consequently, its adoption should be a purely technical and not a political matter. The Delegation was convinced that the General Assembly should set out a roadmap for discussions in the SCCR to expedite the organization of a diplomatic conference on the protection of broadcasting organizations, which must be modernized to reflect the latest technological developments. The discussion around exceptions and limitations was quite separate, in terms of both its substance and level of maturity. Nonetheless, Slovakia was fully committed to both debates. The Delegation congratulated WIPO and its Member States on the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty only three years after its adoption. Slovakia also welcomed the financial contributions of some Member States to the Lisbon Union and stated that it would help to cover the deficit. It also remained committed to discussing the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union. Although the PBC had failed to reach consensus on the opening of WIPO External Offices, despite the best efforts of the Chair and the Member States, the Delegation hoped that further discussion of this item during the General Assembly would yield an appropriate solution for all potential host countries. The Delegation agreed with the recommendations of the General Assembly Chair and the Coordination Committee Chair that debate on the report of the UN OIOS should not be re-opened. However, it welcomed any steps to ensure the transparency of the Organization and looked forward to the prompt conclusion of the matter. The Delegation considered the proposal to change the electoral cycle of the General Assembly Chair reasonable and worthy of broad support from Member States. Regarding the protection of IP and the enforcement of IPRs in Slovakia, the Delegation reported that on July 1, 2016, the Visegrad Patent Institute and its branch V4 offices, including the Slovak Industrial Property Office, began operating as the International Searching Authority and the International Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT. On the same day, an important reform of the Slovak judicial system entered into force, giving the District Court of Banská Bystrica sole jurisdiction over industrial property disputes and three district courts jurisdiction over copyright and unfair competition disputes. The Slovak domain name registry also introduced a new alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedure. Lastly, the Delegation invited all the delegates to an event at which Slovakia and its culture and traditions would be presented in a new light to commemorate its presidency of the Council of the European Union.

91. The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan stated that it supports WIPO and views the work of its committees in a positive light. With regard to the work of the SCT, the Delegation expressed the hope that the text of the basic proposal on the DLT would be finalized in the near future. In the Delegation's opinion, one of the key areas of WIPO's work is providing assistance and support to developing countries, confirmation of which can be seen in the fact that over the past few years effective projects have been designed and implemented taking into account the needs of developing countries and the LDCs. The Delegation stated that projects submitted for the consideration of the CDIP merit special attention, and that Kyrgyzstan in particular supports the pilot project to accelerate technology transfer and R&D with the aim of strengthening scientific and technical potential, which forms the basis for scientific and technical advancements in the production sector at the local level; the project on the use of information in the public domain for economic development purposes; as well as the project to establish cooperation with institutions engaged in the training of judicial personnel in developing countries and LDCs, to provide training in IPRs. The Delegation supported the inclusion of provisions in the DLT regarding technical assistance and the strengthening of potential, since these provisions are important from the standpoint of ensuring the strengthening of IP potential and infrastructure in developing countries and LDCs. The Delegation reported that Kyrgyzstan has drafted the State Program for the Development of Intellectual Property for 2017-2022, with the strategic goal of creating an effective IP market by 2022. The Delegation expressed its country's hope that it would receive the support of WIPO in the implementation of this program.

92. The Delegation of Nepal aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. Located in the Himalayas and possessed of unique topographical contrasts, Nepal embodied natural and cultural diversity, but neither its potential resources nor its TK were subject to an IP system that appropriately balanced economic growth and sustainable development. It was therefore crucial for Nepal to exploit its resources sustainably by developing technology, skills and TK as a priority action. The Government of Nepal was formulating a more comprehensive and integrated national IP policy to encompass TK, GRs and TCEs. Accordingly, the Delegation supported an early conclusion of a treaty to address these issues. It acknowledged WIPO initiatives to establish TISCs to develop human resources, policy recommendations and technical assistance provision. Further collaboration between Nepal and WIPO on policy advice, capacity building, human and social development and youth employment opportunities was therefore welcome. Such collaboration had already led to the building of a national science, technology and innovation base and internal consultations on TISCs were ongoing. The Delegation thanked WIPO for having selected Nepal for the pilot project on Cooperation on Development and Intellectual Property Rights Education and Professional Training with Judicial Training Institutions in Developing and Least Developed Countries. It welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty and took note of progress on the broadcasting treaty negotiations, which it believed should conclude in line with the 2007 General Assembly mandate. Progress was also sought on the DLT. In conclusion, the Delegation attached importance to the WIPO DA in the wider context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and welcomed the pursuit of the DA by WIPO in all its activities. In harmonizing IP policies and development, the DA should be based on innovation and creativity and be accessible to countries most in need of it.

93. The Delegation of Colombia thanked the Director General for his comprehensive report and agreed with him on the challenges facing the IP system. Colombia had recorded nearly 5 per cent annual growth rates over the past 12 years, thanks to institutional and entrepreneurial efforts as well as a steady growth in foreign investment. As a consequence, the IP system had become increasingly important for guaranteeing sustainable growth and encouraging the development of new sources of wellbeing. The Delegation recognized the contribution of the IP system to productive development and its key role in promoting competitiveness and innovation, as set out in the current National Development Plan for 2014-2018. It fully supported the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC, and referred to Colombia's proposal to host a WIPO External Office in the 2016-2017 biennium, reiterating what had been said in past PBC sessions, namely, that Colombia was party to 13 of the 26 treaties administered by WIPO. The Delegation added that Colombia had the political will and institutional commitment to contribute to the work of WIPO and to the implementation of its goals, strategies and programs. The country enjoyed a strategic geographical location and had submitted a high-quality proposal that was viable and sustainable from a financial and budgetary perspective. The Delegation was certain that the new external office could make a clear contribution to the implementation of WIPO programs throughout the region. Member States had a duty to implement the Guidelines on the opening of new WIPO External Offices, so that a positive decision in that regard could be taken at the current Assemblies. The Delegation acknowledged that the network of external offices had to be sustainable, provide added value, and effectively support program implementation, while coordinating with and serving as a complement to WIPO headquarters. It welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, expressing its unwavering commitment to work towards achieving the consensus needed to secure treaties on GRs, TK and folklore, as well as on industrial design law and the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation recognized the positive impact and progress achieved at the domestic level thanks to close cooperation with and technical assistance

from WIPO, various national offices and international organizations. It concluded by expressing its gratitude for the work done by WIPO and for the massive attendance by heads of IP offices and export agencies of Latin America at a recent meeting held in Colombia. That meeting had convinced the Delegation that the IP system would help strengthen Colombia's export sector.

94. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic extended its deepest thanks to the Director General for his efforts in harnessing the potential of IP for the good of mankind; promoting and enhancing various innovation and creativity ecosystems and developing the use of IPRs among SMEs as well as the overall strengthening of the CDIP mandate. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic had always maintained close ties with WIPO notwithstanding current circumstances, believing IP of all kinds was a cornerstone in developing its national economy. To that end, it established a sound legal environment to safeguard public rights and interests by aligning its laws with international treaties and reflecting the most recent developments in international law. These efforts led to the issuance of Law No. 8 of 2007 on the Protection of Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Industrial Designs and Models which also covered unfair competition. However, the Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic was in the process of amending that Law following some difficulties in enforcement. Law No. 18 of 2012 on Patents, including, utility models was also issued. The Delegation recalled that the country had also benefitted from acceding to a number of IP treaties especially the Madrid Protocol. The preparation of the National IP Strategy in collaboration with WIPO was also on track. Innovators and creators benefitted from continuous support, *inter alia*, by maintaining the Al Bassel Fair for Invention and Innovation and preparatory work had been initiated for the eighteenth edition, to be held in 2017. In that regard, the Delegation wished to thank WIPO for continuing to award prizes to outstanding laureates, recognizing the need for such a fair to induce innovation and creativity and transform ideas into products. Indeed, the Government acknowledged that creativity and innovation among young generations required continuous support and guidance. To that end, a High-level Committee for the Support of Creativity and Innovation was created with a mandate to mainstream support of creativity and innovation across sectors by determining the role of each sector in an integrated manner, achieving tangible results and enhancing Syrian innovators and creators' contribution to the national economy. The Syrian Arab Republic continued to implement and develop the IP Culture Dissemination Program among universities and schools, aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of IP and encouraging academia to support creativity and innovation. The Program was also targeted at trade and business sectors, including SMEs. In that regard, collections of WIPO publications and other content were made available on CDs and distributed in various sectors, with summary translations into Arabic. The material focused on the use of WIPO free patent information services as well as training on the use of global patent databases. WIPO Outreach Program continued to be beneficial. Moreover, the website of the Directorate of Commercial and Industrial Property Protection (DCIP) was improved, and a monthly online Magazine was issued featuring IP news and information as well as trademark, industrial design and patent registration data in the Syrian Arab Republic. Thanks to the program on IP Culture Dissemination, such concept was becoming effectively established in schools, institutes and universities, particularly following conclusion of an MoU with the Ministry of Education in view of developing creative talents and skills based on outreach programs using WIPO publications and documents. With regard to the internal oversight investigations, the Delegation reviewed the relevant reports, supported the recommendation to close the matter and called to focus on enhancing performance and efficiency within the Organization. In conclusion, the Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the ongoing efforts within the Organization and expressed appreciation for the positive direction of the processes and its bilateral cooperation with WIPO. It commended the Secretariat on its preparatory

work for the session and the WIPO Arab Bureau for facilitating cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and WIPO.

