

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 Delegations and Representatives of the following 114 States, 3 intergovernmental organizations and 10 non-governmental organizations made statements under this agenda item: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), South Centre (CS), American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Health and Environment Program (HEP), International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC), International Trademark Association (INTA), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), North American Broadcasters Association (NABA) and Third World Network (TWN).
3. The Delegation of Senegal, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, regretted that the agenda of the Assemblies seemed to remain unchanged over time, despite the huge amount of time and energy spent on negotiating its various composite items. This situation undermined fulfilment of one of the primary missions of WIPO, namely the global promotion of normative activity which should improve, develop and adapt to current requirements, needs and realities, especially in this era of digital technology and globalization. Considering the many issues and challenges arising from an economy generated by the intellectual property (IP) ecosystem, particularly in developing countries which had enormous industrial, artistic and literary potential, WIPO absolutely needed to intensify its development actions, in keeping with the recommendations of the Development Agenda (DA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to achieve its mission of developing a balanced and efficient international IP system that promotes innovation and creativity in the interest of society. This meant, therefore, that WIPO was at the crossroads. Although significant progress had been made, many issues remained unresolved and had featured on the agenda of WIPO meetings for too long without any noticeable progress. Accordingly, there was need for substantive progress on the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) based on the three texts transmitted to the WIPO General Assembly which were expected to fill the international legal vacuum existing within this vast melting pot of creativity and innovation. Furthermore, the question of the IGC was an absolute priority and its resolution

would also help to preserve the fundamentals of the Organization which focus on the development dimension and the principle of a balanced global IP system. Moreover, it would be appropriate to agree on an ambitious work program for the IGC, with a clearly-defined timeframe that can yield tangible results and, especially, one or more legally-binding instruments capable of affording efficient and balanced protection to genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). The African Group welcomed the unanimous agreement reached by Member States at the thirty-fourth session of the IGC in June 2017 to prolong the mandate of the Committee, thus managing to reduce their differences on fundamental questions relating to these three draft instruments. As a follow-up to this decision of major political significance, the African Group had presented a proposed work program contained in document WO/GA/49/17, to alternate the regular sessions of the Committee with meetings of the Intersessional Working Group in order to expedite the work of the IGC which had lasted for almost two decades. As regards convening of a diplomatic conference on the draft design law treaty (DLT), the African Group reaffirmed its commitment to participate constructively in the negotiations in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the WIPO General Assembly's decision of 2015 but stated that this should be subject to prior resolution of the fundamental issues of technical assistance and disclosure. Other issues of special interest to the African Group included limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, as well as limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities. These themes had been discussed since the twelfth session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) in 2004. In that regard, the African Group had been hopeful that the SCCR would define a relevant action plan that would provide precise information on the nature of the appropriate international legal instrument(s). However, the Group remained deeply committed to the legally-binding nature of such instruments and the need to work on the basis of formal instruments. Lastly, with respect to External Offices, the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) had failed to decide on the locations of four field offices for the current and the next biennia. There was an absolute and urgent need to find a solution to this thorny and complex issue, especially given the current time constraints. The African Group remained committed to supporting this entire process.

4. The Delegation of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the **Asia and the Pacific Group**, highlighted the importance that the region attached to IP as a catalyst of technological and socio-economic development. The number of patent, utility model, trademark and industrial design applications filed in the region had continued to rise and had accounted for 61.9 per cent of total filings worldwide in 2016. Moreover, the Group participated constructively in all WIPO committees, firm in the belief that the IP system must both protect holders' rights and meet societal need in order to be fair, just and balanced. It therefore considered that its position in the IP world and its size as a Group should be reflected in a more balanced representation in all WIPO committees and governing bodies, in particular the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. Calling for the External Office issue to be resolved at the earliest opportunity and in a manner consistent with the Guiding Principles, it reaffirmed the Group's commitment to being included in the solution. It was gratified that the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) had been satisfied with the utilization of resources by the Internal Oversight Division (IOD), that WIPO's financial performance had been sound and had yielded a surplus and an increase in net assets, and that programme performance for 2016-2017 had been assessed as being on track. It looked forward to agreement on the proposed Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium. It called on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) to continue to mainstream development in all WIPO activities with a view to the implementation of the DA Recommendations. In particular, the inclusion of a standing agenda item on IP and development in the CDIP agenda would contextualise IPRs in the larger framework of development, ensure that IP regimes were crafted and optimized to foster holistic

socio-economic growth and sustainable development, and guide WIPO in implementing the SDGs and the WIPO DA, thus making IP work for all. It hoped that issues currently outstanding under the WIPO normative agenda would be resolved during the current series of meetings. Accordingly, it looked forward to the renewal of the mandate of the IGC, to the finalization of the international legal instrument effectively protecting GRs, TK and TCEs, and to the completion of negotiations on the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations in a manner consistent with the 2007 WIPO General Assembly mandate. It would participate in the discussion of matters arising under the Marrakesh Treaty, such as, persons with other disabilities and limitations and exceptions in respect of teaching and research institutions, libraries and archives. It noted that further work was required on the articles and provisions on technical assistance and capacity building in the DLT.

5. The Delegation of Tajikistan, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Central Asian, Caucasus, and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC)**, welcomed participants of the Assemblies, and expressed its confidence that under the leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chair the Assemblies would make progress in the discussion of important issues on the agenda. The Group has consistently supported WIPO's activities for developing and strengthening the capacity of national IP offices. The Group believed that WIPO's activities in this area should be balanced and meet the needs and requirements of transition economy countries. The Group expressed its hope that cooperation with WIPO in the area of technical assistance for countries of the region would be intensified. It noted with regret that the representation of countries of the CACEEC region in the Organization still does correspond to the share of these countries in WIPO. The Group stressed the importance of balanced regional representation in the Secretariat. It stated that the Group supported the adoption of the Program and Budget for 2018/19. As for the methodology of allocation of income and expenditure by Unions, the Group was for its improvement, including a detailed analysis of all sources of income. Moreover, the Group stressed the importance of adhering to the fundamental principles of WIPO and preserving for all Unions the common budget system of the Organization. The Group believed that a revision of the methodology would undermine the current efficient system of registration of IP subject matter and its global protection. The Group commended the current work of the Organization in the area of norm setting. As for the convening of the diplomatic conference to conclude the DLT, the Group believed that it would be feasible to hold such a Conference as it had stated on many occasions during the meetings of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) and of the WIPO General Assembly. However, the Group believed that prior to making a decision on convening the diplomatic conference, it would be necessary to resolve all differences on substantive issues, including the status of provisions on technical assistance. Such an approach would enable all parties to show confidence that the Conference would succeed in the conclusion of an international treaty reflecting the needs and interests of WIPO member states. The Group expressed its hope that WIPO Member States would be able to overcome remaining differences on this issue. For its part, the Group stood ready to continue constructive participation in activities aimed at the achievement of the common goal. The Regional Group was also in favor of intensifying the work within the SCCR concerning the draft Treaty on the Protection of the Rights of Broadcasting Organizations, in order to be able to reach a decision in the near future on the convening of a diplomatic conference for the conclusion of the treaty. The Regional Group believed that the approaches of regional groups towards the draft treaty could be successfully aligned, provided that this issue received priority during the next meetings of the Committee. The Group also commended the activities of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) as a forum to exchange information between countries of different regions on issues of enforcement of IPRs. Cooperation and coordination of efforts to address this global issue, particularly between law enforcement offices at the national, regional and international levels, was of paramount importance. In the opinion of the Group, further work in this area with the use of such mechanisms as expert missions, visits,

seminars and workshops was highly desirable and useful. The Group expressed satisfaction with the ongoing work of the SCP, and voiced its hope that the Committee would continue its work on the basis of a balanced program to promote the development of the international patent system in the interests of all member states. The Group supported the work of the IGC. The Group stated that it was aware of the complexity of issues under consideration by the Committee, and expressed hope for a successful outcome in this area. In conclusion, the Group reiterated its sincere gratitude to Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent cooperation with CACEEC, constant readiness to provide necessary assistance and commitment to the cause of IP protection, and stated that it looked forward to further active cooperation within WIPO in the coming years.

6. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS)**, said that it was confident that WIPO would continue to provide services through the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems by increasing resource allocations to ensure that they were promoted and treated equally. It called for special attention to be paid during the current series of meetings to pending legislative matters such as the adoption of the DLT and the finalization of the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, which had been widely discussed at WIPO for several years. It noted that the CEBS Group considered that a diplomatic conference must be convened in order to adopt the DLT and favored an approach affording equal protection for transmissions of broadcasting organizations over other media. It called for consensus so that the Program and Budget for 2018/2019 could be adopted at the current series of meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Organization. It considered that the Guiding Principles adopted during the WIPO General Assembly in 2015 should be applied to decision making on External Offices and that the External Office network should rest on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with priority being given to regions in which there was no External Office. Stressing that CEBS was the only region in which there was no External Office and that Romania was the only country in the Group to have offered to host one, it called on all to act in the best interests of WIPO by honoring and respecting decisions and the history of long negotiations in finding a well-balanced solution during the current Assemblies. It called for an evidence-based approach to be taken in further discussion on the mandate of the IGC in order to reach a common understanding of the main objectives and of realistically achievable goals. Lastly, it called for recommendations relating to the WIPO DA to be appropriately taken into account.

7. The Delegation of **China** outlined the country's latest development in IP in the previous 12 months. At the end of 2016, the Government of China again released two important documents based on the principle of enhancing top-down design for the development of IP work. One was the Thirteenth Five-Year National Plan (2016-2020) on the Protection and Utilization of Intellectual Property Rights, which further identified the development goals, main tasks and measures for China's IP work for the period between 2016 and 2020. The other was the General Plan for Pilot Reform of the Comprehensive Management of IP Rights. The Plan, designed to support innovation-driven development, laid out a clear road map for the pilot reform of the comprehensive management of IP at the local level, actively integrated all the elements of IP work and aimed to bring out the comprehensive effects of various types of IPRs. Meanwhile, IP-related provisions were officially incorporated into the General Provisions of the Civil Law and significant progress was made in the amendments to the Patent Law, the Copyright Law and the Patent Agency Regulations. The Government had continued to strengthen its efforts to protect IPRs and crack down on all kinds of IP infringements over the past 12 months. More than 40,000 patent cases had been handled through the administrative enforcement route, representing a year-on-year increase of 36.5 per cent; 28,000 trademark infringement and counterfeit cases were filed and investigated; the "Sword Net" special campaign against online infringement and piracy was launched and software legalization was energetically pursued. The Government had vowed

to protect IPRs of domestic and foreign enterprises equally, and strived to create a sound environment for innovation and business. As a result, social satisfaction with IP protection had increased steadily. China's IP creation in the past year had maintained its momentum, with the number of patent applications for domestic inventions surpassing one million and copyright registrations standing at over two million. From January to August 2017, China witnessed an increase of 5.7 per cent for patent applications, to a total of 806,000. Around 3.36 million applications for trademark registration had also been filed. In the first half of 2017, some 21,600 PCT international applications were received, up by 16 per cent compared to the same period of last year. The Delegation commended WIPO for the remarkable achievements scored in the past year. In reaffirming the deepened cooperation between the Government of China and WIPO, the Delegation noted that the two sides had signed the Agreement on Enhancing "Belt and Road" Intellectual Property Cooperation in May 2017 and co-organized the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications and the International Forum on Copyright, respectively in Yangzhou and Shanghai, in June 2017. The Delegation was pleased to see that the cooperation in all professional areas was progressing well and that the WIPO Office in China (WOC) maintained its effective operation. With regard to the relevant issues within the WIPO framework, the Delegation firstly proposed to give full play to the role of WIPO as a key platform for international IP norm-setting. It welcomed the positive changes in the discussions in the IGC and the SCP and it looked forward to equally positive progress in the work of other committees within the Organization so as to facilitate the early convening of the diplomatic conference on the DLT, to expedite the consensus on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, and to enable the early entry into force of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances. Secondly, full attention should be given to the concerns of developing countries. China welcomed the recent outcomes attained in the CDIP, hoped that the 2018/19 biennium mandate and work plan of the IGC could be adopted during the 2017 Assemblies, and expected WIPO to continue to provide sufficient resources for the mainstreaming of the development dimension. Thirdly, the Delegation urged for full safeguards to be provided for the smooth operations of all WIPO programs and looked forward to the successful adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2018/2019 biennium. It also supported further improvements to the PCT and Madrid Systems. The Delegation highlighted that relying on the cooperative, win-win and sharing approach, it would actively support multilateralism and engage with all parties to support the work of WIPO with a view to making positive contributions to the development of a balanced and inclusive global IP system that was beneficial to all. In the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C), the Government of Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C had been driving the development of Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C as an IP trading hub in the region. Early in 2017, the Government of Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C had announced its decision to implement the international trademark registration system under the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C. Upon its implementation, a trademark owner could file an international trademark application in Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C to obtain overseas trademark protection or an overseas trademark owner could seek trademark protection in Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C *via* the international registration system. A series of related preparatory tasks were under way. Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C had passed amendments to the Arbitration Ordinance in June 2017 to clarify that all disputes over IPRs, including the validity of IPRs, were capable of settlement by arbitration in Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C. The Delegation hoped that more parties would be encouraged to choose to settle their IP disputes by arbitration in Hong Kong SAR of P.R.C. The Delegation concluded by expressing its wish to share its experiences with other parties.

8. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of **Group B**, stated that no one could question the significant progress and results achieved by WIPO in recent years, especially in global IP services. The steady growth of applications and the expansion of membership could not be achieved without properly responding to growing real world demands. On technical assistance, Group B welcomed WIPO partnership with Member States and was

impressed with the abundance and variety of programs provided by the Organization. To achieve WIPO objectives as prescribed in the WIPO Convention, it was necessary to have a common understanding of the workings of the Organization. Accordingly, constant consideration must be given to the unique and significant nature and character of WIPO objectives. Although WIPO had to fulfil its responsibilities as a member of the United Nations (UN) family, it must do so in a manner that remained consistent with its overarching principles and objectives, namely: IP promotion and protection and the assurance of administrative co-operation among the Unions. To achieve one of its objectives, namely the promotion of IP protection, WIPO had to maintain a presence on the ground. In other words, it had to remain in touch with the real world of innovators, creators, IP system users, IP information and others. Approval of the program and budget for the next biennium was obviously a pressing issue because it was critical to the smooth operation of WIPO. In that respect, certain issues needed to be addressed and could be resolved during the current session. It was important to bear in mind that revenue from prepaid services came from international demand for IP titles. While congratulating WIPO on its financial prudence, Group B urged delegates to bear in mind that the significant increase in revenue may be attributed to the growth of one global IP service, namely the PCT System. Although further growth was expected in the other systems, it would be wise to remain financially prudent, given the volatile economic situation which could affect patent application trends. With respect to WIPO External Offices, Group B was confident that this WIPO General Assembly would find the most appropriate way forward. However, External Offices must provide added value to WIPO, contribute to its strategic goals and be established in accordance with the Guiding Principles and the decisions of the 2015 WIPO General Assembly. The convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT was a long-standing issue. It was most regrettable that considerations, other than service standards, had long continued to prevent users from benefiting from the institution of an industrial design system. No one had opposed the diplomatic conference in 2013. Accordingly, the WIPO General Assembly should resolve the outstanding issues and move to the diplomatic conference in 2018. With regard to the IGC, Group B recalled a recommendation of IGC 34 to the WIPO General Assembly stating that the committee should continue its work during the next biennium. Group B hoped that discussions on the mandate would lead to a consensual outcome that took into account the wide range of views. The respective Unions should continue discussions to improve their systems and activities. Group B extended gratitude to the IAOC, IOD and the external auditor whose report was presented to the WIPO General Assembly. A well-functioning oversight system was essential to maintain the effectiveness, efficiency, and promotion of WIPO management and activities.

