

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. DAREN TANG**  
**COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP)**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION**  
**NOVEMBER 9 TO 13, 2020**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to open the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and to welcome all of you to this meeting. We have had to postpone the 25<sup>th</sup> session twice this year, but we are finally able to meet again today. This is because of your commitment to ensuring that the work of this Committee continues. Thank you for that, and especially to those attending virtually from far away time zones.

This pandemic we face started as a health crisis, but it has already morphed into an economic crisis and in time to come, may even become a social crisis. Extraordinary challenges lie ahead of us, such as ensuring access to health and knowledge, finding new forms of employment, especially for our youth, and supporting our enterprises, especially our SMEs. While they may seem to be disparate issues, they are connected because overcoming them will involve innovation, creativity and technology, all of which are underpinned and facilitated by IP.

Distinguished delegates,

The challenges posed by the pandemic do not affect just one or a few of us, but all of us. Our response must therefore be global. The work of this Committee, which brings together the entire WIPO membership to look at how IP can play a role in addressing our aspirations for social, economic and cultural development, is a key part of that global response.

In guiding our work, the Development Agenda (DA) will continue to be of assistance. But, as useful as the DA is, a frame only comes alive when it results in action and

concrete steps. This Committee has a proven track record for action, and I expect this meeting will be no different in moving us towards future action.

To begin with, Member States could expand the use of the already existing platform for addressing IP and development-related issues, which is the agenda item on “IP and Development”. Opening the discussion to our stakeholders outside of WIPO could result in new insights and a more dynamic dialogue. Sharing experiences on good practices, exchanging lessons learnt, and simply sharing knowledge with other stakeholders, from the public, private and civil society sectors would add value to our existing exchanges among Members. It would also provide an opportunity to address new, emerging topics that are relevant to current issues, such as the intersection between IP and health, climate change, the impact of digitalization on IP policies, and on new business models, to name a few.

This Committee has also been entrusted to discuss the global development agendas, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the past, and now, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Addressing SDGs in the context of the increased need for innovation and global partnerships, is essential for reaching the development targets set by our nations. This can be done in alignment with the topics discussed under the existing platform for tackling IP and Development-related matters, or by providing tailored assistance at your request. In addition to that, WIPO will remain committed to contributing to the implementation of the SDGs and its associated targets by undertaking activities as part of the UN family.

Distinguished delegates,

The CDIP has accomplished a lot throughout the years and the spirit of the DA is well suffused into all WIPO Programs and activities, as detailed in the annual report on the implementation of the DA. Forty-two projects have been developed and implemented by WIPO mainly at the request of Member States. Many of those projects led to successful activities that continue to benefit our stakeholders. In that regard, I welcome the continuous proactive approach demonstrated by Member States and their proposals for new DA projects and activities. The two new project

proposals<sup>1</sup> on the current agenda are a proof of that. On our side, we will ensure that the Organization will be agile and find creative means to continue its support for you, while focusing on sustainable impact. Impact is important to us, but it is crucial to you, our Members. Working together to strengthen the IP system in a way that fits all of our different needs will ultimately benefit our global IP community.

I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, His Excellency, Mr. Hasan Kleib, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia, for his able leadership of this Committee during the last two years, and to commend the remarkable results achieved during his tenure.

In concluding, I would like to emphasize the paramount importance of working together in combating challenges, including the current public health crisis. Listening to each other, learning from each other and communicating openly are key to overcoming our common challenges. There is so much good work ahead of us and I am confident this Committee will continue making a positive impact.

Welcome once again to this session of the CDIP, and I wish everyone a successful meeting.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Project Proposal Submitted by the Republic of Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates on Promoting the Use of Intellectual Property in Developing Countries for Creative Industries in the Digital Era; and Project Proposal Submitted by the Republic of El Salvador on Systematization of Statistical Data and the Design and Implementation of a Methodology for Developing Impact Assessments on the use of the Intellectual Property System.