95. The Delegation of the Congo stated that it welcomed the entry into force, on September 30, 2016, of the Marrakesh Treaty, which placed special emphasis on a humanitarian approach as well as on social development. The Delegation of the Congo also fully supported the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. With respect to the matter of the WIPO External Offices, the Delegation called for the implementation of the conclusions drawn at the Fifty-Fifth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO in 2015, even those conclusions that had not been duly recorded. It was important to acknowledge that Africa had been given the privilege of hosting two WIPO External Offices, and that it had chosen Algeria and Nigeria at its own discretion. Promoting innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of Member States required an effective and balanced international system; the new Act of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) revising the Bangui Agreement arose from that idea. Moreover, it was on those grounds that the Congo had followed other OAPI member countries in signing the Agreement revised on December 14, 2015, in Bamako, Mali. At the national level, the Congo had prepared a draft document regulating the creation of a Congolese IP office, which had been accepted by the Supreme Court and submitted to the Government for approval. A national committee for the coordination and development of matters related to IP had also been set up to give its views on all related issues and to coordinate national policies and strategies. The Government of the Congo appreciated the invaluable contribution of WIPO in the area of capacity building; with its assistance the Congo had begun the process of confirming the National Intellectual Property Development Plan (PNDPI). The Delegation agreed that the governance of WIPO should be improved and strengthened to give Member States full control over the Organization, in order to avoid misunderstandings and to enhance dialogue among Member States. It also wished to reaffirm its full confidence in the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and therefore proposed calling a halt to any future discussion on the report of the OIOS. In conclusion, the Congo believed that it was time to turn to the vital questions under consideration in the WIPO committees; in that regard, the Congo supported the holding of a diplomatic conference on designs and models in 2017.

96. The Delegation of Sierra Leone noted that a year ago, the public health emergency which claimed so many lives, including much-needed medical professionals, was only just subsiding. Like its two neighbors, Sierra Leone was completely isolated and lost much of the ground it had gained in its march towards sustainable development. The Delegation thanked the international community for its tremendous support and remarked with satisfaction that physicians had been able to leverage local knowledge to develop treatments which saved many lives, resulting in an unprecedented survival rate from the scourge. This was a clear demonstration of the capacity for innovation in Africa. Sierra Leone strongly endorsed the African Group's position as articulated by Nigeria and reiterated the urgent need to establish the two WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria. It would be a further step towards promoting and protecting innovation on the continent. Regarding GRs, TK and folklore, the Delegation was convinced that the need for a "minimum standard, functional international legally binding instrument" could not be overstated. It praised the untiring efforts of the African Group and lauded its successful advancement of the African agenda. The Delegation also fully aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. Office space had been secured for the establishment of the Sierra Leone IP office while the Sierra Leone Intellectual Property Development Plan, prepared with WIPO support, would be validated within a few weeks. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its continued assistance in rolling out the related activities. As regards the Director General's remarks on "complexity" made in his opening

statement, the Delegation asserted that, now more than ever, WIPO should step up the activities in its agenda for the lasting benefit of developing countries and LDCs. Sierra Leone was one of those economies moving from subsistence to commercial agriculture with all the attendant issues of branding, packaging, labeling, trademarks and others. While recognizing the need for advanced countries to develop IP systems that meet their own requirements, the Delegation stressed the importance of balance to ensure that those systems did not stifle the development of economies such as Sierra Leone. In supporting the development of its SMEs as drivers of growth, Sierra Leone emphasized the paramount importance of structures that protect and promote geographical indications, GRs, plant varieties and other forms of IP.

97. The Delegation of Uganda associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs. The world was changing and raising challenges, some of which were unprecedented and existential, but these same challenges offered the opportunity to harness the infinite resource of human creativity and ingenuity. The SDGs 2030 were an important policy objective which could guide some of WIPO's activities. Admittedly, it was the function of governments to achieve the SDGs, but some of the tools for attaining those goals could be found in the work undertaken in WIPO. Accordingly, the Delegation emphasized that development should drive and inform WIPO's activities and work. WIPO had achieved excellent results, especially regarding use of IP for development and Uganda has been a beneficiary of various technical assistance programs, including a study visit to Kenya Copyright Board, which strengthened South-South cooperation. Uganda was also participating in initiatives to improve the quality of service delivery, as evidenced by the recent review of the TISC program in Uganda, which showed notable successes as well as areas of improvement, and the planned study on innovations in agro-based industries in Uganda, which would inform the country's agricultural policy implementation. Furthermore, through the WIPO Academy, a number of Ugandans had received training to build capacity and awareness of IP. On the whole, except for lack of progress in the appropriate technology project, Uganda commended the Secretariat for continuing to mainstream development in the various activities. The Delegation encouraged WIPO Member States to support the MTSP 2016-2021 and to proactively participate in delivering on decisions taken by the 2016 Assemblies, including facilitating decisive action on the DLT and IGC deliberations, among others.

98. The Delegation of Angola expressed its conviction that the experience garnered by WIPO in its many years of operation would facilitate its handling of the current divergent issues it faces. Angola had implemented policies to protect, promote and develop IP and was currently restructuring its legal and administrative system in order to stimulate innovation, boost investments and promote trade expansion. The knowledge economy had become a global reality and a key instrument for fostering innovation, competition and economic success. The promotion of IP was a necessary prerequisite to the social and economic development of peoples and countries. Africa was still considered a virgin continent whose IP system needed to be developed so that it would be able to contribute to global stability and achieve the SDGs. Angola would like WIPO to pay greater attention to Africa and include it among its priorities. The Delegation lauded the efforts of WIPO's CDIP in implementing the 45 DA Recommendations adopted by the Assembly of WIPO Member States in 2007. Angola deemed it important and urgent to adopt a policy that guaranteed some balance and geographical representation in staff recruitments within the WIPO Secretariat. The General Assembly had decided in 2015 that two WIPO External Offices would be opened in Africa, as a matter of priority, in the 2016-2017 biennium. Accordingly, it was only fair to request that these offices be opened in the next biennium, so that the 33 LDCs would also benefit from WIPO's IP systems. Angola recognized the relevance of

ongoing discussions within the IGC, since they were geared towards protecting these resources against unlawful appropriation. The Delegation hoped that, after more than 15 years of negotiations, WIPO members would be able to reach an agreement to create a binding international instrument that promotes and protects the traditional resources of indigenous peoples and local communities against misuse, unlawful appropriation and loss of attendant economic benefits. Accordingly, Angola recognized the texts adopted in recent sessions of the ICG, as a good basis for discussion and compromise. The Delegation concluded that access to knowledge was crucial to development, since IP was the most comprehensive instrument that facilitated access to development and stimulated creativity by recognizing and protecting the rights of creators over their creations.

99. The Delegation of Jordan commended the Director General for WIPO's ever-growing list of achievements, especially in providing capacity-building activities for Member States in the field of IP and thanked the Secretariat for its excellent preparatory work for the Assemblies and its continuous collaboration with Jordan. Jordan attached great importance to IPR protection given its impact on economic, social and cultural development. In that spirit, Jordan was in the process of developing an integrated National IP Strategy aimed at enhancing IP stakeholder capacities. Efforts were also made to accede to several international industrial property treaties, namely the PCT, Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement. With regard to building respect for IP and promoting its critical role in increasing business attractiveness, best practices were adopted in IPR registration and maintenance. The Delegation recalled that Jordan had developed a sound and comprehensive legislative framework in line with international norms. In an effort to make information available for researchers, businesses and investors, WIPO Publish was integrated to enable access to publications and facilitate the exchange of data and material on the global IP systems. That initiative made Jordan the first Arab country to offer such information in Arabic and English for the benefit of both local and international industrial property stakeholders. In conclusion, the Delegation thanked all delegations in the WIPO Coordination Committee for holding a clear discussion on the OIOS report, enabling all Member States to express their position in a clear and transparent manner. In that regard, Jordan supported the decisions and recommendations made by the WIPO General Assembly and the Coordination Committee Chairs to close with no further action the investigations. It hoped that WIPO would move forward in the area of technical assistance and cooperation provided to Member States.

100. The Delegation of Malawi supported the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and thanked WIPO for the financial and the technical assistance provided in the field of IP. Since the last Assemblies, Malawi had been able to carry out a number of activities with WIPO support, including a national symposium jointly organized by the WIPO Bureau for Africa and the Academy in July 2016 on IP and education, and the use of the IP system by the universities and research institutions in Malawi. One critical outcome of the symposium had been the development of an IP module for all public and private investors in Malawi. The Delegation was pleased to report that WIPO had already sponsored lecturers from three universities in Malawi to work with WIPO experts on this initiative. Malawi's goal was to introduce IP into the university curriculum in Malawi as soon as it was practicable. WIPO had continued supporting the revision of national IP laws. As a result, Malawi had undertaken a learning visit to the WIPO Patent Law Division to discuss its draft patent bill in May 2016. The main objective of the visit had been to discuss patent law in general and topical issues that needed to be considered when drafting the national patent law. As a sign of its commitment to mainstreaming IP into its programs, the Government of Malawi had submitted a new copyright bill to parliament which was voted into law in July 2016. The bill guaranteed a conducive environment for stimulating creativity and facilitated access to copyright works for the visually-impaired and persons with

print disabilities. The new trademark bill would also be passed shortly at the next parliamentary session. A sub-regional workshop on the development and effective use of IP statistics for ARIPO member states had also been organized with WIPO, the JPO, the Government of Zimbabwe and ARIPO in Zimbabwe in September 2016. The workshop highlighted the importance of IP statistics in decision-making, especially in the areas of economic analysis, development, business or the planning of IP office activities. Malawi had also held various discussions on appropriate technology projects with the LDC Division of WIPO and on modernization of the IP offices with the IP Office Business Solutions Division. Malawi's recognition under the Global Innovation Index 2016 as one of the main innovation achievers in Sub-Saharan Africa resulted from the government's recognition of the key role that IP played in economic growth and prosperity, its tireless efforts to provide the appropriate infrastructure, and WIPO support. The Delegation affirmed its support for WIPO and its mandate and anticipated further financial and technical assistance from the Organization to continue modernizing its infrastructure and implementing its IP programs to promote innovation, growth and development.