9. The Delegation of Costa Rica, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)**, said that the Group had taken up the challenge of taking decisions and moving forward on substantive and institutional issues that were in the best interests of the Organization, which were in reality those of its members. GRULAC focused on the ultimate goal that all must pursue, namely achieving a prosperous, sustainable and fair world, which had been enshrined in the SDGs adopted in 2015 and to which each organization of the UN system must make a specific contribution. It appreciated the multifaceted work done by WIPO, involving technical cooperation through all of its sectors, in particular the Development Sector and the Global Infrastructure Sector, support for progress in setting standards and the services provided to make the IP system efficient. GRULAC considered that it was crucial to approve the budget for the 2018/2019 biennium so that WIPO operations could be guaranteed, by preserving developed areas of work and inclusive progress therein. Turning to the subject of the External Offices, to which GRULAC gave priority, it thanked the President for the efforts made to promote agreement and thus fulfil the mandate given by the previous WIPO General Assembly. It added that the number set for External Offices was undeniably small, and that the regional groups, to which it again made a special appeal, must therefore work internally to limit the proposals. GRULAC had

already performed that rather difficult and complex task by nominating Colombia, by consensus, for the nearly ended 2016/2017 biennium, which, in addition to not submitting any nominations for the 2018/2019 biennium, undoubtedly constituted a great contribution by GRULAC to the negotiations. That point must be viewed by all in that light. The Group considered it imperative that a decision be taken at the current series of meetings to open a third External Office during the current biennium and that it be hosted by Colombia, thus honoring the record and the contributions made by GRULAC since the negotiations that had led to the adoption of the Guidelines. It was crucial for WIPO to take practical steps that helped to even out the capacities of all countries to benefit from innovation and from the international IP system. The Latin America region faced the great challenge of promoting knowledge- and innovation-based economies, and the Group hoped that such an office would contribute constructively to that process. Progress achieved thereon by the WIPO committees and in the international normative agenda was of vital importance. GRULAC looked forward to balanced progress in that agenda, with substantial progress in all pending matters. It had participated actively during the current biennium in the WIPO IGC and hoped to work on the renewal of terms of reference that would lead to substantial progress and would be designed pragmatically and specifically to achieve results. The negotiations, which had been based on regulatory texts since 2010, were vitally important and took into account the environmental and cultural wealth of GRULAC countries, which required such protection. GRULAC was prepared to review within the CDIP the report and the recommendations on the implementation of the DA. GRULAC considered that development must be mainstreamed and for that reason ascribed great importance to discussions on the role of WIPO in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, referring to the meeting of the Patent Cooperation Treaty Working Group (PCT/WG), the Group voiced its support for the approval and early implementation of the proposal contained in document PCT/WG/10/18, submitted by Brazil, proposing lower international PCT fees for universities in developing countries. Lastly, GRULAC stated its willingness to seek agreements so that the Organization could continue to move forward.

10. The Delegation of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, noted that in the 50 years since its establishment ASEAN had emerged as a dynamic global player with a combined gross domestic product of over 2.6 trillion United States dollars and the third largest market base in the world, serving a population of over 634 million. ASEAN's economic integration had fueled a vibrant flow and exchange of goods, services and investment, bringing the total value of its trade to one trillion United States dollars as of 2016. IP continued to drive innovation, economic growth and competitiveness in the ASEAN region. A number of milestones had already been reached during the first year of the ASEAN 2016–2025 Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan. Of ASEAN's 10 member countries, nine had joined the PCT and eight the Madrid Protocol. The remaining countries were expected to follow suit in the near future. ASEAN was proud to have launched PATENTSCOPE, an online platform providing access to regional patent resources, including over 500,000 ASEAN patent documents with complete primary data. ASEAN's patent work-sharing initiative, Patent Examination Cooperation, had helped to double the number of patent applications since 2016. ASEAN hoped to continue cooperating with WIPO in the area of patent work-sharing. In a bid to position creativity and innovation as the drivers of economic growth and development in the region, ASEAN was steadily increasing the number of patent libraries and technology transfer offices. Training provided in universities under the WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program was proving invaluable. In addition, WIPO diagnostics had been completed for the IP offices of some ASEAN member countries, helping to improve their systems, processes and services and meet the needs of IP stakeholders. With WIPO's assistance, ASEAN hoped that diagnostics would be completed for its remaining member countries in the very near future. The WIPO Singapore Office had provided consistent support by implementing regional capacity-building initiatives and promoting the effective use of WIPO services. The

region had greatly benefited from WIPO's technical assistance, which had been tailored to each ASEAN member state's needs. Given the economic growth prospects in the region, ASEAN would need to continuously expand and improve the IP system to meet growing demand for high-quality IP services. ASEAN hoped to extend its partnership with WIPO in order to facilitate the implementation of its Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan and meet the challenges posed by the digital economy and the constantly evolving technology landscape. Guided by its Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan, ASEAN was intending to improve the marketing and delivery of IP services to its stakeholders. To that end, it wished to strengthen its cooperation with WIPO and the WIPO Singapore Office.

11. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and its member states**, declared that IPRs protection and promotion remained a key priority. In the increasingly knowledge-based economies of the European Union, IP protection was crucial for promoting innovation and creativity, generating jobs and improving competitiveness and growth. For instance, 39 per cent of the European Union's total economic activity was generated by IPR-intensive industries which also accounted for approximately 35 per cent of all direct and indirect jobs in the European Union. According to an EPO/EUIPO report of September 2013, IPR-intensive industries also paid significantly higher wages than other industries, with a wage premium of over 40 per cent. The digital revolution had clearly exposed the current IP enforcement system to new challenges. Goods and services which infringed the IPRs of others were a concern to all citizens, consumers, businesses and taxpayers. The European Union intended to launch a package to complement its existing directive on IPRs enforcement, supplemented by other IP enforcement initiatives. It also looked forward to a discussion on a common approach towards IP enforcement at WIPO. The WIPO ACE was an important structure and would be an appropriate forum for such a discussion. WIPO was the central hub for global IP infrastructure. WIPO's core mission remained servicing of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems and further resources should be allocated to promote and strengthen these core rights systems on an equal basis. In that regard, the Delegation highlighted the importance of developing an internationally-balanced protection system for all categories of IPRs. WIPO was also a unique forum for global IP policy and norm-setting. The Delegation noted that WIPO's normative work had increased over the years and emphasized that this work should not only ensure the proper functioning of the global IP system, but also make concrete improvements thereafter. To guarantee the success of the WIPO General Assembly in terms of WIPO normative work, clear priority should be given to the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. The 2017 WIPO General Assembly should break the political deadlock and take that long-awaited decision. The Treaty would greatly benefit designers world-wide by simplifying and harmonizing design registration formalities. Moreover, successful resolution of this long-standing issue would enhance the credibility of WIPO's normative agenda. As regards the proposal to include a mandatory disclosure requirement in the DLT, the European and its member states considered the IGC to be the appropriate forum for discussing the underlying issues pertaining to disclosure requirements. Another area of interest for Estonia during the WIPO General Assembly was the treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, which was still being discussed in the SCCR. The European Union and its member states attached great importance to these discussions and believed that they should ultimately result in a meaningful treaty that efficiently satisfied the needs of broadcasting organizations in the 21st century. The European Union and its member states noted the IGC's recommendation to the WIPO General Assembly that its work should continue in the next biennium, provided the WIPO General Assembly could agree on a mandate. Despite very limited progress on the three topics under discussion in the IGC during the current mandate, it had become apparent that the IGC could not engage in meaningful negotiations without a common understanding of its objectives and the core issues before it, several of which cut across the three topics. Accordingly, if the WIPO General Assembly decided to renew the IGC mandate, reaching common ground on these

core issues should be the main objective of the Committee's work during the next biennium. The European Union and its member states were ready to participate actively in discussions on a possible new mandate and work program for the IGC. The 26th session of the SCP had been successful. After long discussions, the SCP had managed to agree on a balanced and reasonable work program. As regards on-going work on WIPO's DA, the European Union and its member states reaffirmed their support and commitment to the appropriate implementation of DA Recommendations. Over the last 12 months, the European Union had been working to ensure compliance of its legislation with its WIPO commitments. In particular, the European Union and its member states were pleased to announce that on September 13, 2017, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted two legislative proposals aimed at ensuring compliance of European Union legislation with the obligations of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (Marrakesh Treaty).

12. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**, sought to achieve ambitious development. Many LDCs were charting pathways to achieve accelerated economic growth and development, so as to move out of the LDCs category. Attaining higher levels of economic competitiveness was central to their aspiration to bridge the development divide. Therefore, the current development policy landscape in LDCs provided stronger impetus to the positive role of the IP system in creating a robust knowledge base of innovation and creativity for development. Accordingly, WIPO's work and the LDCs' partnership with the Organization had become more important. The LDCs appreciated the efforts to instill greater coherence between their IP needs and WIPO's cooperation framework. The Group had benefitted from WIPO's cooperation and support to prepare national IP policies and innovation strategies, modernize IP administration systems, establish and strengthen TISCs, for extensive institutional and human capacity-building and for enhanced and cost-free access to IP databases on science and technology. Projects on capacity-building on appropriate technology to meet the key development challenges of LDCs highlighted a value-added dimension of the WIPO-LDCs partnerships, successfully demonstrating how LDCs could use the IP system to build national knowledge bases through transfer of appropriate technology to address development challenges. The work of the CDIP was very important. The DA and successful implementation of its projects under the CDIP were crucial towards advancing the IP development phenomenon in LDCs, which accounted for one quarter of UN Member States and were confronted with daunting development challenges and inherent structural weakness. In its work and projects, the CDIP should consider this special and differential need of the LDCs when selecting beneficiary countries. There was a need to fast-track LDC projects in the CDIP. Moreover, the establishment of balanced and legally binding instruments on TK, TCEs and GRs was crucial for LDCs. Such a system would contribute to LDCs' efforts on the use of IP-based legal protection and the management and use of the rich TK, TCEs and GRs of the LDCs. There should be greater understanding to agree on one or more legally binding instruments for the benefit of all. On the DLT, the Group of LDCs remained committed to holding constructive talks and underscored the importance of having a technical assistance article in the main body of the treaty. A balanced, fair and equitable IP system that took into account the constraints and needs of developing countries and LDCs was important for development. On the Marrakesh Treaty, the Group of LDCs supported efficient and meaningful discussions in the form of international agreements on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions, as well as for libraries, archives and persons with other types of disabilities. The 2011 Istanbul Program of Action had emphasized coherence and coordination and underlined the importance of coordinating support for LDCs within WIPO. The report on the evaluation of WIPO Assistance to LDCs prepared by the IOD underlined the importance of coordinating support for LDCs within WIPO. The Group hoped for better coordination of all LDCs issues by the Division for LDCs. LDCs, being "innovation learners"

as per the Global Innovation Index, could benefit immensely from such joint endeavors. The 10 per cent reduction of the annual membership contribution was welcome, provided it did not adversely affect WIPO's future development cooperation expenditure.

13. The Delegation of **Algeria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. Algeria attached great importance to IP and the international rules governing it. For that reason, it was establishing a system that would transform IP into a vehicle for social and economic development and within which WIPO would play a major role provided the development dimension was maintained. The current international IP system could not give proper consideration to the interests and concerns of developing countries. The system should be fairer, more inclusive and more impartial to further protect, strengthen and enforce IPRs. The Delegation hoped that the Assemblies – which were the appropriate forum for advancing work on the definition of WIPO standards – would facilitate the development of coordinated strategies that met the expectations of the various stakeholders. Accordingly, particular attention should be given to a number of issues that had a direct bearing on the above concerns. In that regard, the Delegation cited discussions within the IGC initiated some 17 years ago and which should now yield concrete results, considering that, during the IGC's last mandate, significant progress had been made on the related documents, lending them sufficient maturity to move the process to the next stage. There was also a need for coordinated and tangible progress in the work of the SCT, given that the conclusion of discussions on outstanding issues would finally make it possible to take a decision on the draft treaty on design rights. The Delegation thanked all Member States for adopting the decision to open WIPO's first two External Offices in Africa, in Algiers and Abuja, during the 2016 WIPO General Assembly. It also welcomed the positive steps taken to open the Algiers office, particularly the provision of the new office building. A draft headquarters agreement had recently been finalized with the Secretariat; the Delegation hoped that it could be approved by all Member States at the next session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. While thanking the Secretariat for its flexibility and efficiency since the start of that process, Algeria expressed a desire for consensus on the opening of four other External Offices. The Delegation underscored its commitment to support all efforts to that end. Algeria had recently acceded to the Beijing Treaty and its accession to the Marrakesh Treaty was being finalized.

14. The Delegation of **Angola** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. Angola had implemented policies on IP protection, promotion and development and was restructuring its legal and administrative frameworks to boost innovation, encourage investment and promote trade expansion in an effort to diversify its economy. These restructuring efforts were supported by several stakeholders, particularly WIPO which had been active in this area since 2015. The technical assistance program developed by WIPO for all Member States, and from which Angola had certainly benefitted, included Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) technology support aimed at modernizing the IP system in Angola to adapt it to international norms and standards. Accordingly, the Angolan Institute of Industrial Property (IAPI) had created appropriate conditions at the local level, such as the digitization of information and signals, to facilitate future migration when installing the software. Angola was interested in signing the Protocol submitted to its Regulatory Authority for consideration and for which a response was awaited. The Angolan Ministry of Industry, acting through IAPI, had oriented its actions toward implementing Government policies pertaining to the promotion, protection, study and development of IP matters like patents, utility models and other distinctive signs used in trade. Angola was keen on sensitizing its decision-makers, academic circles, the judiciary, young entrepreneurs, industrialists, the business community and the general public to the relevance and benefits of IPRs and the protection they confer. In that regard, it counted on greater cooperation with WIPO. In an increasingly globalized and competitive world, IP protection was becoming increasingly widespread. Accordingly, Angola was aware that due

protection of the creations of the human intellect was crucial to the application of the national industrial policy, as was the case in more developed economies where IP constituted a significant proportion of their intangible assets. Today's world was driven by a knowledge economy and knowledge was an important instrument for innovation, competition and economic success. IP protection was one of the prerequisites for the social and economic development of peoples and countries. Africa was still considered to be a virgin continent whose IP system needed to be developed, so that it contributes to the so-called "world stability" and attainment of the SDGs by 2030. Accordingly, Angola urged WIPO to pay greater attention to Africa and wished that the continent would feature among the priorities of the Organization and its Member States. It was equally important and urgent to implement a policy that ensured balance and better geographical and regional representation within the WIPO secretariat staff. Angola recognized the relevance of the ongoing work of the IGC, since the outcome of the discussions on these matters could enhance protection against misappropriation. The Delegation hoped that, after more than 16 years of negotiation, WIPO Member States would reach an agreement to adopt a binding international instrument that promotes and protects the TK of indigenous peoples and communities against misappropriation and exploitation, thus depriving them of the attendant commercial benefits. Accordingly, approval of the program proposed by the African Group would facilitate the achievement of this objective and determine the date for the IGC International Conference. In that regard, Angola supported the texts adopted in recent IGC sessions as a good basis for discussion and commitment. Angola would continue to work constructively to ensure that an agreement was reached on the convening of a diplomatic conference on the DLT. However, as stated by the African Group, the possibility of convening a diplomatic conference in the spirit of the WIPO General Assembly decision should be subject to prior resolution of the basic issues of technical assistance and disclosure of origin. Access to knowledge was a basic prerequisite to development, and IP was the most comprehensive instrument for regulating such access.

15. The Delegation of **Antigua and Barbuda** stated that it was committed to creating a modern IP registry and promoting IP culture. It pledged to continue to work with WIPO on issues of common interest and hoped to receive continuing support from WIPO for the country's ongoing endeavors. It stressed that, despite the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the country was committed to serving all local and international users of the registry. It recognized the importance of IP to national development plans and goals, stressing that the Government's legislative and administrative agenda had been designed to update national IP laws and to reflect global developments. The Patents Act 2012 was the most recent legislation to be passed, and related regulations would be enacted by the end of the year. Technical assistance had been provided in order to modernize and update the copyright bill, which had been submitted to the Ministry of Legal Affairs. The Trademarks Act would be amended in 2018 and awareness would be raised through a new website. The country continued to explore ways in which creative industries, which could boost economic growth, particularly in music, sports and folklore, could improve its gross domestic product for the development of its citizens. As young people were in daily contact with IP systems daily, owing to technology in particular, the State was committed to including IP in its educational curricula, and the matter was being discussed by the national IP Office and the Ministry of Education. In the meantime, World IP Day 2017 had been marked by an essay competition for primary and secondary schools nationwide, an open day and mini street fair at the Registry office and school visits conducted to raise young people's awareness of various IP aspects. Moreover, educational campaigns and competitions for young people had been presented as a means of building respect for IP in the country. At the 12th session of the ACE, with WIPO's assistance, staff at key local and sub-regional institutions and agencies had received IP training in 2017 in matters relating to the Madrid Protocol, patents and the PCT. Given the range of national initiatives and varying stages of IP development in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean, the Delegation

commended WIPO's recognition of the desire of the Caribbean Member States to exploit rich, vast and untapped IP opportunities, with WIPO's Caribbean Unit playing a leading role in implementing a varied DA.

16. The Delegation of **Argentina**, after endorsing the statement delivered by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, said that the agenda of the current series of meetings included matters relating to the international normative framework, and that the updating of the protection of broadcasting organizations, currently before the SCCR, was a normative issue of great importance to Argentina and had been under negotiation for many years. It considered that a basic draft treaty effectively protecting broadcasting organizations should be finalized as a matter of priority in response to recent technological changes and that a diplomatic conference could be convened in 2018. It hoped that agreement could be reached in order to convene a diplomatic conference on the DLT. Acknowledging the progress achieved in the current biennium on the work in progress in the IGC, it noted that some key issues were still pending and stressed that the IGC must be mandated to continue its work during the forthcoming biennium, stating that its country was ready to contribute constructively to reaching an agreement. Reiterating its country's commitment to effective implementation of the DA, it called on the Secretariat to continue its efforts to mainstream development issues in the Organization's activities. It commended the training activities conducted by the WIPO Academy and was grateful for the support provided for the Master's degrees in IP taught in Buenos Aires and open to all Latin American and Caribbean countries. It reaffirmed Argentina's commitment to effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty and to further efforts to ensure that the goals set under the Treaty were met and that all persons with visual impairments had easy access to books. It said that the budget was a necessary tool for the smooth functioning of the Organization and for achieving expected results, but it was confident that outstanding matters would be resolved so that the budget for the forthcoming biennium could be approved. It restated Argentina's intention to accede to the PCT at the earliest possible date.

17. The Delegation of **Australia** stated that in a world where economies were becoming more knowledge-based, IP and other intangible outputs were increasingly important. Innovation could drive new sources of economic growth and prosperity. The role of WIPO and its Member States was vital in ensuring that the international IP system could adapt to meet present-day challenges and seize future opportunities. Member States should focus on collaboration, including across regions, to further shared interests in areas where advancing the normative agenda could add significant value to global frameworks to promote trade, investment and technology diffusion. Member States should take a constructive approach in navigating the differences that remained. The improved functioning of WIPO meetings had led to greater efficiency and stronger outcomes that benefitted all users of the IP system. Australia welcomed continued constructive engagement from Member States to develop a future work plan and mandate for the IGC, as the subjects being discussed were of prime importance to indigenous peoples and to the maintenance of their continuing culture and identity. In recognition of that reality, Australia had made a further contribution to the WIPO Voluntary Fund in 2017, to ensure that indigenous peoples' perspectives were delivered in person and contributed directly to future discussions. Australia had been encouraged by the IGC's recommendation that those discussions should continue and recognized that real progress was achievable through the continued goodwill and cooperation of Member States. Australia was also committed to good governance at WIPO, including effective oversight and ethics, and it was committed to ensuring that WIPO's policies for protection against retaliation were effective, efficient and fair and reflected UN best practices. Australia maintained its strong support for ongoing improvements to the global IP system, particularly to the PCT and the Madrid Protocol. Administrative cooperation was an excellent platform for delivering a more streamlined and effective global IP system and in that context, Australia had, in 2017, made its dossier of information available on WIPO CASE. The availability of

such information was important in increasing the transparency of the patent system and helping other offices to benefit from each other's search reports. More offices should make their dossier information available for the benefit of everyone. The second iteration of the Australian WIPO Funds in Trust (WIPO FIT2), operating from 2016, had already begun to record some key achievements, which included the development of national IP strategies for countries including Laos, Kiribati, Niue and Viet Nam; contributing to WIPO's Accessible Books Consortium (ABC); and tackling neglected tropical diseases through WIPO Re:Search in partnership with Bio Ventures for Global Health, to offer fellowship placements to top scientists in the field. The Australian WIPO FIT were also helping to deliver sustainable results for IP capacity-building and development needs. Australia remained committed to working with WIPO Member States to ensure that the international IP system served innovators, creators and businesses and promoted global growth and development.

18. The Delegation of **Austria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B, and the statement made by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. IP played a particular role in stimulating creativity and innovation, thereby contributing to economic, cultural and social development. WIPO had garnered positive achievements, in particular in the areas of technical assistance, information about continuing adherence to WIPO-administered treaties and the growing use of international IP systems based on WIPO treaties and Unions. There had been positive developments in the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by WIPO, especially the PCT and the Madrid Systems, which were also the main generators of WIPO's income. The Organization and its staff should continue and even expand efforts and activities to further strengthen the overall IP environment, thus maintaining its viability and efficiency and thereby establishing a balanced and effective international IP system that would encompass all categories of intellectual property rights (IPRs) for the benefit of all stakeholders. A reliable and sound financial framework would be necessary if the Organization wished to pursue these objectives. The timely approval of the Program and Budget for 2018/19 was one of the priorities of the Assemblies. Austria was ready to work with all Member States and WIPO to that end. It was also a priority to take the long-awaited and final step to resolving the last two outstanding issues preventing the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT to harmonize and simplify design registration and formalities. In regard to the report of the last session of the SCCR, certain technical and complex issues seemed to need further discussion despite emerging consensus on some matters concerning protection for broadcasting organizations. The SCCR should seek guidance from the WIPO General Assembly in regard to future action. Austria had a special interest in finalizing the work on the protection of broadcasting organizations; the preparation of a list of outstanding issues and a road map could help to structure future discussions in the SCCR, enabling it to reach a recommendation on the rapid convening of a diplomatic conference. A viable and harmonized patent system would be beneficial for all stakeholders. The Delegation noted the report on the final sessions of the SCP and welcomed the positive decision concerning a future work program in which the five topics selected reflected the various priorities in a balanced manner. Austria was ready to work with all delegations to further improve the patent system as a whole and in the short term and was especially interested in discussions concerning the harmonization of a substantive patent law. In its 18th and 19th sessions, the CDIP had continued to discuss the implementation of the DA Recommendations. The reports and documents considered by the CDIP and the reports of relevant WIPO bodies had demonstrated numerous achievements under this important initiative, further enhancing the development dimension of WIPO. The Director General and the Secretariat should continue to implement the DA Recommendations as an integral part of WIPO's activities to promote the protection of IP worldwide. Regarding the report on the work of the IGC, it was important to bear in mind the recommendation to the WIPO General Assembly that the work of the IGC should continue during the 2018/19 biennium and that the WIPO General Assembly should

decide on a mandate and work program. Despite considerable progress in some areas, the IGC needed to increase its efforts. The starting point for a work program should be clarification and a common understanding of core issues where divergent views still existed. Austria supported the proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations and the recommendations concerning the future work of the PCT Working Group. It was especially appreciated that in its 30th session, the Committee for Technical Cooperation (CTC) had considered the application of the Austrian Patent Office to extend its appointment as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the PCT and had agreed unanimously to recommend an extension to the PCT Assembly. A manifold and continuously developing family of PCT authorities would be beneficial to the system and its users. The performance of the PCT authorities would depend on the quality of documentation and materials supporting applications filed before them. Austria was ready to support the appointment of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPPL) as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEA). Within the Madrid System, there had been laudable progress on the Madrid Goods and Services Database and the International Bureau should continue and even enhance cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office in regard to harmonizing acceptance status for terms taken from the European Harmonized Database (TMclass).

19. The Delegation of **Azerbaijan** stated that it was continuing to implement reforms aimed at boosting sustainable non-oil economic growth, improving the investment climate and developing human capital. The primary goals of these reforms were to adopt and implement the legislative and institutional capacity-building best practices applied in developed economies. These goals and the priorities related to innovative activity were enshrined in Decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan governing the adoption of strategic road maps for economic development. Under this reform process, appropriate institutional changes had been made to the IPRs protection system. The Patent and Trademark Office had been established as the national authority in charge of patent and trademark matters, and further changes had been made to the National Copyright Office. These reforms were prompted by the growing recognition of innovation as a crucial element of modern sustainable economies, while the institutional changes were geared towards promoting the development of the IPRs system and meeting related international requirements. WIPO's continued support for the development of Azerbaijan's IPRs protection system was greatly appreciated. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WIPO and the Government was paving the way for a range of common initiatives to broaden cooperation between the parties. A number of projects had been launched to enhance the training capacities of the National Patent Office, the Copyright Agency and the Enforcement Center on Intellectual Property attached to the latter, and to promote the establishment of TISCs in scientific and educational institutions. Successful collaboration with WIPO included joint work on IP policy at universities and scientific research institutions. The establishment of a WIPO External Office in Baku would be most welcome and would further enhance that collaboration. The Government was keen to collaborate with the International Bureau in that regard and looked forward to acceding to WIPO's various legal instruments and broadening its cooperation with relevant European organizations.

20. The Delegation of **Barbados** expressed its interest in the work of the SCT at its 37th session earlier in 2017, in particular the ongoing discussions on the protection of country names against registration and use as trademarks, which were important to small developing countries like Barbados. It looked forward to the analysis based on the consideration, comments and observations of Member States and to continued deliberations on the matter of trademarks. Member States were encouraged to continue their discussions in the PCT Working Group concerning a fee policy to stimulate filings by universities, developing countries and LDCs. There had been progress in the IGC under the 2016-2017 mandate

and Barbados supported its renewal for the 2018/19 biennium. Barbados noted the ongoing program of the CDIP and supported its activities. The Delegation expressed appreciation for WIPO's ongoing technical assistance to Barbados, which had strengthened the capacity of its IPO, thus furthering economic development.

21. The Delegation of **Belarus** welcomed the opening of the 57th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States and wished all members efficient work in line with the agenda. The Delegation highlighted that Belarus highly prioritized innovative development and attached great importance to the role of IP in its scientific, technical, commercial, industrial, and socio-cultural development. During the reporting period, the government of the country made significant efforts to improve the national IP system. In particular, changes were introduced in the trademark and service mark law, and in the copyright, related rights and industrial property law; fees for patent expertise were lowered and the term of trademark registration was prolonged; the law on accession of Belarus to the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) entered into force. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for WIPO's technical assistance aimed at the development of an effective national IP system. It stated that during the previous series of meetings of the Assemblies an agreement on the creation of TISCs in Belarus had been signed. Currently, in compliance with this agreement, two new TISCs were being established. As part of the implementation of the IPAS in Belarus, there have been conducted regular working sessions with the involvement of WIPO international experts. With WIPO's assistance, in Belarus there have been conducted annual national and regional seminars on various IP aspects. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's efforts on strengthening the position of the Organization as a global authority on IP. It welcomed the financial stability of the Organization. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the results of WIPO committees' work. It supported the focused discussion on the draft Treaty for the Protection of the Rights of Broadcasting Organizations, and expressed its hope for more intensive work on this project. The Delegation called upon all the WIPO Member States to expeditiously resolve differences on the text of the DLT in order to hold the diplomatic conference in 2018. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's efforts to implement the recommendations of the DA. It expressed its readiness for constructive and fruitful work in the framework of the upcoming meetings.

22. The Delegation of **Benin**, after endorsing the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group, welcomed the inclusion in the Assemblies' agenda of the items on the report on the SCT and the report on the IGC. Noting that the supervision of GRs and TK would inevitably affect the lives of several communities in all countries, particularly in developing countries, it stressed that it was important not to deprive those communities of their resources and that they should receive a return on the profits earned from the exploitation thereof. It considered the matter to be of capital importance to Benin, which hoped that ongoing proceedings would lead to fruitful discussions. It thanked WIPO for the assistance provided to research stakeholders through the TISC and while the National Intellectual Property Strategy was being drafted.