101. The Delegation of Namibia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. Namibia was committed to eradicating poverty and increasing the prosperity of its people and was urgently implementing targeted programs to that effect. The Namibian President had declared war against poverty, unemployment and inequality, and, as poverty was deeply rooted, all solutions would require prudent, dynamic and concerted efforts. In that respect, a presidential prosperity plan had been prepared to accelerate and effectively coordinate those efforts, with priority given to establishing the Business and Intellectual Property Authority and an institutional framework for IP administration. The Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act had been signed into law and implementation was currently pending. Similarly, an initiative to develop an IP policy and strategy would create a conducive framework for unlocking the potential of IP as a tool for prosperity and transformational growth in the country. Namibia's WIPO membership had contributed to the drive towards prosperity in the country. Indeed, WIPO and Namibia were about to conclude an MoU defining a cooperation framework for IP development in the country. The Memorandum would serve as the basis for developing a comprehensive and targeted strategy for using IP to advance national priorities. It was also one of many efforts to eradicate poverty and boost prosperity. Since becoming a WIPO Member State, Namibia had made remarkable progress in the field of IP with developmental assistance from WIPO. In the first of two noteworthy projects, the CDIP had helped identify tourism as a strategic pillar of the national development plan. Namibia took pride in its cultural diversity, contrasting landscapes, rich history, diverse wildlife, low population density and sound environmental management which guaranteed the preservation of natural habitats. These unique elements certainly gave a comparative advantage to the tourism industry, which stood to benefit from the project. Secondly, the IP model office project, which offered comprehensive sustainable automation and solutions, would enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Namibian IP office. The Delegation acknowledged that a solid national IP system is founded on a strong and effective national IP institutional framework. Accordingly, the Delegation thanked WIPO for its contributions to the development of IP in Namibia and agreed with other delegations that WIPO membership comprised many countries at various levels of development with different interests. Success at WIPO was therefore predicated on recognizing these dynamics and creating mechanisms that catered to all countries. The overall development level of WIPO Member States was a measure of the growth level of WIPO as an organization. Consequently, the Delegation called for the expeditious establishment of external offices in Algeria and Nigeria as a priority for the 2016/2017 biennium. Maintaining the integrity of the Organization meant giving priority to the implementation of its decisions, and no mechanism should override the decisions of the WIPO General Assembly. Turning to the IGC, the Delegation expressed its support for

continued work on an international, legally binding instrument to ensure the effective promotion and protection of GRs, TK and folklore. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated the calls made by the African Group regarding the DLT, the SCP, the SCCR, geographical representation in the WIPO workforce and the CDIP, as IP promotion was inseparable from national development interventions.

102. The Delegation of Madagascar stated that a national policy and strategy document had been adopted in a meeting of the Council of Ministers with a view to promoting innovation and the effective use of the IP system in the country's economic, social and cultural development. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its contribution to the implementation of that strategy and policy, and for the capacity-building workshop on invention and innovation that had followed. The workshop had made it possible for the Malagasy Innovation Institute to share its suggestions on a plan for a national innovation policy; the Delegation had further specified that the formulation of the plan was among the recommendations made and that the plan would be integrated into the policy and strategy document. It thanked WIPO in advance for its assistance in finalizing the plan. Madagascar had made clear progress in the formulation of the draft text for accession to the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration. The Delegation also thanked WIPO for allowing Madagascar to participate as an observer in the sixth session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, and to attend the subsequent study visit. The Delegation welcomed and encouraged efforts made and measures taken to draft an international treaty on industrial models and designs. The Malagasy Industrial Property Office had played an active role in the sessions of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, which attested to the Government's interest in effective protection for intangible assets. The Delegation thanked the Working Group for its confidence and for inviting Madagascar to serve as Vice-Chair at its recent 2016 session. It welcomed the amendments proposed by the Working Group, and supported all measures to improve the system. It also welcomed the increasingly fruitful cooperation with WIPO, in particular related to the reform of Malagasy legislation on literary and artistic property with the assistance of the Copyright Law Division and to the capacity-building programs for IP agencies. It was grateful, in particular, for the visit paid by a WIPO expert to the Malagasy Industrial Property Office, which had resulted in an upgrade of the IPAS to 3.1.1, the resolution of user problems and training for office technicians in resolving issues related to system operations. National efforts were well under way to protect TK related to the exploitation of GRs. An *ad hoc* committee would serve as a coordinating body, while not replacing the specialized agencies. The Delegation would welcome capacity building for managers, and also in particular for lawyers specialized in that topic, as part of the WIPO technical assistance program. Madagascar appreciated efforts by WIPO to promote the protection of TCEs, TK and GRs. In addition, Madagascar asked to take part in the sessions of the IGC with a view to improving its understanding of the challenges and rewards related to the exploitation of TCEs, TK and GRs, and to achieving a better understanding of the debates taking place at the international level. Lastly, it expressed its wholehearted support for the statements made on behalf of the African Group and the LDCs Group.

103. The Delegation of Greece associated itself with the statements made by Group B and by the European Union and its member states. The draft of the DLT had been mature enough to be submitted to a diplomatic conference since 2014. As a result of a subsequent proposal for inclusion of a substantive requirement within the filing requirements, harmonization of design registration formalities has regrettably not been possible. Both outstanding issues, technical assistance and the disclosure requirement, had been thoroughly examined in the SCT. A solution compatible with a formal treaty and design law

should be found, so that a diplomatic conference could be convened in 2017. The work of the IGC has significantly progressed in 2016, although there were still many outstanding matters to be resolved and the drafted instruments needed further examination. The SCP had continued to examine the five topics under consideration. Greece supported the continuation of discussions, while restating its interest in initiating patent law harmonization discussions. Greece also supported the work of the PCT Working Group. The changing needs of users, third parties and patent offices should be the guiding force for continued improvement of the PCT System. For the sixteenth consecutive year, Greece had benefited from the implementation of the International Treaty of the Madrid Protocol, which entered into force in Greece in 2000. Despite the initial financial burden to the Hellenic Trademark Office, the ratification had proved beneficial in the long run. Apart from increased revenue to the National Office that contributed to its financial sustainability, many Greek businesses were able to reinforce their international presence during the economic crisis by registering their trademarks through WIPO, resulting in a steady increase of the number of international applications. Greece had continued to participate in the Working Group on the legal development of the Madrid System and look forward to further development of the system. Following the financial statements presented during the last PBC session, Greece believed that although WIPO's financial situation was sound, the international context under which it is requested to operate called for prudence. As regards external offices, following the decision adopted by the General Assembly in 2015, the Delegation hoped that a coherent decision would be reached.

104. The Delegation of Tajikistan said that Tajikistan had enjoyed fruitful cooperation with WIPO. In the previous year, the Patent Office had organized a forum for the Inventor of the Year in cooperation with WIPO. That important event had highlighted the potential problems of inventors and innovators, their interaction and cooperation with industry and the role of IP in that process. The forum had been another of the many national and initiatives undertaken by the Government of Tajikistan in relation to IP, both nationally and internationally. Tajikistan was now a member of the Madrid System, the Hague System and a signatory of the Singapore Treaty. Development would improve Tajikistan's access to global markets. The Delegation emphasized the importance of development, in cooperation with WIPO, Tajikistan's national IP strategy to provide a current and long-term blueprint which would improve IP and innovation systems. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would continue to support the implementation of that strategy.

105. The Delegation of Gambia associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and welcomed the proposal to establish WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria. The generation, protection and commercialization of IP was gaining momentum throughout the world as a result of the huge economic, social and cultural benefits associated with the protection of IPRs. Gambia was aware of the growing trend and had taken robust steps to give prominence to IP in the country's DA. In a bid to improve and organize the administration and protection of IPRs, plans had been advanced for the development of an IP policy and strategy for Gambia. That important development was being pursued with support from WIPO and an IP development plan had already been validated by stakeholders. An MoU would shortly be signed to kick-start the drafting of an IP policy. In this context, the Delegation commended the continued assistance from the dynamic team at the Africa Bureau. In addition, there had been a number of workshops and seminars in the recent past, with a view to increasing IP awareness in Gambia. WIPO and other partners had been instrumental in organizing those activities. Gambia had completed the process of acceding to the Madrid Protocol and appreciated the need to comply with international standards: its Industrial Property Act had been amended to comply with the standards set out in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. WIPO IPAS was still being utilized in Gambia's Industrial Property Office and, with support

from its partners, was poised to make the system more user-friendly and efficient. Additionally, Gambia appreciated the sponsorship provided by WIPO for Gambian candidates to pursue Masters' Degrees in IP in Zimbabwe, as that had greatly increased the capacity of the staff of the Industrial Property Office. The University of Gambia had also benefitted immensely from WIPO's benevolence through the WIPO Academy in providing relevant text books on IP. Gambia would welcome further assistance in upgrading the IPAS as well as training Industrial Property Office staff and others involved in the administration and protection of IP in Gambia.

106. The Delegation of Cameroon welcomed the positive results achieved by WIPO and its unwavering support to the Member States, in general, and developing countries, in particular, to enable them to use IP for development. WIPO's technical assistance in capacity building and support for the implementation of effective IP policies and strategies had enabled Cameroon to record outstanding results in terms of increased use of IP, particularly by companies to promote their products and by universities for the development of innovative solutions to improve living conditions in the country. Accordingly, the Delegation supported the proposal by Brazil to reduce the costs of patent protection for academic institutions. This would contribute to the implementation of the national technology development strategy adopted by Cameroon in 2015, in which technological innovation plays a central role. In light of these achievements, the Delegation welcomed the 2016-2021 MTSP proposed by WIPO and hoped that well-targeted and effective action would be taken to increase the transfer of technology to developing countries. The Delegation further noted that the issue of GRs was a central concern in Cameroon, which in 2015 adopted a national promotion strategy for these resources, whose potential for countries like Cameroon had been demonstrated. The Delegation hoped that the work within the IGC could lead to the adoption of a binding instrument on the protection of GRs, TK and folklore. The Delegation further hoped that outstanding issues, particularly concerning external offices in Africa, the new instrument for the protection of industrial designs and the consideration of exceptions and limitations to broadcasting issues, on which it supported the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, would be resolved by a favorable outcome during deliberations, in a spirit of consensus and the will to continue WIPO's inclusive development mission. Finally, the Delegation restated Cameroon's commitment to active participation in the meetings so as to contribute to the success of WIPO's work.

107. The Delegation of Albania aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, commended WIPO efforts to strengthen the global IP system and encouraged dialogue on its development. WIPO's progress and results, as reflected in the reports presented, boded well for the future. Within the UN family, WIPO had a distinctive role, particularly its Department for Transition and Developed Countries, which had assisted the Albanian General Directorate of Patents and Trademarks with many initiatives. The Delegation appreciated WIPO contributions to the modernization of IP in Albania. The effective protection of IP had encouraged creativity and innovation, thus stimulating economic growth, as well as cultural and scientific development in the Albania. Albania had adopted a 2016-2020 National Intellectual Property Strategy, aimed at ratifying other IP agreements; shortening the deadlines of examinations; developing trademark and patent examination guidelines; increasing public awareness and education on IP and PR; developing curricula, teaching materials and modules and, in the main, creating an innovative Albania. The National Strategy also focused on designing and implementing projects to raise the awareness of businesses about financing R&D; registering IP; fostering cooperation with Albanian Chambers of Commerce to organize information sessions; and supporting SMEs by working with businesses to demonstrate their relationship to IP more accurately and disclose the IP benefits that could accrue to them. Furthermore, on July 6, 2016, the Office had integrated its data with the TMview and Designview databases of

the EUIPO. The National Strategy had also involved drafting a new industrial property law to include additions and amendments. A new copyright law had also been adopted, further harmonizing Albania's legal framework with that of the European Union. Finally, the Delegation thanked WIPO for its assistance in developing the National Strategy and drafting the industrial property law, which had helped boost the capacity and autonomy of the National Office.

108. The Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC. Antigua and Barbuda was grateful to WIPO for coordinating several successful meetings and workshops over the past year and anticipated continued support from WIPO. Antigua and Barbuda remained cognizant of the importance of IP in national development and its Government has embarked on an aggressive legislative and administrative agenda designed to ensure that IP laws kept abreast of global developments and trends. The country was also implementing WIPO IPAS. Creative industries presented the greatest opportunity for new economic growth. As a small island developing state (SIDS), Antigua and Barbuda continued to explore how its creative industries could increase its gross domestic product. It was to be hoped that WIPO would balance the increase in the number of external offices with financial prudence and due regard for the cultural and unique needs of regions. Public awareness campaigns in Antigua and Barbuda had increased knowledge of IP. The IP office and the Ministry of Education were holding discussions on introducing IP into the educational curriculum. WIPO could benefit from having a section on building for respect for IP dedicated to youth on its website. With WIPO's assistance, key local and sub-regional institutions, agencies, officials and key personnel had benefitted from IP training in Antigua and Barbuda in the area of Trademarks, the Madrid Protocol and patent administration, as well as from IP courses offered by the WIPO Academy. Antigua and Barbuda commended the work of the SCCR, the SCP and the SCT.

109. The Delegation of Armenia congratulated the General Assembly on the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, for which Armenia had begun the membership process. Regarding the work of the SCCR, the Delegation stressed the urgent need to adopt a new instrument for the adequate and effective international protection of broadcasting organizations against unauthorized use of signals and illicit broadcasting. Exceptions and limitations must also be established for libraries, archives and research and educational institutions. Against this backdrop, Armenia had begun developing its new Copyright Law in cooperation with European colleagues. The efforts of the ACE to improve awareness and understanding of the significance of effective implementation systems for IPRs were welcomed. The Delegation had carefully studied the recommendations and conclusions of the UN OIOS and concluded that the investigation had been proper and its findings clear and exhaustive. Armenia would continue to cooperate productively with WIPO and its Member States to solve any future IP challenges.

110. The Delegation of Austria associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation Greece, on behalf of Group B, and the statement made by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. The Delegation emphasized the role of IP in stimulating creativity and innovation and thus contributing to economic, cultural and social development, noting with appreciation the record of WIPO's activities and positive achievements outlined in the Report of the Director General to the Assemblies, the PPR for 2014/15 and the Review of the MTSP 2010-2015. These achievements were particularly evident in technical assistance and information on the expansion of membership in WIPO-administered treaties, and in the growing use of international IP system. WIPO had made improvements in the IP registration and filing systems, especially the PCT and the Madrid System, which were the main sources of WIPO's income. WIPO should expand

efforts to implement the MTSP 2016-2021 and to further strengthen the overall IP environment, thereby maintaining a viable and efficient Organization and establishing a balanced and effective international IP system. In regard to the report of the SCCR, the Delegation noted that despite emerging consensus concerning the protection of broadcasting organizations, some complex and technical issues needed further discussion during the 33rd session of the SCCR. Austria was especially keen to finalize the protection of broadcasting organizations and restated its commitment to discussing opportunities to implement limitations and exceptions in national legislation, based on the flexibilities afforded by existing international treaties. A viable and harmonized patent system benefitted all stakeholders and the report on the 23rd and 24th sessions of the SCP, in particular regarding the future work program, was commendable. In light of recent deliberations in the SCT, the Delegation supported the request to conduct a study on the protection of geographical indications in the Domain Name System (DNS). In regard to the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty, Austria attached considerable importance to the harmonization and simplification of design registration formalities, technical assistance and effective capacity-building in implementing a future DLT, and expressed high hopes that agreement could be reached at the 2016 Assemblies to convene a diplomatic conference in the first half of 2017. Information had been provided regarding work in the CDIP, which had discussed the implementation of the recommendations of the WIPO DA. The various documents considered by the committee had recorded numerous positive developments and achievements of that important initiative. The staff and management of WIPO should continue to implement the recommendations of the DA as an integral part of WIPO's activities. The work of the IGC had yielded positive results in the area of GRs and TK, narrowing existing gaps in the understanding of core issues. Austria was committed to further constructive and open discussions, especially in regard to TK in the forthcoming IGC meeting. Austria has taken active part in the deliberations in the PCT Working Group and therefore fully supported the proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations and the recommendations concerning the future work of the PCT Working Group. It was beneficial to increase the number of PCT authorities and Austria would entertain the request to appoint the Turkish Patent Institute as an ISA and an IPEA if it met the documentary and presentation requirements. Concerning the Madrid System, the Progress Report on the Madrid Goods and Services Database was a welcome development and cooperation with the EUIPO to harmonize acceptance status for terms taken from the European Harmonized Database (TMclass) was to be encouraged. In order to preserve the Madrid System as a *de facto* one-treaty system, the Delegation fully supported both the freezing of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Madrid Agreement and the recommendations for amendments to the Common Regulations. Austria continued to endorse WIPO's general goals.

111. The Delegation of Croatia noted with appreciation WIPO's efforts in strengthening the global system of legal protection for IP and in providing a forum for in-depth dialog on the development of the various fields of the IP system. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's significant contribution to the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems of the International Bureau, as evidenced by the growing number of applications. There had been noteworthy progress within the various WIPO Committees over the past year; however, it was regrettable that consensus had yet to be reached within the SCT on the adoption of a formal treaty on industrial designs—from which users from all Member States, regardless of their level of development, would undoubtedly benefit—and accordingly hoped that a satisfactory solution would be found at the General Assembly through a constructive approach. In relation to the work of the SCCR, the Delegation supported the discussions on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, affording them adequate and effective protection in a technologically dynamic environment. There were obvious achievements in implementing WIPO's program and budget in the previous biennium, as noted in the 2014/2015 PPR. Further refining the performance measurement

methodology was encouraged to appropriately reflect achievements clearly attributable to WIPO. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the healthy budgetary situation and agreed with the cautious medium-term income estimates based on projected demand in the PCT sector. There was undeniable value in the training and education on different aspects of the IP system delivered to professionals and the general public and in the programs and activities of the WIPO Academy. Nonetheless, the pace of reform intended to reposition the Academy as an organization-wide vehicle for professional training and capacity-building, initiated in the 2014/2015 biennium, should be expedited. The Croatian Academy of the State Intellectual Property Office was developing and providing training to various user groups using its own initiatives and resources and in cooperation with other organizations. WIPO's support and cooperation in the organization of the two-week Summer School on IP, held in Zagreb in June 2016, was particularly welcomed as an excellent opportunity for final-year students and young professionals to broaden their IP knowledge and exchange views on IP systems across the world. The Delegation was grateful for the help of the WIPO Academy in successfully establishing a localized Croatian version of WIPO's most popular general IP course as a regular distance-learning program. The program, run twice a year since 2014, provides an excellent opportunity for educating the public about IP, both in Croatia and in neighbouring countries. Croatia was continuing its efforts to combat the growing problem of counterfeiting and piracy. Enforcement bodies were working with other stakeholders to build public respect for IP. In 2016, a national campaign was launched to raise public awareness of the legal, financial and health-related risks of purchasing counterfeit and pirated goods online, and to inform it of available protection against the purchase of such goods. On the occasion of its 25th year of independence, Croatia thanked WIPO for its continuous capacity-building support and cooperation. The Delegation of Croatia emphasized its commitment to positive, constructive and pragmatic discussions in WIPO fora.