23. The Delegation of **Botswana** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. The SCT was to be commended for its substantive work on the DLT and it was hoped that the 2017 WIPO General Assembly would agree to convene a diplomatic conference to consider that treaty at the end of the first half of 2018, subject to the inclusion of articles on technical support and disclosure. Unfortunately, little progress had been made in the work of the various committees of the Organization, in particular the IGC. The protection of TK, TCEs and geographical indications was an important aspect of IP that required the setting of minimum international standards of protection. Despite slow progress, in view of the effort, resources and work already put into the work of the IGC, it should continue its work. Equally unfortunate was the limited progress

in the SCCR on the protection of broadcasting organizations, limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives for educational and research institutions, as well as for people with disabilities. The Delegation was nonetheless pleased at the growing number of Member States joining the Marrakesh Treaty and it encouraged other Member States, particularly developing countries, to follow suit. Botswana was grateful for WIPO's support in implementing a pilot project for capacity-building to convert printed materials into accessible formats under the auspices of the ABC. The project would contribute to promoting the conversion of printed materials into accessible formats for the print-disabled, clearly demonstrating the tangible benefits of the Marrakesh Treaty. Botswana was equally grateful for WIPO's support in the development of its IP system. Such support had contributed to continued growth in the administration of IP laws and a growing increase in the awareness and uptake of IP by nationals. Botswana was also grateful for its designation as a WIPO Model IP Office for Africa; that project would go a long way to ensure that it provided world-class service to users of the IP system by providing easy access to services by both Botswana and foreign nationals. Botswana was on the verge of finalizing a national IP policy, which it was confident would increase the versatility and effectiveness of its IP system and contribute towards transforming the country into a knowledge-based economy, as espoused in its National Vision 2036.

24. The Delegation of **Brazil** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC. Ten years ago, the WIPO General Assembly had adopted the WIPO DA, whose message remained relevant. IP had to serve as a tool for economic, social and cultural development and be beneficial to all Member States. The Marrakesh Treaty had demonstrated that flexibility in IP could and must progress in a balanced manner, with obligations and benefits for all. The recent entry into force of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights had been another important step forward. The full implementation of the 45 WIPO DA Recommendations was crucial for the legitimacy of the work done by the Organization. The same applied to the 2030 Agenda. Member States had the responsibility to incorporate into WIPO's work the 17 SDGs. Regarding normative issues before the WIPO Assembly, discussions within the IGC and the PCT Working Group were worth noting. The Delegation welcomed the progress in negotiations within the IGC and hoped that a mandate would be secured for the convening of a diplomatic conference in the near future. It was also grateful for the widespread support for the Brazilian proposal within the PCT Working Group for the reduction of patent application fees for universities and hoped that the proposal would be approved. The Delegation would continue to take a constructive approach in all matters pending before the SCCR. It was crucial to reach an understanding on the matter of External Offices.

25. The Delegation of **Brunei Darussalam** associated itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and noted that the country had continued, with the unwavering support of WIPO, to develop its IP infrastructure, to improve IP-related services in furtherance of IP accessibility and convenience, and to streamline its IP office processes in order to optimize the services provided to IP users. The country had moved closer to creating a paperless office environment, as the WIPO digitization and electronic data management projects had been implemented successfully and would lead to significant management efficiency gains in the country's IP Office. In addition to a work-sharing initiative designed to increase examination efficiency, tools available in the WIPO Global Brand Database had been used to make trademark examination more thorough. The country had published its Patentscope database in July 2017, and the participation of its depositing office in WIPO Case was expected to enhance related work-sharing programs. Consideration was being given to the implementation of WIPO file, an e-filing system for IP applications, as discussed during a WIPO mission to the national IP Office earlier in the year.

Brunei Darussalam had acceded to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and to the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) in February 2017, thus strengthening its IP services, and creativity and protection in the digital environment. A WIPO team had visited the country to produce videos highlighting local copyright, trademark and patent success stories. Activities in the areas identified for cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and WIPO had been designed to address the country's priority IP needs and would undoubtedly contribute towards its development and economic goals. Lastly, it called for further collaboration and the continuation of the invaluable support theretofore provided by WIPO for activities under the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2016-2025.

26. The Delegation of **Bulgaria** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS). It highly appreciated WIPO's efforts to develop an international legal framework for IP, maintain and improve existing standards, and achieve its strategic objectives in line with ever-growing current requirements. The Delegation lauded WIPO's performance in the previous year but stated that much remained to be done. It appreciated the work done so far in preparing the general instruction to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, aimed at regulating international registrations and safeguarding the long term financial stability of the Lisbon Union. The Delegation welcomed the decision to convene a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT, possibly before the end of 2018. Timely adoption of the DLT was important and would help design system stakeholders and facilitate design protection. The Delegation commended the steady expansion of global IP services through stable development and improvement of the PCT. The continued provision of services through the Hague and Madrid Systems for international registration was advantageous to applicants and rightholders worldwide and should be commended. The Delegation supported the WIPO DA and was committed to the appropriate implementation of Agenda Recommendations. It welcomed the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty as a beneficial WIPO achievement, and hoped that the international IP framework would continue to strike an appropriate balance between rightholders' interests and those of the general public. The Delegation was satisfied with the cooperation between its patent office and WIPO, exemplified by numerous activities implemented in 2016. Lastly, the Delegation would keep supporting WIPO as it addressed new challenges in the process of developing and sustaining a balanced global IP protection system.

27. The Delegation of **Burkina Faso** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. It wished for notable progress in addressing the issues of major concern raised by the African Group. The economic and social development of States was one of the many objectives of the international IP system. Accordingly, the Delegation positively appreciated initiatives aimed at mainstreaming development into WIPO plans and activities. As a beneficiary of the project titled "Strengthening and development of the audiovisual sector in Burkina Faso and certain African countries", the Delegation extended thanks to WIPO, and reiterated its availability for the effective implementation of this project. Cognizant of the role played by industrial property in development policy, the Government of Burkina Faso had conducted certain activities to boost creativity and innovation. These included the organization of an exhibition of innovative products and research results on industrial property protection during the annual Government-Private Sector Day and the creation of a biennial national forum for scientific research and technological innovation. This forum was a mechanism for discussing the findings of research conducted in Burkina Faso. It also enabled policymakers to engage in first-hand appraisal of research so that it can ultimately inform the relevant policy choices they make. Furthermore, a decree had been adopted to amend public procurement rules and regulations and delegations of public service to promote industrial property. Burkina Faso had deposited its instruments of ratification for the Marrakesh Treaty on August 31,

2017. Through this action, the country had accepted to comply with this Treaty and to contribute to its effective implementation for the benefit of persons with disabilities. WIPO faced enormous challenges but the Delegation was confident that positive and tangible results could be achieved through joint effort. For its part, the Delegation would participate more in negotiations within WIPO to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions.

28. The Delegation of **Canada** announced Canada's commitment to upholding the democratic values of pluralism, diversity and inclusiveness. Those values were being put into action through various policy initiatives, including an Innovation and Skills Plan. Recognizing the importance of IP in an innovation ecosystem, the plan included a commitment to develop a new national IP strategy. Particular attention would be paid to the engagement of under-represented groups in the IP system, including women, indigenous communities, youth and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Canada was also pursuing a progressive trade agenda that addressed issues including labor, environment, gender equality, digital trade and innovation. In that respect, WIPO was a rich repository of information that helped to inform government initiatives. To help fulfill the goals of Canada's ambitious agenda, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO)'s 2017-2022 business strategy would enhance innovators' success in the knowledge economy by pursuing greater global collaboration. CIPO would build on its achievements with various Member States and the CIPO-WIPO Executive Management Workshop organized in 2017. Canada would be signing an MoU with WIPO GREEN, an initiative that aligned with Canada's own technology plan for a clean-growth future. The Delegation expressed the hope that the PCT Assembly would respond favorably to Canada's desire to continue providing international searching and international preliminary examining services. Canada remained a strong supporter of WIPO as the key forum for the development of international norms that promoted an efficient, balanced, and accessible IP system through good governance and fact-based discussions: priorities to which Canada had also committed itself domestically. The Delegation nonetheless regretted that Member States remained unable to find consensus on a DLT. On the IGC, Canada supported the continuation of the work with a shared understanding of objectives and the practical implications of proposals in a way that did not prejudice the outcome but informed and guided further discussions and work on the draft texts. Canada was grateful the Secretariat for its ongoing and invaluable support as the country continued to contribute to WIPO's tasks and expand its participation in WIPO's Global IP Services through its efforts toward acceding to the Hague Agreement, the Madrid Protocol, the Singapore Agreement, the Nice Agreement, and the PLT.

29. The Delegation of the **Central African Republic** stated that its country encouraged all initiatives implemented to ensure that IP was no longer the preserve of the industrial and commercial worlds, as was the case in the past, but rather a veritable instrument of socio-economic development that promoted job creation through the strategic use of its various components. Thanks to multifaceted support and, especially, the scholarships awarded through the WIPO Worldwide Academy, several experts from the Central African Republic had received appropriate IP training and, as a result, IP law was being taught at the University of Bangui and in national higher technical and vocational training institutes. WIPO's assistance program through the creation of TISCs remained a priority for LDCs and especially for the Central African Republic which viewed it as a means of closing its technological gap. The Delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and called for the operationalization of the WIPO regional Office, whose creation had been decided through an agreement in principle reached the previous year. Lastly, the Central African Republic was grateful for the support it received during the difficult moments of its history.

30. The Delegation of **Chad** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and declared that it welcomed WIPO's commitment

to support efforts aimed at creating enabling conditions for the development of a fair IP system that is based on respect for the rule of law. As indicated by the Director General, the current IP system had been designed for various purposes, but adaptation could be necessary in some areas. It was obvious that the stakes were high, since the pending challenges related to new information and communication technologies and would require careful adaptations of the Organization's *modus operandi*. The Delegation supported the steps taken to reach a balanced consensus on issues relating to GRs, TK and TCEs. It also supported the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt a legally binding instrument capable of protecting this property effectively. Like the other African countries, Chad was steeped in tradition and enjoyed a profound and rich cultural diversity. Hence, this subject was quite relevant to the Delegation, which remained concerned by budget restrictions for development and human and institutional capacity-building. Member States had made considerable efforts and were encouraged to maintain the momentum so that WIPO could carry on with its mission of promoting the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that encouraged innovation and creativity in the interests of all.

31. The Delegation of **Chile**, after endorsing the statement delivered by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, noted that the current Assemblies would have significant implications for its country and region. It stressed that it was important to Chile that a budget be adopted for the 2018/19 biennium, providing sufficient resources to maintain and develop the technical cooperation and assistance that WIPO provided to enable industrial and IPOs to adjust to twenty-first century needs. It therefore ascribed special importance to the IPAS tool, which had led to administrative and management efficiency gains at the Nacional Industrial Property Institute (INAPI) and thus to a sharp reduction in application processing times. It hoped that INAPI would manage to be fully digital by 2018 and to implement the telework option for its staff, under an unprecedented pioneering project in Chile's public sector. It also hoped that the commitment and resolve of Member States to work constructively and achieve positive results for the Latin America region on the subject of External Offices. It highlighted the progress achieved by Member States in various WIPO committees and was confident that problems that had arisen during the negotiations would be resolved by taking a balanced view of IP for the greatest social benefit. It was therefore confident that the mandate of the IGC could be renewed and that positive results could be achieved on the DLT.

32. The Delegation of **Colombia** endorsed the statements made by the Director General on the challenges of the IP system and acknowledged the progress made over the period covered by his report. Colombia promoted free competition and acknowledged the IP system's contribution to productive development, as well as the important role it played in promoting innovation, creativity and competitiveness. Accordingly, it recognized the relevance and impact of WIPO's constant support to Colombian entities. An "Information Report on Intellectual Property" in Colombia had been launched in Bogota recently. The Delegation thanked the WIPO Chief Economist and team for their support in carrying out the study, which would provide relevant input during formulation of the National Development Plan for 2018-2022. The current annual meeting had a long agenda replete with pending matters and unresolved issues, which could be solved if all Member States showed commitment, pragmatism and flexibility. The Delegation fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, stressing the need to approve the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium to ensure the smooth functioning of WIPO. It was also crucial to achieve progress in negotiations on the normative agenda, which should result in sustainable growth and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The WIPO General Assembly should also finalize the pending decision on one External Office for 2016/2017 and three others for the 2018/2019. In that regard, and after welcoming GRULAC support, Colombia stressed the importance of acknowledging GRULAC efforts to present a consensus candidate, as well as the region's commitment and contribution to the

process, especially considering that it did not present a candidate for 2018/2019. The office proposed by Colombia was technically solid, fully consistent with the Guiding Principles and would strengthen WIPO presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Moreover, it would be the first office to be established by WIPO in a Spanish-speaking country. It was important for an extremely diverse and multiethnic country like Colombia to agree to an ambitious plan for the IGC. Although there were differences of opinion as to the nature of the future instrument(s), this should not prevent the establishment of a balanced framework within which decisions could be taken. The Delegation was grateful for the work done by WIPO and for the active participation of the Directors of Latin American IP offices at the recent meeting held in Colombia. That meeting highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in overcoming challenges faced by IP offices, creators and creative industries, considering that copyright was crucial to the cultural and economic development of Latin American countries.

33. The Delegation of the **Congo** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and called on Member States to reach a consensus on the following issues: adoption by the WIPO General Assembly of the decision to convene a diplomatic conference that would negotiate an international legally-binding instrument for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs; the organization of a biennial international conference on IP and development; and the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT. The Delegation welcomed implementation of the decision to establish two WIPO offices for Africa in Algeria and Nigeria. The adoption of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in May 2015 was a milestone for the Lisbon Union and WIPO. Indeed, this was a major step forward, not only for the development of geographical indications, but also for adherence of international organizations such as the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) which served as the IP office for the Congo and the receiving office for all its Member States. Accordingly, the Congo supported all initiatives related to the promotion of the Lisbon System. The Government of the Congo welcomed the capacity-building assistance provided by the WIPO Secretariat to Member States, and particularly the Congo.

34. The Delegation of **Costa Rica** said that it fully supported the GRULAC statement. It highlighted the nomination of Colombia to host the WIPO External Office in Latin America, which would strengthen IP considerably in the region. It noted that in 2017, owing to constant developments, there had been major changes in the Costa Rica Office, especially in technological infrastructure, and that the services provided to IP system users had been strengthened and optimized as a result. It thanked, in particular, Mr. Yo Takagi, Assistant Director General, and his team for the support that the Office had received from WIPO, as much progress had been achieved owing to joint efforts, and it hoped that support would be received for new projects in 2018 in order to achieve a high level of automation in all processes and services so that the Costa Rica Office would become a driver of economic and social development nationally and sub-regionally. It also thanked Ms. Beatriz Amorim Borher, Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, and her team for their collaboration in the basic and professional training of Costa Rican civil servants and officials and other IP system users. It further thanked Mr. Sherif Saadallah, Executive Director of the WIPO Academy, for the substantial support provided to the School of the Judiciary to train judges and prosecutors in IP related matters. It proudly acknowledged the national outcomes of those projects and efforts and highlighted Costa Rica's ranking as 53rd on the Global Innovation Index 2017 and second in Latin America; the country would therefore redouble its efforts to take advantage of opportunities for improvement derived from the study. It announced that, after a very successful term of office, which had led to major advances, the country had handed over the coordination of the National Technology and Innovation Support Center Network of Central America and the Dominican Republic in 2017 and that Costa Rica had been appointed to the presidency of the Regional Cooperation

System on Industrial Property and would work with other members to promote IP in Latin America as a tool for social, economic and cultural development. Lastly, it announced that, during the current series of meetings, it would deposit its instrument of ratification of the Marrakech Treaty, thus reaffirming Costa Rica's commitment to IP.

35. The Delegation of **Côte d'Ivoire**, after endorsing the statement delivered by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, said that the official visit paid by the Director General to Côte d'Ivoire in July 2017 had afforded an opportunity for that country's authorities to reaffirm their determination to use IP as a development tool and to consider new activities for cooperation with WIPO. The Government had accordingly supported Mr. Denis Loukou Bohoussou as a candidate for the Office of Director General of the African Intellectual Property Organization. The Ivorian Office of Intellectual Property had continued to take action and to conduct awareness-raising and promotional campaigns on geographical indications and collective marks. The legal framework for literary and artistic property had been strengthened and fair public-private remuneration had been introduced. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire was committed to implementing the copyright *droit de suite* and to ratifying some treaties that were pending ratification. With regard to the collective management of copyright, the restructuring of the Ivorian Copyright Office had been completed and that Office was resolutely continuing its efforts to collect and distribute royalties among all stakeholders in the sector. Royalties had therefore increased by 18 per cent in 2016 and by 76 per cent in 2017. Following the transition to digital terrestrial television and the advent of new ways of communicating and consuming works and recordings, the establishment of legal frameworks and contracts for the various forms of exploitation continued to be the major challenge. Côte d'Ivoire had appraised the significance of technical assistance received from WIPO to the success of its projects and hoped that delegations would reach a consensus on the question of External Offices as soon as possible. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire urged all parties to move forward on the important question of GRs, TK and folklore which, despite some significant progress, had not yet resulted in consensus documents. The Delegation hoped that the spirit of compromise would prevail during the meetings.

36. The Delegation of **Croatia** expressed its appreciation for WIPO's efforts and activities in building the global system for the legal protection of IP and in providing an open forum for dialogue on improvement in numerous fields of the IP system, which had created an incentive for innovation and creativity worldwide. WIPO had continued to make significant efforts to ensure effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems. Croatia wished to acknowledge the progress made within various WIPO Committees throughout 2017 and encouraged those activities that contributed to a balanced and effective international IP system. It was sincerely hoped that Member States would reach a common understanding at the meeting on the adoption of a formal treaty on industrial designs from which users in all the Member States, regardless of their level of development, would benefit. The Delegation also looked forward to a constructive discussion on the possible renewal of the mandate and work program for the IGC. Croatia supported the discussions within the SCCR on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations and invited Member States to make an additional effort to finalize that long-standing issue. There was no doubt as to the significant need for adequate and effective protection of broadcasting organizations which would be adapted to meet the requirements of emerging future technologies. Member States should focus the work of the meeting on the substantive issues that mattered most for the users and set aside discussion on issues that did not stem from their genuine needs. In December 2016, the country had marked the 25th anniversary of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia. The Office had been established immediately after independence, thus providing continuity of the national IP system which had been in force since the late 19th century. The Academy of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia was dedicated to providing training for various user groups (extending its

activities to children and youth in 2017), relying on its own initiatives and resources or in collaboration with other organizations. Since the beginning of 2014, in cooperation with the WIPO Academy, Croatia had received a local version of the distance learning General IP course in Croatian (DL-101 HR) thus providing access to IP courses in the national language, not only to users from Croatia, but also to Croatian speakers from neighboring countries. The course was being organized bi-annually and almost 500 participants from Croatia and neighboring countries had already seized the opportunity to extend their knowledge of IP. Croatia was dedicated to the fight against counterfeiting and piracy in the digital environment and the national campaign on risks related to the online purchase of counterfeit and pirated goods was in its second year. That campaign had proved to be highly successful.

37. The Delegation of **Cuba** expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the hurricanes that had ravaged the Caribbean region and the earthquake that had affected the people of Mexico recently, for the loss of life and the great material damage sustained. It said that the policy on the industrial property system approved by the Council of Ministers in October 2014 was being implemented in accordance with national development policies and official policies, in particular national and foreign science, technology, innovation and investment policies. Industrial property had been included among the strategic development thrusts of Cuba's approved 2030 economic model and its institutional development was being strengthened. It was in favor of the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium being approved by all Member States. It ascribed importance to the work that the IGC would accomplish in the forthcoming biennium: the IGC had been mandated to streamline its work through text-based negotiations in plenary open-ended meetings in order to reach agreement on the adoption of an international legal instrument that effectively protected GRs, TK and TCEs. It considered that the IGC mandate must be renewed for the forthcoming biennium and that a work schedule must be established in order to achieve the proposed goals. It regarded the WIPO DA as one of the fundamental pillars of the Organization and the Member States and, although the project implementation results achieved under some Agenda Recommendations constituted progress in implementing the recommendations, it acknowledged the need for Member States to establish dialogue on IP and development as a permanent part of the third pillar of the CDIP and for the Organization's current budget to be extended so that DA Recommendations and other cooperation and technical assistance activities, in particular those relating to the IP Office Business Solutions program and the IPAS, would be effectively implemented. It considered that further progress must be achieved in studies on technology transfer, industrial property rights limitations and exceptions, studies on the application of IP flexibilities and the promotion of the public domain, among other issues. It also considered that the DA must ensure that the international IP balance struck was consistent with national development policies and with the achievement of the SDGs, that the work of the Standing Committee on Patents (SCP) must aim in future to continue studies on patents and health, and specifically on exceptions and limitations, with emphasis on patent-related obstacles to technology transfer, and that studies on exceptions and limitations must address development issues and the conditions under which they were applied. It stressed that it was important for the text of the DLT to reflect the interests of all Member States and to include technical assistance and the requirement for applicants to disclose the origin of TK associated with designs. It highlighted the support provided by WIPO, in particular through the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, the WIPO Academy and the Patents and Technology Sector, in order to build the national capacity of various stakeholders in the national industrial property system, which had contributed to system policy implementation, and through the Global Infrastructure Sector in order to implement IPAS, including the most recent versions and the new management support mechanism, which had helped to improve institutional management outcomes. Lastly, it endorsed the statement delivered by the

Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, and congratulated the Ambassador of Viet Nam on his election to chair the forthcoming WIPO General Assembly.

38. The Delegation of the **Czech Republic** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. Having an economy increasingly driven by innovation and creativity, the Delegation attached great importance to IPR protection and recognized WIPO's key role in this domain. It was commendable that WIPO was delivering on its program objectives and was in robust financial health. Accordingly, the Delegation supported the adoption of the proposed Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium as proposed and welcomed the Capital Master Plan for 2018-2027. The Delegation continually paid great attention to the improvement of all four global IP protection systems, namely: the PCT, the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems. Regarding the PCT, the Delegation supported the extension of the appointment of the Visegrad Patent Institute as the sole International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority in the CEBS region. As regards the Lisbon Union, the Delegation had covered its short-term financial deficit, and was open to further discussions on solutions to its long-term financial sustainability. On WIPO's normative agenda, the Delegation hoped that pending issues would be resolved and the long-awaited decision would be taken on the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. The Delegation was actively involved in the work of the SCCR and believed that it would ultimately result in a consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations that would serve as a meaningful instrument for current and future protection purposes. It also supported the inclusion of Resale Rights on the Committee's permanent agenda. The Delegation lauded the progress made in the work of the SCP and wished for a more technical debate on substantive patent harmonization. It remained committed to the achievement of a reasonable work program for the IGC for the next biennium. The Delegation acknowledged the importance of the activities of the CDIP and supported WIPO activities in the field of technical assistance. The Delegation highly appreciated WIPO's activity under the strategic goal "Building respect for IP". Enforcement was a global challenge and the Delegation continued to support the work of the ACE which was the multilateral forum for sharing best practices in this domain.

39. The Delegation of the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** listed WIPO's achievements over the past 12 months: sound management of the Program and Budget for the 2016-2017 biennium; successful implementation of the WIPO Convention; sectorial treaties and other decisions adopted at the 2016 Assemblies; a focus on expert training; a major step forward in the registration of patents and industrial designs; and substantial assistance to activities of Member States. All WIPO activities should be geared towards the protection of IP to rightly address global challenges by dint of science and technology. The activities of the Working Group on the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration were laudable but a mechanism should be developed to stabilize the budget of the Union. Proactive assistance should be granted to developing countries in establishing protection systems and capacity based on their specific situations. The entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty was a highly positive development and all non-Member States should accede to it from the humanitarian point of view. The Supreme Leader of the Korean people had set the building of a scientific and technological power as a top priority goal to be accomplished for nation-building. With the introduction of a great number of inventions and new technologies in several fields of the national economy, cutting-edge equipment and other technical means had been produced with the country's own efforts, technology and resources, thus contributing to the development of the national economy and the improvement of the livelihood of their people. In July 2017, the 15th National Exhibition of Inventions and New Technology took place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, showcasing over 1,500 inventions and new technologies. Other sectorial scientific and technological presentations and exhibitions were held in 2017. The

Delegation considered its active participation in WIPO activities as vital and to this end approved in August 2017 the amendments to the WIPO Convention and other WIPO-administered treaties. A peaceful environment was a prerequisite for the development of science and technology, which were the engines of national economy. However, in reality, the sovereignty of developing countries and their right to existence and growth, including the development of science and technology and other economic fields, were under serious and constant threat from the high-handed policies of certain countries which sought to hamper their aspiration for independence by force. This was the case of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Hostile forces had imposed unprecedented inhumane sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aimed at bringing down the socialist system and stifle the people's livelihood. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was suffering from such tough sanctions on unreasonable grounds because it had taken self-defensive measures to safeguard its rights to independence and existence. However, reality had shown that the tougher the sanctions imposed by the hostile forces on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the stronger the will and spirit of its people had become to firmly defend its socialist system. The Delegation would continue to further develop its IP protection and fulfill its commitments as a Member State of WIPO to strengthen international cooperation with the Organization and other Member States in protection of IP.

40. The Delegation of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** strongly supported the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and expressed its solidarity with all other States of the region. Cognizant of the importance of IP in economic, social and cultural development, the Delegation had just initiated various reforms within its IP management system. Thus, the industrial property law, which was being updated, had been communicated in March 2017 to WIPO for technical advice. That advice was still awaited before the law is transmitted to both houses of Parliament for adoption. Efforts had also been made to create an independent industrial property office, institute electronic archiving of filings and establish a TISC in the country. WIPO's technical support would be needed in the finalization of these projects and the implementation of all planned aspects of cooperation. The Delegation remained concerned by the management of persons with disabilities. Accordingly, it was getting ready to sign the Marrakesh Treaty and other important international legal instruments. The Delegation intended to contribute significantly to the advancement of all the items on the agenda and wished that special attention be paid to the expectations of African countries and LDCs, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

41. The Delegation of **Denmark** said that innovation was a key driver for economic growth. The importance of research and development (R&D) to ensure sustainable growth and thereby combat the multitude of global and universal challenges called for proper incentives to ensure returns on the significant investment in innovation. IPRs were a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for development, the economy and knowledge sharing. WIPO played a key role as it had been established "to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among States" as stated in Article 3 of the WIPO Convention. Efforts must therefore be continuous to ensure that WIPO delivered cost-effective IP services that were fit for purpose and thus provided users with premier products. Denmark acknowledged WIPO's efforts to improve the global IP systems, including the PCT and Madrid Systems and IT services for users and offices alike. The Delegation welcomed the amendments to benefit users, as it did WIPO's increasing operational efficiency. In relation to the DLT, the Delegation maintained the view that the text achieved in 2014 was sufficiently mature for a diplomatic conference. Denmark appreciated the information exchange in the ACE in order to combat IPR infringements. The Delegation noted the modest progress in the work of the norm-setting committees. While the SCP had successfully agreed on a future work program, the Delegation considered that the primary objective of the SCP was to develop international, substantive patent law harmonization.

The mandate of the IGC should be renewed. The Delegation welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to implement the DA. WIPO has an important role to play in bringing the issue of IP to the attention of all stakeholders, regardless of level of development. The inclusion of the DA Recommendations must be viewed in conjunction with the aforementioned overall goal of WIPO, as set out in the WIPO Convention. As regards developments in Denmark, on January 1, 2017 the new Enforcement and Anti-Counterfeiting Unit in the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO) began operations. The Danish Government authorities continued to cooperate closely in combating counterfeiting and piracy, through the Danish Ministerial Network against IPR Infringements. As a part of a comprehensive IPR business insight project, the DKPTO, supported by the Danish Industry Foundation, had launched an advanced e-tool for practicing accountants to enable them to assist business customers to navigate through IPR opportunities and reduce risks. The DKPTO also operated the website www.ip-marketplace.org to encourage more companies to increase their licensing activities or buy and sell their IP assets. Accordingly, the DKPTO had sought to establish cooperation agreements with other organizations, including at the international level. Interest in the subject had been growing, with the European Commission establishing a Patent Licensing Online Information Tool, part of a larger package to support SMEs. The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) had successfully hosted the annual Meeting for International Authorities (MIA) in February 2017. The NPI also continued to deliver high-quality products to its applicants in 2017. The Delegation underlined its continuing commitment to making positive, constructive and pragmatic contributions to WIPO and its bodies.