112. The Delegation of the Czech Republic associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Czech Republic supported WIPO in its role as the global forum for IP services, policy, information and cooperation. It attached importance to an efficient and accessible IP system that protected innovation and creativity and enabled economic and social development and competitiveness. Furthermore, it would continue to support WIPO activities and push for their improvement in response to the needs of IP system users and new developments. The Delegation was satisfied with the PPR for 2014/2015 and acknowledged the progress achieved, but noted that more effort was needed to meet the remaining targets. It also welcomed the WIPO MTSP for 2016-2021 and appreciated its overall orientation and strategies. Similarly, it welcomed the continued geographical expansion of global IP systems, in particular the PCT System and the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, and the growing demand for WIPO services in this field. The Delegation further welcomed the expansion of the Hague System for the International Registration of Designs and appreciated the quality of services currently provided by WIPO. Accordingly, it offered its full support to WIPO management. Moreover, the Lisbon System for the International Registration of Appellations of Origin was also important, and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications would modernize the system and contribute to its geographical expansion and financial sustainability. Intensive promotion of the Lisbon System would be crucial and necessary in order to attract new contracting states. Accordingly, the Delegation confirmed its readiness to contribute financially to the elimination of the current biennial deficit of the Lisbon Union in accordance with the decision of the 2015 Lisbon Union Assembly. Turning to the SCT, the Delegation was disappointed by the outcome of the preceding sessions as regards the DLT. The substantive texts for the DLT were almost finalized and a diplomatic conference should be convened for its adoption as soon as

possible. Consequently no further discussion in the SCT was necessary. The Delegation was also of the view that the disclosure requirement pertained to the patent system and should sooner be discussed at the IGC. Despite the regrettable and protracted deadlock affecting the work on the protection of broadcasting organizations at the SCCR, it was still possible to reach an agreement on the outstanding issues and to convene a diplomatic conference in the next biennium. Looking at the SCCR agenda more broadly, the Delegation supported the continuation of discussions and information-sharing on national legislation and best practices in the field of exceptions and limitations to copyright and related rights and the inclusion of a new topic, namely the resale right. The Delegation supported the work of the SCP, noting the improvement in discussions on international patent harmonization. Likewise, it remained committed to the work of the IGC in accordance with its mandate and recognized the importance of activities within the CDIP, whose work it also continued to support. Finally, it pledged to continue supporting the work of the ACE and welcomed the growing engagement of Member States from all regions with the ACE agenda. In conclusion, the Delegation highlighted its appreciation for WIPO activities relating to IP teaching and education, the WIPO Academy, and IP policies for universities and public research institutions. It attached importance to teaching IP and commercializing innovations. In Prague, early in the year, the Czech Industrial Property Office had organized the “Sub-Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property Policies in Universities and Research Institutions” with WIPO support and the “WIPO Inter-Regional TTO Meeting ‘Working Together on Academic IP Commercialization in the Region’” in collaboration with the Metropolitan University of Prague. The Delegation extended thanks to the Secretariat and the Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) in particular, for their cooperation and assistance. Finally, it stated that Czech authorities were cooperating with WIPO, taking measures and raising the awareness of stakeholders, in an effort to pre-empt the negative effects of fraudulent practices.

113. The Delegation of Denmark noted that the global economy faced significant challenges and therefore innovation was more important than ever for creating and driving renewed economic growth. Accordingly, initiatives were necessary to increase R&D and it was necessary to ensure that there was sufficient incentive for such efforts. Against such a backdrop, IPRs were a primary instrument in supporting innovation for development. WIPO played a key role, given that its mandate was to promote the protection of IPRs globally through cooperation between States. Thus, there had to be continuous efforts to ensure that WIPO delivered cost-efficient IP services that were fit for purpose and thus provided users with first-rate products. The Delegation acknowledged WIPO’s efforts to improve global IP systems and welcomed the amendments intended to benefit users. In regard to normative work and working methods, the Delegation expressed disappointment that the SCT has been unable to come to an agreement on the DLT and voiced its support for the DLT text produced in 2014, which it considered to be sufficiently mature for a diplomatic conference. The Delegation expressed its profound appreciation for the sharing of information for combatting IP infringements within the ACE. As regards the working method of the committees, the Delegation observed that national offices always paid attention to performance and tangible results. Cost-benefit analyses of tasks were regularly conducted. There had been only modest progress in the work of the standing committees and the limited success on substantive issues was regrettable. The Delegation considered that the time had come for examining the working methods in WIPO fora and pondered whether it was timely and effective to have standing committees; whether *ad hoc* working committees at the technical expert level were preferable; and whether it would be beneficial to elect chairs in advance of meetings, to allow them sufficient preparation time. An important consideration was the separation of political issues from the technical expert level. Addressing the relevant issues at the relevant level could make for more efficient meetings and better results for all stakeholders. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for its efforts to implement the

DA. WIPO had an important role to play in bringing IP to the attention of all stakeholders, regardless of level of development. The inclusion of the DA Recommendations should be considered in conjunction with WIPO's mandate to promote IP protection through cooperation. The DA Recommendations should be implemented as an integral part of efforts promoting the overall goal of WIPO. Turning to IP developments in Denmark, the Delegation reported that the Danish Patent and Trademark Office had established a regional IP office in western Denmark to better service the growth- and research-intensive companies in the region. The Ministerial Network for Anti-Counterfeiting, consisting of 12 governmental agencies led by the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, was continuing its efforts to combat counterfeiting. A broad-based awareness campaign had been launched on World Anti-Counterfeiting Day. The Danish Patent and Trademark Office, in cooperation with the Danish Industry Foundation, had launched the IPR Business Insight project, aiming to empower Danish companies to derive greater benefits from IP opportunities. The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) continued to deliver high-quality products to its applicants in 2016 and was an active member of various WIPO fora dealing with PCT and patents in general, in particular the Meeting of International Authorities (MIA) and the PCT Working Group. The Delegation of Denmark emphasized its continuing commitment to positive, constructive and pragmatic contributions to the work of WIPO and its bodies.

114. The Delegation of Equatorial Guinea said that it was owing to the smooth functioning and efficiency of the various WIPO departments that it was always eager to accept their kind invitation to attend the series of meetings of the Assemblies. Noting that the present series of meetings would take up questions related to IP, the Delegation said that copyright and related rights were current priorities of the Government of that country. The President of Equatorial Guinea had set out broad guidelines for the execution of an ambitious project with a 2020 time frame, and the country was in the process of redefining its mechanisms for a transition to industrialization and the transformation of vital resources for the development, growth and the social well-being of the population. Within the context of that broad program, the contribution of IP was increasingly necessary, as was the protection of trademarks and geographical indications. The Delegation requested strategic assistance from WIPO within the framework of its treaties and agreements and within the scope of its competencies, with a view to assessing the measures in place and providing the Government with the advice it needed to achieve its goals.

115. The Delegation of Guinea Bissau had followed with keen interest WIPO's activities in regard to its legislative agenda, especially those related to global IP services, capacity-building and cooperation policies. WIPO had achieved good results in recent years with the signing of various treaties, including the Marrakesh Treaty, which sent a strong signal about equal treatment for all. The Delegation of Guinea Bissau hoped that the DA would focus somewhat more on LDCs and developing countries. The DA involved the dissemination of knowledge, the effective use of IP as a tool for development and increasing the productivity of companies involved in invention and innovation. WIPO was to be commended for its continued dedication to the development of IP policies, services, information and cooperation. Guinea Bissau was particularly grateful for the very successful seminar introducing copyright and related rights organized in Bissau in April 2016, WIPO's support in the drafting of the national strategic plan for IP development and its support for the TISCs. The Delegation hoped that calm and deliberation would prevail in dealing with sensitive issues in order to ensure cooperation among the various delegations, so that WIPO would be better able to meet its challenges. As a specialized agency of the UN system, WIPO had rights and duties. One of these duties was technical assistance to Member States on the effective use of IP, working closely with recipient countries to accelerate economic growth and sustainable development.

116. The Delegation of Iceland wished to thank WIPO for its continued cooperation and strong support in various aspects of IPRs given that such assistance was crucial for a small country with limited resources. The high point of the year had been the implementation of an IPR strategy for Iceland in June 2016, aided by WIPO's valuable resources and expertise. With regard to international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems, filing numbers in Iceland had remained similar to the preceding years, with a small rise for the PCT and a small drop for Madrid. The Director, Operations Service, Madrid Registry, Brands and Designs Sector of WIPO visited the Icelandic Patent Office in 2015 to discuss, among other topics, electronic communications, e-filing, the Madrid Goods and Services database training and WIPO's approach to class headings. In May 2016, a conference on IP and business was attended by people from the specialized IPR sector, Icelandic universities and SMEs and start-ups. A seminar on Institutional IP Policies was planned for October 2016 at the University of Reykjavik and was jointly organized by WIPO, the Icelandic Patent Office and the University of Reykjavik. No changes had been made to national law in Iceland in 2015 relating to IPRs but a few provisions of the Patent Act were being reviewed and in light of a new European Union Directive on Trademarks, the Trademark Act and Regulations would be revised in coming months. Although in December 2014 a new Act on geographical indications had passed through Parliament, no had been registered in Iceland. Iceland hoped to organize a seminar on ePCT, and possibly a Madrid seminar, in the near future.

117. The Delegation of Lesotho associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. Lesotho was of the view that two external offices should be established in Africa during the current biennium, as decided during previous WIPO Assemblies. It congratulated WIPO on the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty and lauded its humane objectives of enabling the visually impaired and persons with print disabilities to access reading material in order to restore their dignity, protect their human rights, and ensure equality of opportunity. Lesotho hoped to finalize ratification of the Treaty soon, although a range of national difficulties persisted, the most prominent being awareness-raising for key stakeholders and policy makers. These difficulties would be resolved through extensive activities. In this respect, WIPO had already sent regional experts to serve as resource persons at a national Marrakesh workshop held in February 2016 and organized a workshop on the Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties in Gaborone, Botswana in July 2016. Another workshop had been planned for parliamentarians who could speed up ratification of the treaty and the Delegation counted on WIPO support in future awareness-raising activities. The amount of work remaining in the implementation phase would require modernization of the copyright law. It was also important to establish a mechanism that would guarantee access to reading material and appropriate tools for treaty beneficiaries and to ensure that there are no cross-border hurdles. As regards the modernization of its national IP office, Lesotho continued to receive support from a WIPO-funded regional expert and the WIPO Secretariat. The remaining challenges included application processing, for the Madrid System in particular. A subsequent visit from WIPO had been requested in order to ensure the smooth running of the System. The Delegation welcomed the WIPO activities undertaken in cooperation with its partners to offer technical support to IP offices and the support received from the Japan FIT through the auspices of ARIPO. Training had also been provided to Lesotho by the United States Patent and Trademarks Office (USPTO) in the area of copyright and by Korea (KIPI & KOICA) in the area of IP. Lesotho welcomed the long-term WIPO training, in particular the Master's program offered by WIPO and the Africa University, which had already produced the necessary critical mass of IP professionals and boosted staff IP skills at the national office. The Delegation concluded by commending the mainstreaming of development issues into WIPO programs.

118. The Delegation of Montenegro welcomed efforts to maintain the position of the Organization as the global IP authority and initiatives to develop the IP system. The Secretariat and Member States should work together for further improvement of WIPO governance to help face upcoming challenges, in response to the increased complexity of their work. Montenegro aligned itself with the statements by the Delegation of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. Montenegro had amended its domestic IP law as from July 2016, in order to fully harmonize legislation with the legal framework of the European Union. Montenegro was the front runner in the European Union integration process in the Western Balkans. The IP office, together with the Ministry of Economy and relevant enforcement bodies, was playing an essential role in negotiations on IP law, which would be concluded in the near future. Montenegro enjoyed excellent cooperation with WIPO, as evidenced by a seminar on the Madrid and Hague Systems organized in Podgorica in September 2016. The supportive approach of the Department for Transition and Developed Countries and the CEBS Group was appreciated. They had provided Montenegro the opportunity to participate in events organized by WIPO in Geneva and beyond, including the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks and the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications in Budapest. The IP office remained dedicated to fostering cooperation with the European Patent Organisation and the European Union Intellectual Patent Office, and to bilateral cooperation. The Delegation underlined its commitment to contributing to the success of the Assemblies.

119. The Delegation of Swaziland associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and noted that Swaziland relied on WIPO's support for more balanced IP development, in line with WIPO's DA. The Delegation commended the progress achieved in the IGC, and appealed to Member States to show commitment to accelerating progress in the negotiations in order to adopt the long overdue draft treaty. The Delegation had also been concerned about the absence of a WIPO external office in Africa and joined other African countries in extending its appreciation and gratitude for the approval of two WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria in the 2016/17 biennium. It was hoped that the opening of these offices would further facilitate the smooth administration of IP in Africa. Turning to the DLT, the Delegate again called on Member States to exercise flexibility on the outstanding issues so that a diplomatic conference could be convened during the first half of 2017. Swaziland had made progress in its legal framework and general IP administration and the country's Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy was in the final drafting stage and should be reading in the first half of 2017. The WIPO IPAS had been fully deployed with a view to bringing transparency to the processing of IP applications and offering an efficient, reliable and fast service to clients. None of that would have been possible without WIPO's commitment to IP development in Member States and Swaziland was grateful to WIPO for its continued support. Swaziland was also relying on WIPO's assistance in the future for drafting of the implementing regulations when the proposed IP bills had been enacted. The country was fully committed to supporting WIPO's initiatives in IP development in Member States and it was hoped that WIPO would continue to support Swaziland as it strove to achieve its vision of acquiring First World status in all sectors of its economy by 2022.

120. The Delegation of Sweden supported the statements made by the Delegation of Greece, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Slovakia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. The Delegation emphasized its support for WIPO in its mission for the promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through balanced and effective international IP systems. It also expressed appreciation of the work done and the contributions made to further the work of

WIPO. There had been excellent cooperation between the Secretariat and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office in relation to advanced training programs for LDCs financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Sweden attached great importance to good governance and continued to welcome and support measures leading to mechanisms that were responsive, transparent and robust. WIPO had made great improvements under the Secretariat and Sweden looked forward to further enhancement in that respect. It was also of great importance that WIPO improve the efficiency of its services as well as meeting its customers' needs for international protection of their IP. WIPO should provide and develop the international legal IP framework and the relevant infrastructure to make the best possible use of IP as a driving force for economic development, creativity and innovation. The Delegation highlighted the importance of the work of the WIPO committees and reaffirmed Sweden's strong commitment to the work done by the SCT, especially over the last few years with the DLT. The Delegation recognized their importance and added value in harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities and procedures. Regarding the SCCR, Sweden was grateful to the WIPO Secretariat for its continuous efforts to move the agenda issues forward and reiterated its commitment to constructively participate in the SCCR's future deliberations. With regard to the CWS the Delegation noted the solution-oriented work on the resumption of the Fourth Meeting, adding that the WIPO standards agreed at that meeting and the ongoing work on new standards was important to improve global IP infrastructure. WIPO's Global IP Services were an important feature and Sweden was prepared to contribute to the work within the PCT and Madrid Systems.

121. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago associated itself with the statement made by Chile, on behalf of GRULAC. Trinidad and Tobago had continued to explore possible legislative amendments to give effect to the gains made following the signature of the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties and was preparing the necessary amendments to its copyright system. A few collective management organizations in the country were actively pursuing the incorporation of the WIPO TAG Compendium into their corporate structures following the successful WIPO Regional Broadcasting and Collective Management Conference held in Port of Spain in 2016. WIPO's assistance was also appreciated in the initiative to establish an IP Academy in the IP Office of Trinidad and Tobago. The IP office has also begun teaching an IP module in an MSc. program in Computer Science at the University of the West Indies. The project on Building Respect for Intellectual Property, which has been proposed under the public sector investment program, had continued as part of the work plan of the IP office. The Trade Marks Act was repealed and replaced, to make provision for new types of trademarks and pave the way for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol. Trinidad and Tobago was grateful for the support of the WIPO Brands and Designs Sector in that achievement. The Delegation acknowledged the work of the Caribbean Section in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago was keen to see the tremendous gains made in the IGC over the years preserved and supported proposals to extend the duration of the IGC and its work.

122. The Delegation of Viet Nam appreciated the sound performance of WIPO in various areas of activities and its outstanding efforts in addressing challenges as it sought to achieve the nine strategic goals of the Organization. Viet Nam was confident that WIPO would achieve further success as the unique organization offering a policy forum for crafting a balanced international IP system as well as global IP services and infrastructure to protect IP across borders, in addition to cooperation and capacity building programs to enable all countries to use IP for economic, social and cultural development. In that connection, Viet Nam welcomed the projects and activities implemented by the CDIP for the benefit of developing countries and LDCs. There had been fruitful discussions in various WIPO committees and improvements in institutional and governance matters. The Delegation hoped for further progress in international norm-setting, specifically as regards the DLT,

GRs, TK and TCEs. The entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty in September 2016 was a very positive development. In light of WIPO's numerous other important tasks, Viet Nam noted with appreciation the decisions and recommendations of the Chair of the General Assembly and the Chair of the Coordination Committee with respect to the investigations on the allegations against the Director General. The Delegation expressed gratitude to WIPO for its timely and effective support and assistance to Viet Nam in areas such as capacity-building, human resource training, IP infrastructure development, the modernization of the national IP system and raising public awareness of IP. WIPO continued to play an important role in providing an efficient and accessible IP system in Viet Nam, which hoped to increase its cooperation with WIPO.

123. The Delegation of Zambia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group. IP played a key role in stimulating creativity and innovation and thus contributing to economic, cultural and social development. Since 2015, Zambia had made significant progress in reforming its IP legal regime. The new laws would considerably broaden the range of protectable IPRs, including tradition-based creativity and innovation, and would promote equitable benefit-sharing. The Government of Zambia was mindful of its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement and had embarked on an ambitious reform of all its industrial property legislation in order to meet the requirements of the TRIPS Agreement and to realign the country's laws with prevailing local circumstances and the needs of the people. In this regard, the Delegation commended WIPO for the valuable input into Zambia's draft trademarks and patents bills. With the assistance of WIPO, Zambia had also made significant progress in its commitment to improving the operations of the industrial property office by automating its business processes, workflows for all administrative and legal procedures. The modernization would also involve training and capacity-building to make the Zambian IP office more efficient in its service delivery. Zambia noted with appreciation the report of Director General and applauded the positive accomplishments outlined in the report. It also applauded the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. The CDIP and the IGC had continued to provide support. There had been progress within the framework of the IGC and Zambia hoped that Member States would reach consensus on that important subject. WIPO remained a major contributor to the support provided to the development efforts of developing countries.

124. The Representative of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) thanked the Director General for his efforts in preparing the Assemblies and the WIPO Arab Bureau for its excellent work and especially the fruitful meeting convened the day before which brought together PCT experts and GCC specialists. The GCC welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty on September 30, 2016. Some recent GCC developments in the field of IP were highlighted as an illustration of the GCC's ever-increasing interest in the fields of patents, trademarks and copyright. Such highlights included (i) substantive modernization of the GCC patent system; (ii) increased number of ratifications for the GCC Trademark Law, bringing it closer to enactment; (iii) review of a new proposal on drafting a GCC Unified Copyright Law; (iv) setting-up a GCC Permanent Committee on Intellectual Property with a mandate to promote IP across its Member States; (v) organization of several events on innovation in GCC countries; (vi) and providing capacity-building activities for IP stakeholders in cooperation with WIPO, specialized international bodies and GCC experts.

125. The Representative of the League of Arab States (LAS) declared that, as a regional organization speaking on behalf of Arab countries and advocating for its rights, LAS continued to foster innovation and creativity and disseminate IP culture. In addition to its coordination activities, LAS played a catalyzing role by providing policy support to Arab countries and informing their decision-making processes with harmonized input and information. In that regard, several important decisions were adopted by Ministerial Panels

and regular Arab summits, which brought together Heads of States and Governments, as well as bilateral events – namely joint conferences between the LAS and Latin American countries and the AU. Preparations were underway to hold the Fourth African Arab Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on November 26 and 27. The Representative expressed thanks and appreciation to WIPO and its Director General for their tireless efforts in bridging the gap between developing and developed countries in the areas of innovation, creativity and transfer of technology. LAS was actively engaged in many activities, programs and projects in collaboration with various Sectors in WIPO. Thanks were also extended to the WIPO Arab Bureau for its longstanding cooperation in activities, programs, projects and initiatives. Such efforts would be pursued in 2017 for the advancement of the IP system in the Arab region.