42. The Delegation of **Ecuador** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, and reiterated the importance of IP as a strategic tool for fostering knowledge generation, and consequently promoting creative processes, research and innovation as a means of closing existing gaps. Ecuador was convinced that countries which enjoyed great diversity and had intellectual potential ought to build a knowledge-based economy. They should evolve from a primary export-led economy to one founded on knowledge and innovation. Accordingly, Ecuador had made several decisions at the national level founded on the adoption of public policies that promote access to and dissemination of knowledge, technology transfer and innovation. In December 2016, a new normative legal framework had been adopted to enhance knowledge management and promote a balanced IPRs system, using existing flexibilities and ensuring full compliance with the international instruments to which Ecuador is a party. In that regard, the issues addressed at WIPO were of major interest to Ecuador. As regards the SCCR, flexibility was needed to move forward on these issues, relative to which Ecuador had been proactive and had formulated several proposals based on balanced work through which the limitations and exceptions would be agreed upon in order to guarantee fundamental rights, as was the case for the Marrakesh Treaty. Ecuador had just become a contracting party to the Nagoya Protocol. IP must be consistent with the sovereign regulation of access to GRs, equitable distribution of benefits, and the effective protection of associated TK, whose legitimate owners are indigenous and local communities. Accordingly, the Delegation supported renewal of the mandate of the IGC. Ecuador was grateful to WIPO for its technical cooperation which promoted proper IP management and pledged to work with the Organization on initiatives which they could develop together.

43. The Delegation of **Egypt** supported the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the positive elements included in the report of the Director General on the current and future work within the Organization. The Delegation stressed the challenges faced in advancing WIPO's norm-setting agenda which resulted in the referral of several important issues to the present WIPO General Assembly for decision. Among such issues was the delay in convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT. Along the same lines, the Delegation welcomed the progress made within the IGC, noting however that more needed to be done to convince the

remaining parties that a sufficient level of maturity had been reached to move forward with a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a legally binding international instrument. The Delegation recalled that the present WIPO General Assembly will also have to address the renewal of the mandate of the IGC to continue its work. The Delegation welcomed the recent momentum in the copyright field with the SCCR launching sub-regional technical assistance and capacity building programs in addition to those provided by the Egyptian Education Development Fund. The Delegation was pleased to announce that Egypt produced an accessible format copy of the Arabic text of the Marrakesh Treaty for the benefit of visually impaired persons and persons with print disabilities. The Delegation was committed to support the SCCR's work aiming at finding consensual solutions that would benefit all parties and disseminating knowledge and information across both developed and developing countries. Speaking on patents, the Delegation emphasized that patents should be linked to public health and access to medicine in developing countries so that modern innovations and knowledge contribute to public efforts promoting the health sector. The Delegation expressed its support to the proposal on PCT fee reduction for universities and research institutions. In that context, Egypt placed great value on *WIPO Re:Search* activities supporting research work on neglected tropical diseases. The Delegation mentioned that great efforts would be needed to support the implementation of the DA and coordination mechanism under a holistic and structured framework for technical assistance and capacity-building programs in Member States. Indeed, WIPO should strive to ensure extending IP benefits, resulting from specific country-level projects, to economically and culturally similar countries. In that regard, the Delegation welcomed the appointment of the Representative of the Director General on the SDGs and hoped that further steps would be taken to ensure WIPO's contribution to the implementation of all SDGs falling within its mandate. The Delegation affirmed that Egypt attached great importance to IP. Thus, Egypt had adopted a scientific and technological approach in the production of inclusive knowledge and innovations accessible to all, leveraging youth ideas and creativity in that regard. Indeed, youth have long received particular attention from President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi who regularly meets, interacts and engages with them in national efforts to disseminate knowledge and innovations. Last year, Egypt launched its *Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt's vision 2030* which established the Egyptian Knowledge Bank with a capital of 60 million USD, and is currently proceeding to extend its TISC network to all universities and research institutions. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for WIPO's significant contribution in this area and recalled that the President of the Republic recognized during Egypt's Science Day that scientific research and technology were integral components in Egypt's overall development, with public expenditure on R&D increasing by 47 per cent (5 billion EGP) in addition to direct support provided to national research and scientific projects such as the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, Zewail City of Science and Technology and Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology. In conclusion, the Delegation quoted the President of the Republic saying that Egypt "seeks to bridge the gap between reality and ambition" which summed up national ambitious plans to bridge the knowledge gap and establish a society harnessing IP and R&D efforts to achieve tangible results.

44. The Delegation of **El Salvador** aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC. It welcomed support provided by the Deputy Director General in Charge of the Development Sector to El Salvador in its evaluation of the advantages and opportunities that would be available to the country under the Madrid Protocol and of the administrative and legislative measures needed should it be adopted. It acknowledged IP as an important strategic instrument for the country's development, noting that joint efforts had been made with various national institutions to create synergies and use IP in addressing some of the country's challenges. Those institutions had included the National Center of Registries (CNR), the Ministry of Economy, the Export and Investment Promotion Agency (PROESA), the Secretary of Culture of the Presidency and the Ministry of Health. The Delegation stressed that El Salvador was a small country but its great wealth

was its people, as stated in the recently launched national slogan “El Salvador: great like its people,” which formally recognized the success of all Salvadorans who had projected El Salvador to the fore. It stated that, as priority had been given to the welfare of Salvadorans, a review had been initiated to identify how IP could best guarantee access to healthcare and medicine and contribute to the development of the national pharmaceutical industry, with the assistance of WIPO. Noting that the national legislation had been amended in order to protect the country’s indigenous people and national heritage, it hoped that the mandate of the IGC would be renewed to enhance the effectiveness of its work. It had been gratified that the Director General had attended the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of Intellectual Property Ministers of Central America and the Dominican Republic, held in 2017 in Panama City, at which major programs and integrated activities had been fine-tuned so that IP could be developed and used in the region, and at which results of the study on the impact of the use of IP in Central America had been presented. It considered that the study, would contribute considerably to underpinning and evaluating the effectiveness of measures taken to promote economic development in the region, build capacity for further IP development and provide guidance in IP-related decision making.

45. The Delegation of the **Equatorial Guinea** stated that its country acknowledged the work that WIPO carried out year after year to strengthen sustainable development of countries by promoting IP. In particular, it hoped all parties would help WIPO continue being an increasingly secure and efficient tool for dialogue, promotion and global exchanges thanks to a new strategy aimed at cooperation and international equilibrium. Through Plan Horizon 2020, Equatorial Guinea had set itself the ambitious goal of attaining emerging-country status, which could be achieved after a nation-building process that involved rationalizing natural resources and harnessing the country’s intellectual capacity. Therefore, it was necessary to promote IP to make the proposed development goals of the country sustainable. The Delegation had said that it supported the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, at the beginning of the meetings. As a member of the Group, it had also acknowledged the often discreet role that WIPO played in bolstering structures that produce and promote a new order for cooperation in Africa, based on strengthening and using new technology to develop TK. The Delegation also stated that colonization and its consequences in Africa were possibly mentioned. Anti-colonial speech and that on the effects of colonialism on weak and emerging economies was the main topic in the first round of African States’ meetings after they had gained independence. The Delegation noted that anti-colonial and political speeches were presented together, which generated heated debates and damaged the self-esteem that African countries needed to achieve responsible and sustainable development. With the necessary support from WIPO and ARIPO, a new dialogue could be initiated from an IP perspective in which Africa could be a major player and prove its potential, whilst displaying generosity and solidarity conducive to respect for differences and cultural and political traditions. Therefore, WIPO should support regions like Africa and Latin America that wished to once again partake in global dialogue in the spirit of solidarity. The Delegation expressed energetic support for the establishment of WIPO External Offices in several regions on an equal footing and it favored convening a diplomatic conference to redefine the challenges WIPO faced and discuss the relevance of Assemblies being held on a rotating basis. It considered that a model of decentralization could help the African continent reach its economic potential and transform itself into a new and essential exponent of international cooperation, which would undoubtedly promote direct discussion, active solidarity and world peace.

46. The Delegation of **Ethiopia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. It stated that the use of appropriate technology and the promotion of innovation were central to achieving sustainable development and tackling the major challenges shared by all countries. While IP protection and innovation were inextricably linked, it was important to give equal consideration to the propagation of

technology as a means of overcoming the many challenges facing developing countries, particularly LDCs. It was also vital to adequately protect the cultural heritage and TK and GRs of communities in order to address inequality and underdevelopment. Against this backdrop, the explicit inclusion of innovation in Sustainable Development Goal 9 was a major step towards recognizing the link between IP and sustainable development. WIPO urgently needed to expand its DA and engage in projects with a direct bearing on the development and structural transformation of developing countries, particularly LDCs. Most importantly, it needed to help Member States build capacity and develop institutions with a view to addressing the issues of inclusiveness, access and equity within the global IP regime. The Government attached great importance to technology transfer projects, in which regard WIPO's support was vital to the development of Ethiopia's small and medium-sized businesses and light manufacturing industries. It was important to extend that support to high-impact and mega-scale projects and technologies with the potential to stimulate local creativity and expedite the modernization of production processes. Adopting international treaties was critical to the pursuance of Ethiopia's structural transformation agenda in the sense that it integrated the country's economy into the global economic and trading system. In that connection, the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office had set out a five-year plan identifying the IP conventions to which the country should accede and setting a timeline to that end. In a recent productive meeting with the Director General, the Ethiopian Minister of Science and Technology had affirmed that the Government was finalizing its preparations for the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty and was also working towards signing and ratifying the Paris and Madrid Treaties. Any support that WIPO could provide to accelerate that process would be greatly appreciated. Lastly, given the need for a successful conclusion to the long and drawn-out negotiations on TK, TCEs and GRs, Ethiopia supported the extension of the IGC's mandate into the next biennium so that consultations could be finalized and legally binding international instruments could be adopted along diplomatic lines.

47. The Delegation of **Finland** confirmed that it aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B. The year 2017 had been important for Finland in part because the Finnish Patent and Registration Office had celebrated its 75th anniversary as an independent administrative office. Over time, Finland had felt that a properly functioning industrial property system and the protection of creative works would promote progress and develop the national economy. In 1921, Finland became party to the Paris Convention and in 1928 to the Berne Convention. A 100 years later, Finland had become party to several international treaties administered by WIPO. Finland was one of the world's leading knowledge-based economies and both private and public sectors invested strongly in R&D. Finland was among the 10 top-ranked innovation nations in the Global Innovation Index of 2017. IPRs had played a significant role in Finland's 100 years of progress in reforming the economy and industrial life and increasing productivity. Finland had been an active party in WIPO negotiations and was always willing to contribute to developing solutions at the international level. Among other matters, WIPO had highlighted at the previous Assemblies the importance of metadata, raised by Finland at the WIPO Conference on the Global Digital Content Market organized in 2016. Consequently, a study "Metadata of Digital Music Files" was about to be published in Finland, describing the metadata path of a musical file from the studio to the digital music service and endeavoring to adopt best practices to improve the application of moral rights as well as equitable distribution of remuneration: digitalization had also played a key role in the development of the Finnish IP Office's processes and services. Finnish users were using global IP services provided by WIPO and the Delegation wished to stress the importance of the ongoing modernization and updating of the PCT, the Madrid and the Hague Systems for the benefit of users. The meeting of the PCT Union to be held later in October 2017 would make a proposal for an extension of the appointment of the International Searching and Preliminary

Examining Authorities for a period of 10 years, the Finnish Patent and Registration Office having received that status in 2003 and started its operations in 2005. The Delegation noted the important endeavors of the WIPO Committees and especially the success of the 26th session of the SCP and hoped progress would ensue. It also hoped for balanced and effective working programs in other Committees. The Delegation supported a coherent international IP framework that encouraged innovation and creativity and believed that stakeholders would benefit from a simpler and more harmonized IP system. Finland had been one of the countries actively providing copyright training for experts from developing countries for almost three decades and considered it important to continue to provide those opportunities in the future.

48. The Delegation of **France** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. On the program and budget, the huge profits recorded yearly by WIPO should encourage the pursuit of further reforms aimed at strengthening the unity of the Organization and solidarity among the Unions. Each of these systems and treaties administered by WIPO – the PCT System, the Madrid System, the Hague System and even the Lisbon System on Geographical Indications – participated in the objectives of the Organization as enshrined in Article 3 of the 1967 WIPO Convention. Therefore, France strongly supported the principle of solidarity, which had for very many years ensured the proper development and functioning of WIPO and its Unions. France would not accept that the united functioning of the Organization, notably the charging of indirect expenditure of the Organization to the various Unions according to their ability to pay, should be undermined. This budget methodology, which made for appropriate management of cooperation action for developing countries, was and should remain WIPO's cornerstone. It was also worth recalling the importance of successfully adopting the DLT, which sought to simplify and harmonize procedures concerning industrial designs and had largely been finalized. No sound reason remained for a further postponement of the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt that Treaty. It was therefore to be hoped that a consensus would be reached during the 2017 Assemblies as to the convening of the diplomatic conference. France underscored the fundamental importance to users of the proper functioning and management of each of the IP protection systems, in addition to that for industrial designs.

49. The Delegation of **Gabon** associated itself with the Statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and highlighted a few key points. The Delegation reiterated its attachment to WIPO objectives on the promotion of innovation but indicated that such objectives had to be underpinned by a vision that focused on development. Indeed, achievement of the SDGs was the backdrop against which the activities of WIPO and other UN agencies had to be deployed to ensure the attainment of objectives through pooled efforts. Accordingly, the Delegation hoped that the session would conclude with some notable progress that could re-energize the negotiations. In that regard, the Delegation was referring to the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT as well as negotiations on GRs, TK and TCEs. As regards the Lisbon System, the Delegation welcomed the recent progress made within the Working Group on the Preparation of Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and hoped that this momentum would keep growing during the Assemblies and lead to renewal of the Working Group's mandate to continue discussions on outstanding points. Gabon was setting up a national committee for geographical indications and had already identified products likely to benefit from protection through geographical indications. It placed much hope in the outcome of this process. Gabon had also started construction work on the Intellectual Property Documentation Center (CGDI) with the assistance of the OAPI). This initiative fell under the efforts made by Gabon to establish the necessary institutions in order to take advantage of the benefits of IP for development. Apart from human resource training necessary for the implementation of these instruments, provision

was made for the creation of a TISC to facilitate access to WIPO databases for applicants seeking protection. The Delegation took this opportunity to request WIPO technical support to that end.

50. The Delegation of **the Gambia** endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. In the two or so years since its accession to the Madrid Protocol and the successful update of its national normative framework, the Delegation's IP office had seen a steady rise in the number of international trademark filings designating the country. With the continued collaboration of the WIPO PCT Office, tremendous local interest in the patent system had been generated among young researchers, innovators and tertiary institutions in the country, leading to the establishment of a national innovation association to better coordinate and support innovative activities. In its continuing quest to improve the provision of IP services, the Gambia expected to finalize its national IP policy by late 2017 and sign the memorandum of association on the sidelines of the 2017 Assemblies. WIPO continued to support the country's national IP capacity-building initiatives by sponsoring the participation of young Gambians in IP programs and sharing legal materials on IP through the WIPO Academy. Given the need for efficient enforcement and a dispute resolution mechanism in the IP system, one of the Delegation's major challenges was to ensure that judicial officers who were expected to arbitrate in IP disputes had adequate IP knowledge and legal materials. It hoped to work with WIPO to develop a tailor-made IP program for judicial officers that would yield a more efficient IP dispute resolution and enforcement system in both the Gambia and developing countries as a whole. WIPO's various bodies and Secretariat had made a valuable contribution to the establishment of a balanced and inclusive global IP system. It reiterated its support for WIPO's program of activities in the coming biennium, especially within the context of the DA.