126. The Representative of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) urged WIPO and its Member States to tackle the continuing challenge of spiralling drug prices and the neglect of public health priorities in the intellectual-property-driven medical innovation system. Free trade agreements continued to threaten the use of the TRIPS flexibilities to safeguard access to medicines. In step with the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), a leaked text from negotiations regarding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) had revealed harsh proposals by Japan and South Korea for restrictive TRIPS Plus provisions that stood to have a detrimental impact on affordable generic medicines. The final report of the UNSG HLP reaffirmed the negative impact of TRIPS Plus provisions on access to medicines. MSF urged WIPO and its Member States to take a firm stand in rejecting TRIPS Plus IP proposals and provisions in negotiations on free trade agreements. MSF had observed first-hand the benefits of governmental implementation of TRIPS flexibilities. India's substantive patent examination system—combined with strict patentability criteria and a patent-opposition mechanism—had facilitated the delivery of life-saving and affordable essential medicines to the developing world. For many developing countries, however, the implementation of TRIPS flexibilities continued to present a challenge. Both the provision of technical assistance and the enactment of legal reforms needed to target public health needs and to address national development objectives. A recent report by the Fix the Patent Laws Campaign of South Africa had shown that a lack of robust patentability criteria, a substantive patent examination system, and patent opposition procedures or compulsory licensing mechanisms had resulted in excessively high rates of evergreen patents for pharmaceutical drugs, and the low availability of affordable generic alternatives to critical medicines for the treatment of cancer, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases. MSF welcomed the concrete steps taken by the Government of South Africa to address these challenges in the current patent policy reform process and encouraged South Africa and other countries facing that challenge to reform their national patent laws so as to protect access to medicines. A lack of transparency in the IP system continued to be a major obstacle in handling poor-quality patent claims, a problem which had led to costly litigation and longer monopolies and had delayed the introduction of generic competition. MSF had repeatedly called for patent offices to make use of disclosure requirements based on International Nonproprietary Names (INN) of medicines. The report of the UNSG HLP explicitly recommended that WIPO should tackle the matter of transparency; MSF therefore urged that organization and its Member States to place priority on improving the transparency of the patent system. The spiralling price of medicine, the lack of access to rapid diagnostics, and the surging price of vaccines affected all countries, and illustrated the dangers of incentivizing drug development through patent monopolies. That drug development approach did not generate affordable and appropriate medical tools, and often failed to address critical public health needs. MSF urged Member States to ensure that IP laws had the necessary flexibility to protect public health, and to introduce and enhance R&D models that separated those costs from the final product price. WIPO must play a constructive role in the emergence of new approaches to the development of pharmaceutical drugs.

127. The Representative of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) fully aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group, on the work of the CDIP, which has facilitated numerous projects in developing countries and prompted the creation of an international framework for the protection of TK and expressions of folklore; indeed, ARIPO had already adopted such a framework through the Swakopmund Protocol, which entered in force on May 11, 2015. WIPO and its cooperation partners had continued not only to organize workshops and seminars in the African region to highlight the importance of IP to technological and economic development, but also to undertake projects at the offices of ARIPO and its Member States to facilitate the management of IPRs, including the digitization of back-office files and the rollout of the IPAS, as initiated by the WIPO Global Infrastructure Sector. WIPO, in cooperation with the JPO, had also held numerous regional workshops such as that on the Development and Effective Use of Intellectual Property Statistics for ARIPO member states, which was greatly appreciated by all stakeholders. The Delegation also expressed its gratitude to WIPO, in particular its Regional Bureau for Africa and its Worldwide Academy, and the JPO for their contribution to ARIPO's capacity-building and HR development initiatives in the region, including their continued support for the Master's Degree Program in IP, offered jointly by ARIPO, WIPO and Africa University, which was in its ninth year and had produced over 230 IP experts. ARIPO congratulated WIPO and all countries having ratified or acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty. Nine ARIPO member states had signed the treaty. The majority of persons who were blind and visually impaired lived in developing countries and LDCs and their access to information and employment was the lowest in those countries. Through WIPO's IP Development Matchmaking Database, numerous donors had been identified for the creation and implementation of a regional database or digital library on TK and an online copyright database for the benefit of ARIPO and its member states. Discussions regarding these projects would be held on the sidelines of the 2016 Assemblies.

128. The Representative of Electronic Information for Libraries (eIFL) stated that the NGO believed in the multilateral system. Accordingly, it was engaged in the work program of the SCCR through which it sought an international instrument to protect the public service mission of libraries and archives. Its stance was prompted by two reasons: first of all, only multilateral action could set a basic standard for copyright laws across all jurisdictions, especially for digital activities; and secondly, only multilateral action could enable seamless, cross-border exchange of information to support the work of modern scientists and scholars who worked collaboratively across disciplines and borders. eIFL was grateful to the African Group, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Uruguay and the United States of America for proposals on libraries and archives. It appreciated the opportunity presented by the non-paper prepared by the Chair, to discuss the text-based proposals contained in document SCCR/29/4 and to present its evidence on how copyright law was failing libraries and their users. eIFL thanked the Secretariat for the excellent updated study on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, prepared by Professor Kenneth Crews, supported the holding of regional meetings to review its findings, and looked forward to similar studies in future targeting educational activities and disabilities. The NGO called for constructive engagement from all Member States, especially those that were reforming their own copyright laws because in a digital world that offered new opportunities to expand access to knowledge, copyright laws in every country must be fit for purpose and enable lawful access across borders. eIFL applauded the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, lauded Mongolia on its recent membership and urged every country to join the treaty and to engage with libraries in supporting national implementation. Lastly, the advancement of flexibilities such as the limitations and exceptions exemplified in the Marrakesh Treaty boosted implementation of the DA, upon which eIFL places great value in its work in developing countries. In conclusion, eIFL

congratulated Ms. Sylvie Forbin on her appointment as Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector.

129. The Representative of the Third World Network (TWN) thanked the Secretariat for mentioning the complexity arising from disparate levels of development as a challenge faced by WIPO. As a UN agency, it was important for WIPO to address the development divide, especially in the context of the SDGs. The proper approach to the development question was to recognize the limitations of IP as regards technology transfer and dissemination. There was a clear need to provide solutions to the challenges facing developing countries and WIPO had to work for the benefit of all Member States. The draft report of the Australian Productivity Commission on IP arrangements stated that an ideal system would prevent a select few countries from driving the global agenda for international cooperation and would take account of the perspectives and the interests of all countries and stakeholders. There was an urgent need to address the question of IP protection, especially the quality of patents, and the TWN wished to draw the attention of Member States to the report of the Government of the United States of America Accountability Office which had stated that the policies of the USPTO regarding the time allotted to complete patent application reviews and monetary incentives that were based on the quantity of the work examiners complete, not the quality of their work, could negatively affect the quality of issued patents; the report had recommended developing a consistent definition of patent quality. That was also a call for WIPO to favor the quality of patents over their quantity. The Representative called on Member States to further discuss the enhancement of patent quality without seeking to harmonize substantive patent law. It was regrettable that discussions on the quality of patents had been used by developed countries to pursue a harmonization agenda through work-sharing. The Representative also drew the attention of Member States to the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, which had made various recommendations to that end, including measures that WIPO should take. The WIPO Secretariat and Member States should implement those recommendations rapidly.

130. The Representative of the International Confederation of Music Publishers (ICMP) highlighted its mission to promote copyright protection internationally. Accordingly, it applauded the work of WIPO, notably the SCCR, and welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation anticipated its further participation with WIPO and its Member States at the SCCR, where equally practical solutions to the outstanding normative issues would hopefully be found.

131. The Representative of the International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council Limited (IIPCC) highlighted three prominent issues, namely: IP protection in the digital age, commercialization, and the difficulty in addressing these challenges. Much work needed to be done and the solution would involve cooperating with entities like WIPO, patent and trademark offices and NGOs. Some of these entities had IT capacity. Success would be guaranteed only if all parties respected each other's expertise and IP because a software company, for instance, could not become a bakery and *vice versa*, since they do not share the same expertise. Respect for IP would avoid duplication and engender trust. This meant that IP offices needed to specialize and find the right allies and partners, particularly among non-trade NGOs with valuable expertise. All these stakeholders could work together with WIPO to better serve society and address IP and societal challenges.

132. The Representative of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) welcomed the new Deputy Director General of the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, stating that his Federation looked forward to fruitful cooperation in the future in order to build a copyright regime that was both durable and balanced. Libraries had long represented a balancing point in the copyright system and contributed around 30 billion

dollars annually to creators and rightholders by buying books, journals and other works, making use of exceptions and limitations to copyright. It allowed citizens from all backgrounds to read, to be inspired and to come up with new ideas, and that access to knowledge, as already underlined, was crucial to delivering the SDGs. Libraries had long proven their abilities in that balancing role where legislation permitted. However, as the excellent study by Professor Cruz had shown, that did not hold true for every country. Based on current trends, it could be years, even centuries, before all of the world's libraries could do their best for their communities. Meanwhile, thanks to technology, the possibilities for accessing knowledge, as well as citizens' expectations, had changed forever and, although demand for international collaboration in science and research was growing; at the same time, the use of digital means to deliver knowledge had opened up new possibilities to limit citizens' freedom to read, learn and create new values. For libraries to respond to those developments and to continue their balancing role, they had to have a full set of limitations and exceptions to copyright in all countries; that would pay dividends for culture, creativity, innovation and development. Such a solution would enable cross-border flows of knowledge and result in truly global research collaboration. WIPO Member States had shown that to be a possibility by signing the Marrakesh Treaty. The Representative applauded those who had signed and encouraged others to do so. Member States had also shown the way outside WIPO as the Trans-Pacific Partnership incorporated balanced language, favoring copyright, and the European Commission had proposed mandatory cross-border exceptions. An ambitious solution in the SCCR would not break copyright and the Foundation looked forward to working with WIPO to that end.

133. The Representative of the Health and Environment Program (HEP) reaffirmed the importance it attaches to promoting the IP system and to encouraging innovation in education in Cameroon. Accordingly, it expressed its concern as regards the debate being held in the IGC and wished for a successful outcome that would meet the needs of its members.

134. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) applauded the entry into force on September 30, 2016, of the Marrakesh Treaty, from which millions of persons who are blind or otherwise disabled will benefit. This was the first – but should not be the last – WIPO treaty proposed and supported by consumer interests to expand the rights enjoyed by users of copyrighted works, which had been steadily eroded through such measures as the extension of protection following the death of an author from 50 to 70 years, the proliferation in international copyright agreements of three step tests restricting exceptions to rights, the creation of overbroad legislation for technical protection measures and other efforts to expand various rights. KEI expressed its support for copyright but noted that systems whose terms and rights were excessive and whose exceptions were too narrow no longer served society and cited the Marrakesh Treaty as an example of how to reshape copyright regimes so that they work better for society and address the legitimate interests of both users and creators of knowledge goods. The European Union's proposal for an "ancillary" copyright regime was a matter for concern in that it would reduce access to knowledge and directly conflict with the two mandatory user rights in the Berne Convention – namely the exceptions for quotations under Article 10(1) and the stipulation under Article 2(8) that protection "shall not apply to news of the day or to miscellaneous facts having the character of mere items of press information" – which were designed to protect public access to knowledge, authors and others involved in the production of knowledge. WIPO should introduce a work program on user rights in copyright, the initial aim of which could be to implement existing user rights, including those enshrined in the Berne Convention and the Marrakesh Treaty. With reference to the Final Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines (UN HLP) released on September 14, 2016, KEI noted that the most important recommendation was to delink the cost of R&D from the price of drugs, since funding R&D

through high drugs prices necessarily harms patients and creates unequal access, whereas the aim of policy coherence was to concurrently enable innovation and access. The SCP should discuss all the recommendations in the UN HLP's report, including those on patent right limitations and exceptions and the delinking of R&D costs from drug prices.

135. The Representative of Innovation Insights noted that an effective IP system which delivered timely and enforceable quality rights to be one key element of an enabling environment for technological progress, and especially for collaboration and knowledge sharing. Innovation Insights considered that patent rights, for example, could support the hand-over of promising research among partners which could be refined and brought to market. WIPO provided leadership, not only in supporting the establishment of functioning IP systems, but also in helping many types of innovators to use IPRs. For instance, in just 18 months the Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) had helped dozens of inventors in the pilot countries (Colombia, Morocco and the Philippines) to secure and manage patents. The IAP team deserved commendation on the future global launch on October 17, 2016. Other WIPO initiatives such as the TISCs, knowledge transfer and the IP commercialization program and projects of the CDIP also deserved recognition for helping innovators around the world to more effectively use IP tools. Innovation Insights thanked the Secretariat for the stewardship of the global IP systems, notably the PCT, and for practical work in connecting policy-making and research to global challenges and the real economy. Trilateral engagement with WHO and the WTO was an important platform for expert consideration of matters concerning IP, trade and health, WIPO Re:Search and WIPO Green and the diffusion of new health and green technology solutions globally. Innovation Insights was aware that reports by the Divisions of Economic and Global Challenges were peer-reviewed and hoped that the Secretariat would extend this practice to all publications by WIPO staff and consultants. In conclusion, the Representative underscored the importance of ensuring that WIPO consultants, experts and other contributors had practical IP experience, including that gained from having worked in an IP office, managed and used IP tools or conducted empirical IP-related research. It was to be hoped that in 2017, innovators across fields of technology, and especially from a range of countries at different levels of development, could share their experience with the WIPO community.

136. The Representative of the Ibero-Latin-American Federation of Performers (FILAIE) congratulated WIPO on the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. FILAIE had played an active role in that process, confident that the terms of the treaty, whether or not they were exceptions or limitations to the rights represented by FILAIE, were perfectly consistent with the provisions of Article 9 of the Berne Convention, which had introduced the now widely known three-step test, specifying that authorization could be granted in certain cases, as long as there was no commercial harm or prejudice to the authors. The Representative said that the community of visually impaired people deserved the treaty; FILAIE was delighted that it had entered into force. At the SCCR sessions held since November 2015, GRULAC had submitted a proposal related to the digital market, which in the view of FILAIE, was extraordinarily important. In practice the treaties of 1996, also known as the "Internet Treaties," had had a disastrous effect on the rights of authors and performers. There had been an absolute twist: the performances or products of performing artists and authors were being used indiscriminately, such that the necessary social balance between the rights of title holders and the public good had been left exclusively in the hands of the large technology companies. The agreements concluded by those major multinationals with the streaming platforms had impaired the rights of performers and authors. Without the authorization of authors and performers, the current market was generating scandalous profits for those large companies—to the detriment of authors and performers. The Representative therefore considered that it would be appropriate to include the magnificent proposal made by GRULAC, and spearheaded by Brazil, on the SCCR agenda with a view to exploring and

analyzing what was really occurring and the grave harm it was causing to all copyright holders.

137. The Representative of the South Centre (SC) explained that the South Centre was an intergovernmental organization of developing countries with 53 Members across Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America that supported multilateral work towards an inclusive, balanced, flexible, international IP system that benefitted all countries and all types of users, although the current framework was still far from ideal. For many WIPO Members from developing countries and LDCs, the existing international system for IP protection and its enforcement created a restrictive rather than a supportive framework for achieving inclusive and sustainable development as envisaged by the SDGs. At the same time, the IP system had been slow to incorporate issues of priority for developing countries such as improving transparency in patent applications for inventions that utilized GRs or TK. Developing countries and LDCs needed policy space in which to craft suitable national IP regimes. The South Centre felt that the greatest challenge was the proliferation of regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements that imposed IP obligations on developing countries and LDCs and the coercive external political and economic pressure applied to restrain countries from making use of the flexibility in the IP system. WIPO should denounce such practices and support flexibility, especially in developing countries and LDCs. He affirmed that such undue pressure undermined multilateralism, restricted national policy space and, by fostering mistrust, could reduce respect for IPRs. The recent report of the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines established by the UN Secretary General had highlighted that problem, specifically pointing to the trade pressures faced by developing countries to forego their legal right to use TRIPS flexibilities for public health. South Centre supported the recommendations of the panel report and encouraged WIPO Members to give priority to multilateral norm-setting to foster new balanced norms and to undertake any necessary revisions. WIPO Member States were to be congratulated on the entry into force of the ground-breaking Marrakesh Treaty. All WIPO Members should ratify it. The South Centre hoped that the spirit of Marrakesh would encourage Members to give due effect to the mandate of the General Assembly to reach agreement on pending issues. In particular, the South Centre supported international norm-setting to require the disclosure of the origin and source of GRs, including derivatives, and TK in patent applications and to require that such disclosure requirements be extended to other relevant IPRs. The South Centre also supported advancement of the norm-setting activities on limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights and further work on patents and public health. Advancing the WIPO DA was a key priority and the South Centre would continue to support Member States by enhancing South-South Cooperation on IP and making efforts to align policy norms with their development goals.

138. The Representative of the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) said that, during its 20 years of existence, the EAPO, the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPV) and WIPO had established close and fruitful cooperation. The EAPV fully supported the policies of the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, aimed at developing the IP system in the EAPO region. In that respect, the goals of both organizations coincided, since eight States in the EAPO region were not only States members of WIPO but also members of the EAPO. In the effort to further develop the national IP systems of those States as part of the common Eurasian patent area, the EAPO considered WIPO a true ally and a reliable partner. The Representative noted that the EAPV and WIPO had implemented two new projects just that year: a project on EAPV's membership of the WIPO CASE system as an accessing office, with a long-term view to becoming a providing office; and a project in cooperation with WIPO on machine translation that was aimed at developing language tools, in particular the use of WIPO Translate technology. As emphasized by the Representative, that demonstrated, once again, that the general direction of WIPO's development, and the new technologies and

projects it initiated, were in demand and really contributed to cooperation with national and regional patent offices for the benefit of the global patent system and all users. In 2016, the EAPV entered its twentieth year. The new era presented the EAPV with new challenges. The year 2016 marked the inauguration of the new President of the EAPV and, accordingly, a new vision of its place and role. To improve conditions for applicants and patent holders, in 2016 the EAPV launched several pilot projects to accelerate the examination of Eurasian applications, including its own program for the accelerated prosecution of PCT applications that had been transmitted for the regional phase of consideration to the EAPV and had received a positive opinion on their patentability from the leading agencies at the international phase. In addition, the EAPV participated in a PPH program with the JPO, and planned to launch a similar project with the EPO and KIPO, and to expand its participation in the PPH in future. The EAPV paid increasing attention in its work to improving the quality of patent examination and the development of modern information services for applicants, patent holders and third parties. Internal auditing of the quality of patents granted, patent information and the available services had become a regular part of the Office's work. Currently, the EAPV was focusing in particular on the security of patent information prior to its disclosure. In 2015, the EAPV Information Security System had been introduced, in accordance with ISO/IEC 27001:2013. The EAPV's priority tasks on international cooperation included the further development of fruitful engagement with member states of the EAPO and close cooperation with WIPO. In that regard, the Representative noted that the EAPO shared its member states' position on the UN OIOS report with respect to ending consideration of the matter, in order to focus on substantive work under WIPO's mandate for the benefit of all States. The EAPO stood ready, not only to support but to actively participate in new WIPO projects aimed at further developing the innovative capacity of the EAPO region.

139. The Representative of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) stated that his organization shared the same aspirations and ideals with WIPO, namely: a wish to promote the effective contribution of IP to human progress; a concern to protect IPRs as effectively as possible; and a desire to contribute to the technological development of weak economies. Accordingly, OAPI was particularly interested in the efforts deployed by WIPO within the international legal environment to make the system more user-friendly and accessible while striking the proper balance between IPRs and the rights of the public, with due consideration for their impact on developing countries. Those efforts were already beginning to bear fruit within both WIPO and the IP system. Examples worth mentioning were the new Act of the Lisbon Agreement and the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. OAPI hoped for a similar development would occur in the near future as regards the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. Addressing such issues would enhance the fairness of the IP system. The Representative also believed that there were new battles to be waged, and that WIPO would win them only if it remained open to Member States and local communities by addressing their concerns, heeding their suggestions, and proposing solutions, while presenting, explaining and justifying its objectives. The Representative expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the past year, and wished that the current session would yield tangible and realistic resolutions that guarantee the sustainable development of WIPO activities.

[Annex III follows]