51. The Delegation of **Georgia** fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the CEBS Group. It welcomed all projects and initiatives of the WIPO Academy, in particular, the customization of the DLT courses, enabling countries to establish IP academies nationally and implement professional development programs. It was grateful for the Academy's support in creating Georgia's first professional development program, which had proved successful, enabling government officials to broaden their knowledge and providing local staff with qualifications. It applauded the Department for Transitioning and Developed Countries for its ongoing engagement and guidance on the planning and implementation of priority projects for Georgia, it was pleased that the activities had improved through regular evaluation and assessment and called for a broader approach. Moreover, it praised the high level of organization of cultural and side events at WIPO and the Secretariat's professional approach to promoting the cultures and traditions of different countries. It expected that the continuous growth of global IP services further improve the systems and meet the needs of users. It hoped that WIPO would continue to respond to the needs of all Member States efficiently and to provide services through the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems by allocating the necessary resources for use and promotion, providing equal treatment to all systems. It believed that special attention should be paid at the current series of meetings to the pending legislative agenda, in particular the DLT, which was yet to be adopted although it had been finalized several years ago. It deplored the failure to agree to convene a diplomatic conference in order to adopt the DLT. It hoped that the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium would be adopted by consensus to ensure the smooth functioning of the Organization. It considered that the network of WIPO External Offices should be based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, giving priority to regions in which there was no External Office, and stressed that CEBS was the only region in which there was none. It called on Member States to act in the best interests of WIPO and to honor and respect the history of the long negotiations.

52. The Delegation of **Germany** fully supported the statements made by Group B and the European Union. IPRs were not only essential for enterprises and developers but consumers and the whole of society also benefitted from knowledge-driven innovation. As the premier global organization for IP, WIPO remained the focal point for global discussion and the exchange of views. There had been progress in implementing the important decisions taken on governance issues in 2016. Those decisions would be an excellent basis for further progress, especially concerning the amendment of WIPO's Whistleblower Protection Policy. The comments submitted by the IAOC on September 27, 2017, were welcome and Germany would examine whether they had been comprehensively addressed in the new policy which the Director General had promulgated on September 29, 2017. The Delegation had been and remained fully committed to engaging constructively with all parties concerned in an area where substance must take precedence over swiftness. That included careful consideration of the review and comments disseminated by the IAOC. If WIPO sought to further improve already high standards in a constructive and forward-looking manner, it would only grow stronger. Building on the decisions and recommendations of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the 2016 WIPO General Assembly would benefit WIPO, all other parties concerned and perhaps even humanity as a whole. The principles of transparency and good governance should underpin all of WIPO's decisions, including with regard to External Offices. Germany was confident that a coherent decision to meet the objectives set for the choice of new External Offices in applying the Guiding Principles regarding WIPO External Offices would be achieved. IPRs, always a complex issue, were an integral part of the legal, economic and cultural framework within which enterprises and society as a whole functioned. WIPO faced the challenge of providing guidance in the search for an adequate response, needing to fulfill its mission to promote IP and to protect it effectively in order to create sustainable development and wealth. One of the major tasks that WIPO had faced and would continue to face was to allay recurring fears that the Organization favored certain groups, and to demonstrate repeatedly that WIPO's current aim was to strike the best balance between rightholders and various segments of society, including in the context of health and the environment. WIPO should contribute actively, within its mandate, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to identify areas for its own possible contribution to the Agenda, in close cooperation with other Geneva-based institutions. The Delegation supported a robust and coherent international IP framework that was fit for purpose and struck a balance between different 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 on copyright, patent and trademark laws. As the custodian of global legislation and harmonized practices, WIPO was a uniquely suitable forum for mastering those challenges and should keep the harmonization of legal concepts on its agenda. As deliberations within the SCCR had demonstrated, the international harmonization of legal concepts in that field was complex and required time and dedication. However, if Member States worked together in a spirit of consensus and with the aim of striking a balance between all interests involved, WIPO would continue to provide 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. For the treaty to be sustainable in the long term, its scope of application should reflect the technical developments that had taken place in the meantime. The discussion on further technologies was therefore welcome, especially concerning online deferred transmissions. The Delegation would continue to support the efforts of the SCCR in order to advance text-based work on an international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. It was interested in sharing national experiences regarding exceptions and limitations for certain organizations and purposes, as well as for people with disabilities other than print disabilities and, although it firmly believed that there was no need for a legally binding international instrument in that area, the Delegation wished to learn more about other Member States'

legal concepts. It would be interesting to share views on further issues such as the resale right and challenges for copyright in the digital environment. Since the beginning of international IP cooperation and the founding of WIPO as an international IP agency, patent law had been of core importance, not only in theory but also in practice. Users of the patent system around the world were calling for the further development and improvement of the system – a call that WIPO and the SCP should heed. The Delegation recognized and was satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues concerning patents. It also welcomed the agreement on future work reached at the most recent session of the SCP. It was particularly eager to continue work on issues of patent quality, including opposition systems, and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their advisors. Further work in that area would be beneficial to all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. The Delegation to the SCP had also been closely involved in discussions concerning patents and health and would continue to engage with those issues, taking into account the related efforts and activities undertaken by other WIPO committees and international organizations. Concerning those issues, the Delegation welcomed the plan for members and observers of the SCP to supplement the study on the constraints faced by developing countries and LDCs in making use of patent flexibilities for public health purposes. That flexibility could have an impact on access to affordable medicines, especially essential medicines, in those countries. This was a positive development as WIPO was the proper forum for addressing patent law issues. The latest figures on application numbers under the PCT reflected the importance of the system in promoting innovation and generating wealth and the Delegation noted with pleasure that the 3,000,000th international application had been filed and published on February 2, 2017 by the German-based *Fraunhofer Gesellschaft*, one of Europe's largest organizations for applied research. The PCT was the most important tool for propagating a functioning patent system in an increasingly globalized world and WIPO's track record in this core area of its activities testified to how, despite existing challenges, an alignment of spirit and resources in striving towards a worthy goal could yield impressive results. Such results should encourage WIPO to intensify its efforts to attain the highest possible standards of good governance. In 2016, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) had processed 6,325 international applications, of which over 80 per cent were filed by applicants outside Germany. The Delegation was therefore committed to any necessary further developments in the PCT System and encouraged Member States to take advantage of the system. The numerous improvements achieved by changes to the legal framework over the past 15 years had been much appreciated, including the necessary adjustments to PCT rules. There was a constructive atmosphere in the PCT Working Group, which had given rise to fruitful technical exchanges. As regards discussions at the 2016 WIPO General Assembly to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT, agreement had not been reached in the areas of technical assistance and the disclosure requirement, as stipulated in the mandate, leaving no common ground for a diplomatic conference to convene. The proposal to include a mandatory disclosure requirement was irrelevant to industrial designs and its inclusion in the draft treaty would contradict the aim of simplifying and harmonizing registration procedures. Nonetheless, the Delegation remained open to any reasonable proposals raised at the 2017 WIPO General Assembly. Successful establishment of the Geneva Act had afforded the Lisbon Union an opportunity to stabilize and strengthen the Lisbon System and the Delegation 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. Member States had evinced continued interest in working within the IGC, which had made enormous efforts, although there was limited progress during the 2016-2017 biennium. The IGC's primary aim should be a common understanding of its objectives and the core problems. Any solutions needed to be coherent with the current international framework of IP protection. The Delegation wished to continue its participation

in the process. It remained fully committed to further progress in the field of development, particularly in light of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also supported the continued implementation of the 45 Recommendations of the WIPO DA in a balanced and consensus-driven manner, welcoming the results achieved by the CDIP throughout 2017 as regards the Independent Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations and the International Conference on Development and Intellectual Property. Considerable progress had been made in a number of areas and it was hoped that the readiness to engage in the constructive and forward-looking efforts manifested during CDIP 19 would continue. As the past meetings of the ACE had been widely perceived as a success, the Delegation was looking forward to the Committee's 13th session, believing that effective IP protection needed a solid enforcement framework at its core. Solutions taking account of all interests had to be found and, given the comprehensive approach adopted, past sessions of the ACE had provided very useful insights into the various methods taken to tackle infringements of IPRs. The topics agreed upon in the ACE's 10th session, and expanded in the 11th and 12th sessions, had provided ample room for discussion and an exchange of ideas for the future. The Secretariat's commitment in selecting appropriate speakers while ensuring the balance of interests had been appreciated, and it was hoped that the ACE could continue to contribute to a comprehensive discussion on the technical aspects of IP enforcement. The DPMA had continued its successful cooperation with WIPO, other IP-related organizations and national IP Offices and in 2017, in collaboration with WIPO, the DPMA had again organized a seminar to inform the public about WIPO's services. The 2017 WIPO Roving Seminar had been held in Dresden and had been attended by approximately 60 participants, mainly from industry and law firms, making the event a success: the 2018 Roving Seminar was scheduled to take place in Hamburg, Germany. The DPMA and WIPO had cooperated closely on the Guide to WIPO Services. The Office had maintained a fruitful dialogue through meetings with its partner Offices in Austria, Singapore, China and Kazakhstan. Further meetings had been scheduled for the remaining months of 2017, including with the IP Offices of Brazil and China. In addition, the DPMA maintained strong relationships with its partner Offices. Currently there were four ongoing exchange programs between the DPMA and the IP Offices of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. There had been close cooperation within the European Trade Mark and Design Network. The DPMA had also organized several conferences and seminars.

53. The Delegation of **Ghana** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. WIPO's continued efforts to raise necessary awareness of the importance of IP in the knowledge economy were welcome. IP supported innovation and contributed to a nation's economic success, so Ghana had placed emphasis on IP regimes to add value to national innovations. Activities under the national IP policy had sought to create a vibrant private sector that matched national aspirations. The Government had ensured that the national IP regime afforded the right incentives to innovators and creators to develop new technologies that addressed national needs. The Delegation noted with pleasure that WIPO's financial situation was sound and it had accumulated a healthy surplus. There was a long history in the normative agenda before the IGC and regarding the drafting of the DLT. The considerable progress made in the intense work program of the IGC in 2017 was welcome. It was to be hoped that Member States would continue talks, given that the future work of the IGC would focus on and accelerate the development of an international legally binding instrument. Ghana abounded in TK and TCEs and was developing a national legal instrument to stop unauthorized commercial acts by third parties and to provide a system of protection that would promote and preserve national TK and cultural expressions. The Delegation was grateful for WIPO's technical assistance in this direction and recognized the considerable work already done on the draft DLT. It was confident that Member States would reach agreement on the pending issues carried over from the 2016 Assemblies. It hoped that Member States would bridge the gap on

outstanding issues in a constructive and positive spirit, to ensure a successful outcome of the process, resulting in the convening of a diplomatic conference. Ghana's vibrant textile industry was slowly dying due to piracy. The adoption of the DLT could address some of the national concerns in this area. WIPO had undertaken many activities, such as technical assistance programs, to strengthen the IP system and to build the capacity of research institutions and IP office staff. The Delegation was ready to deploy the TISC project for national research institutions and universities. The Government was profoundly committed to modernizing the national IP regime to support local innovation, competitiveness and economic growth. The establishment of a national IP office as envisaged under the national IP policy was gaining momentum and The Delegation would be gratified to have the IPAS deployed for national patent and industrial design registries.

54. The Delegation of **Greece** aligned itself with the statements delivered by Group B and by the European Union and its member states. Global IP demand had been a driver for the continuous growth of WIPO's registration systems. The surplus of 32 million Swiss francs for 2016 provided a sound financial base, securing sufficient liquidity to deal with unforeseen circumstances: sound and efficient management had resulted in strong financial performance and the proposed reduction by 10 per cent of the contributions of Member States for the 2018/19 biennium was welcome. The Delegation was ready to contribute to the discussions on the establishment of new External Offices in a constructive spirit, bearing in mind the Guiding Principles laid down by the 2015 Assemblies. There was a regrettable delay in convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, whereas the draft had been ready since 2013. Harmonized formalities would benefit users worldwide and considerations irrelevant to design law, such as a mandatory disclosure requirement, should not further delay a decision on the diplomatic conference. A realistic work program should be agreed upon for the IGC, considering that many issues remained outstanding. Future work should proceed upon agreement on core issues, following which text-based discussions could continue. The Delegation welcomed the work program agreed upon for the SCP and supported the continuation of discussions. The Delegation remained interested in examining issues of harmonization of patent law for the benefit of users and hoped that a consensus would emerge. It supported the efforts of the PCT Working Group to improve the system which, although robust, should be flexible enough to respond to new challenges and provide incentives to promote innovative activities. To that end, fee reductions to encourage university-driven innovation should be considered. The Madrid System had been successfully operating in Greece since August 2000. Data showed an increase in the number of international registrations concerning Greece, both as a country of designation and as a country of origin. To the extent that commercial activity contributed to economic growth, it reinforced expectations for the recovery of the economy. The task of the Greek Trademark Office was to contribute to the development and flexibility of the Madrid System to make it more effective for local and foreign undertakings. There had been welcome proposals from the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System aimed at connecting the International Bureau with the national office of each contracting member for faster, safer and more flexible management when filing international registrations and for communications concerning each member. These proposals would also guarantee the independence of the international registration from the basic application or registration within the statutory five-year period. Greece regularly participated in the meetings of the Working Group and was committed to submitting and voting on proposals to make the Madrid System more attractive.

55. The Delegation of **Guatemala** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, and reiterated its commitment to contribute constructively to the discussions. IP was crucial to the development of countries, since it was through human creativity, innovation and transfer of technology that knowledge was transformed into intangible assets that generate wealth. Accordingly, Guatemala, acting

through the IP Registry had developed policies targeting various sectors such as academia, SMEs and creative industries to promote the use of IP systems. The Delegation welcomed the results of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of Central America and the Dominican Republic on IP held in Panama last July, highlighting the signing of the cooperation agreement between the copyright offices. The agreement was primarily aimed at sharing experiences that promote mutual collaboration in the development of actions and projects which enhance the protection and promotion of copyright and related rights in the sub-region. The Delegation also highlighted the cooperation agreement between IP offices, which would lead to the formulation of horizontal cooperation and technical assistance strategies among the offices in the sub-region. Guatemala appreciated WIPO's normative work in establishing forums for multilateral negotiations with a view to creating and implementing legal instruments that allay the concerns and satisfy the needs of States. It highlighted the work of the SCCR and its intention to actively continue discussions on instruments pertaining to limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives and educational, teaching and research institutions. The issue of GRs, TK and TCEs was of crucial importance to Guatemala on account of its rich biological and multicultural diversity. Accordingly, it was fundamental to develop international legal instruments that provide solutions against misappropriation and misuse and ensure the equitable sharing of benefits. Lastly, the Delegation thanked WIPO through its Director General for the effective support and assistance provided to the national office and IP-focused sectors in Guatemala in the areas of technical capacity-building, project formulation and continuous training.

56. The Delegation of **Guinea** endorsed the statement delivered by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. It hoped that the work of the Intergovernmental Council would be continued in order to produce a binding legal instrument. WIPO rested on the principle of consensus, which must not constitute a handicap but afford an opportunity to acknowledge the rights of indigenous communities to their creativity. As Guinea wished to draw on IP in tapping its enormous mineral, agricultural and hydrological potential, it had established a national committee on GIs and a national committee to promote and disseminate IP in the country. WIPO had assisted Guinea in establishing a network of TISCs, in which about 20 research and teaching institutions participated. Guinea called for a diplomatic conference to be held on the DLT and urged WIPO to continue activities designed to raise the awareness of African decision makers, in particular at the ministerial level, as it had done in Dar es Salaam and Dakar, in order to increase their involvement in the promotion of IP in Africa.

57. The Delegation of **Guinea-Bissau** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. It thanked WIPO and its staff for their constant efforts to develop IP throughout the world and particularly in Africa. The African continent aspired to become a dynamic player and a strong international trade partner ready to participate in joint IP activities that could promote IP development on the continent. Since Guinea-Bissau joined WIPO in 1988, its Directorate General for Intellectual Property had benefitted from several training and technical assistance programs aimed at promoting and developing the national IP system. For instance, WIPO had funded the participation of experts from the national administration, such as magistrates and court officers, in several events, meetings, workshops and seminars at the regional and international levels. The Delegation counted on further WIPO support in the formulation of its national IP strategy to develop the potential of typical products by giving them international recognition and a higher commercial value. The Government of Guinea-Bissau, through the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, had intensified its collaboration with the National Copyright Society (a private body) in a bid to develop the cultural wealth of the country. That effort would continue this year, with the cultural week entitled "Our culture is rich and valuable". This initiative would certainly contribute to the socioeconomic and cultural development of Guinea-Bissau. Actions related

to the protection, promotion and commercialization of inventions and innovation would continue. The Association for the Promotion of Invention and Innovation in Guinea-Bissau (AGPI) was preparing the National Invention and Innovation Fair scheduled for November 2017. The Delegation hoped for WIPO support in 2018 to set up networks of TISCs in some universities or research centers, to strengthen R&D in the country. It welcomed the constant support of WIPO and wished that such support could be extended to human resource capacity-building, considering the impact of IP on national development. Lastly, the Delegation lauded WIPO's proposal to open regional offices in Africa.

58. The Delegation of the **Holy See** observed that the significant progress achieved by WIPO in recent years, the steady growth of applications and the expansion of membership were a result of appropriate responses to the evolving demands of the world. The economic and social gap between the haves and have nots was widening and there were major imbalances. Technology, innovation and information were critical for the realization of the SDGs. Innovators from the private sector were committed to supporting the realization of the SDGs with their knowledge and expertise and were taking these commitments seriously. There was a need for open dialogue and responsible cooperation among political authorities, the scientific community, the business world and civil society. Achieving the SDGs was based on three key principles: solidarity, subsidiarity and concern for the common good. As concerns the normative agenda, solidarity should guide the action of the IGC. Appropriate IP-related tools, both existing and to be developed, would greatly contribute to empowering indigenous peoples while promoting and protecting their TK and TCEs from misappropriation by third parties. The IGC should continue its work during the 2018/19 biennium to ensure that indigenous populations received an equitable share of the economic benefits deriving from the commercial exploitation of biological resources and to promote effective means of ensuring respect for the collective ownership of TK. Subsidiarity required broad-based consultation and collaboration among nations and international organizations, particularly WIPO. Multilateral and multi-stakeholder activities could be creative and effective, particularly when guided by a common vision and motivated by a moral and pressing imperative. Hence, WIPO GREEN was an important initiative for supporting innovation and for developing and transferring technology through collaborative approaches, as highlighted by the Paris Agreement. Member States should together continue to maintain links with innovators, creators, users of the IP system and a significant part of humanity that did not share in the benefits of progress, and was in fact relegated to the status of second-class citizens.

59. The Delegation of **Honduras** thanked WIPO for its support and stressed, among other matters, the IPAS implementation project. It supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, in particular the point on the opening of an External Office in Latin America. Honduras was promoting the establishment of TISCs as a key tool for developing countries and already had 20 TISCs in place. It ascribed great importance to IP and to respect therefor, and had reactivated the Interagency Commission to Combat Piracy and Counterfeiting. In 2016, 3,650 people had been trained in the country through workshops held for sectoral groups such prosecutors, judges, police officers, lawyers, academics, entrepreneurs and arable and livestock farmers, with farmers interested in the creation of collective trademarks, geographical indications and appellations of origin. The number of persons trained was expected to rise in 2017.

60. The Delegation of **Hungary** fully endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. It would continue to help in fostering a balanced and effective international IP system and assist WIPO in the delivery of its mandate and normative agenda. Since the previous Assemblies, Hungary's IP office had organized a series of major events in cooperation with WIPO, including: a roving seminar to showcase

WIPO services and user-support tools and also provide information on the initial experience of the Visegrad Patent Institute, which had been in operation since July 2016; a sub-regional seminar on copyright in the digital age, held in Budapest in April 2017 and attended by the Deputy Director General of the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector at WIPO and other notable experts; and a seminar to educate national IP office staff and patent lawyers on the electronic filing of international patent applications *via* the improved ePCT System. The Delegation resolutely supported the global protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin. It was also committed to finding a reasonable and balanced solution to the long-term financial sustainability of the Lisbon System. Such a solution should respect the principles of financial solidarity and administrative cooperation among Unions, budget programs and the ability of all parties to pay. The Delegation was keen on greater promotion of the Lisbon System, including the Geneva Act, in order to attract new contracting parties. In that regard, satisfactory progress had been made within the Lisbon Working Group and valuable contributions had been made by Lisbon Union members. For its part, the Delegation had provided a substantial subsidy to help eliminate the deficit projected for the current biennium. The Delegation supported the draft Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium and urged the various delegations to reach a consensus on outstanding issues so that the proposed budget could be adopted. It remained committed to the adoption of the DLT which would greatly benefit designers in developed and developing countries by simplifying and harmonizing design registration formalities. There was a possibility that the long-awaited diplomatic conference would be convened to adopt the DLT.

61. The Delegation of **Iceland** said that it was important to have access not only to a wide variety of information, technical resources and guidelines, but also to be able to interact with WIPO's experts as needed. On August 25, 2017, Iceland had joined the Global Brands Database. The Delegation recognized the value of international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and the Hague Systems and filing numbers had increased slightly in all areas. Meetings of the International Searching and Examining Authorities under the PCT (PCT MIA) and the MIA Quality Subgroup had been held in Reykjavik in February 2017. WIPO had also attended a meeting with the Board of the Icelandic Trademark and Patent Association in Reykjavik. April 15, 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of Iceland's ratification of the Madrid Protocol. Accession to that international instrument had changed the landscape in Iceland, increasing registrations from abroad and local awareness of the need to register national trademarks in important markets. To underline the importance of the Madrid Protocol for Icelandic users, the Icelandic Patent Office (IPO) would be interested in hosting a Madrid seminar in Iceland, focusing both on the users of the system and newcomers, such as start-up companies and new innovative businesses. The IPO had celebrated World IP Day on April 28, 2017 by hosting a half-day conference dedicated to the topic "Innovation – improving lives", with presentations from four Icelandic firms which actively use IPRs. The conference was well-attended by interested parties, such as universities and companies focusing on IP to improve lives. In March 2017, during a meeting of the SCT in Geneva, Iceland raised concerns as to the seemingly insufficient protection against the registration of country names as trademarks. The Government of Iceland had been compelled to allocate considerable time, effort and funds to raise objections to the registration of ICELAND as a word mark for goods and services. It was unacceptable that private companies were able to register the country name as a word mark and thus prevent Icelandic users from referring to their origin either in marketing or in trademark registration. The indirect protection provided by international and national laws should be able to prevent registration of country names as word marks: Iceland considered that the use of country names should be the fundamental right of every country. Certain provisions of the Icelandic Patent Act and the Patent Regulations were being reviewed. The recent EU Directive on Trademarks had not yet been implemented into the EEA Agreement, thus any change to the Trademark Act and Regulation had been postponed. In June 2017, the first Icelandic geographical indication was registered. The Delegation's next endeavor would be to encourage the ratification of

the 1999 and 2003 changes to the WIPO Convention and the organization of a seminar on the Madrid System.

62. The Delegation of **India**, speaking on behalf of the Group of Fifteen, stated that, since 2013, IP had been identified as one of four focus areas for cooperation. WIPO had emerged as an important partner for the attainment of the Group's goals. Over the preceding four years, the Group had been actively engaged with WIPO in several areas, particularly capacity-building among its member countries. It deeply appreciated WIPO's tangible cooperation and generous sponsorship of a workshop in Sri Lanka in April 2017, organized to share national experiences and broaden understanding of issues relevant to IP and the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The Group attached great importance to the work of the IGC. It took note of the progress made within the IGC on that important normative agenda and wished to see a conclusion to the negotiations on one or more consensual and legally binding international instruments to protect and foster IPRs over GRs, TK and TCEs. It also appreciated efforts to build the capacity of developing countries to better administer such rights. The foreign ministers within the Group had identified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key global process to which the Group could make a valid contribution on behalf of the Global South. The Group urged WIPO to implement the 2030 Agenda and link it with the WIPO DA. It welcomed the major steps taken by the Director General and his team to mainstream the DA into WIPO's work. The Group would continue to advocate the integration of the development dimension into deliberations within WIPO and believed that, now more than ever, IP should be transformed into a genuine lever of development to significantly contribute to growth and socio-economic development among its member countries. The Group took the view that South-South cooperation should be a tool for developing important strategic partnerships that could play a central role in achieving the objectives outlined in the DA Recommendations for the promotion of sustainable development. It welcomed the range of activities and projects designed to transform IP into a dynamic component of national development strategies in developing countries. Noting the limited coverage currently provided by WIPO External Offices, the Group also commended the incremental progress made in negotiations on the opening of new External Offices. Once opened, the External Offices would particularly benefit countries which had already created the conditions that enhance innovation and creativity, as well as countries wishing to receive direct support from WIPO – in the form of technical assistance and capacity-building – for the enhancement of national IP policies and relevant IP infrastructure. Considering the motives of different geographical regions for hosting EOs, the Group believed that the process and criteria for selecting host countries should comply with the WIPO General Rules of Procedure and the Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices, in particular the principle governing geographical distribution and the delivery of WIPO's technical assistance and capacity-building services.

63. The Delegation of **India** put on record its support for the Delegation of Indonesia, as the Regional Coordinator of ASEAN. The Delegation had a well-established IP system that was compliant with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and not only met its international obligations but also addressed instrumental priorities by utilizing the flexibility available under international norms. It had adopted an IP policy with a view to maintaining that delicate balance. Steps had been taken towards building a strong knowledge-based economy, with programs to facilitate investment and enhance skill development. The Delegation was one of the applicants for hosting an External Office in light of its population, sizeable economy and growth in IP filing. The opening of an External Office in India would strengthen the global IP system and be beneficial to all stakeholders. The creation of the TK digital library had been a significant achievement and India looked forward to working with WIPO to set up other libraries of this type. The Delegation welcomed the progress made in the IGC and hoped to see its mandate strengthened. It had been the first country to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty and believed it

would go a long way towards creating an inclusive society and enhancing access to knowledge.

64. The Delegation of **Indonesia**, speaking in its national capacity, stated that the importance of WIPO had grown in recent years, particularly in ensuring the integration of a balanced approach to the global IP system into efforts to achieve development objectives. WIPO had to play a strategic role in implementing the SDGs. It had the mandate and mission to lead the development of a balanced international IP system that enabled innovation and creativity for the common good. The SDGs and the WIPO DA Recommendations should be remain at the core of WIPO's program and activities. Indonesia had upgraded its national IP system, modernized its IP laws and improved its regulations on copyright, patent, trademark, and geographical indications, so as to promote innovation and creativity, to offer better protection and to manage its IP system better. There were new provisions on the protection of traditional and non-traditional marks, namely 3D marks, holograms and sound marks. The new trademark law also had provisions on the Madrid Protocol. Indonesia would accede to the Madrid Protocol and become the 100th member of the Madrid Union during the 2017 Assemblies. It had already signed and implemented the service-level agreement with WIPO for the implementation of TISCs, to support local innovators. Four universities had already joined and implemented TISCs locally, while 10 other universities would soon join the network. The Delegation had already employed the IPAS for the administration of patents, trademarks and industrial designs, and had also used the online copyright recognition system found on the IPAS platform. It was currently implementing the e-filing system for the registration of patents, trademarks and industrial designs, in cooperation with WIPO. It was also establishing a communal IP database center on Indonesia GRs, TK and TCEs. It was drafting its national IP strategy in partnership with WIPO. The Delegation hoped that the strategy would help to identify the right policy actions in light of its national priorities. Significant progress had been made during recent negotiations within the IGC. The Delegation hoped for speedy negotiations culminating in a positive outcome, with a stronger IGC mandate for the subsequent biennium. There was an urgent need to prevent the misuse and misappropriation of GRs and associated TK. A legally binding instrument would prevent and tackle any transitional problems through a full compliance mechanism. Innovation and creation had no limits or boundaries. Narrow perspectives should be abandoned for greater recognition of the economic and moral rights inherent in cultural heritage, including GRs, TK and TCEs. Text-based negotiations on GRs, TK and TCEs should be continued so that a legal binding instrument could be generated as soon as possible.

65. The Delegation of **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** said that with regard to WIPO's new External Offices, any decision for the selection of the host countries should be taken on the basis of the equitable and geographical distribution of such offices, in a transparent manner, in full conformity with the Guiding Principles and by consensus, without creating a hierarchy of applicant countries or their respective regions. The Delegation had proposed that a WIPO External Office be established in Tehran, relying on the appropriateness of its IP infrastructure. Member States should give due consideration to that proposal. The IGC had taken a constructive approach, as evidenced by IGC sessions in 2015 and 2016, which had led to a consensus on the need for the IGC to continue its work in the 2018/19 biennium. That significant development testified to the common understanding among Member States of the importance of establishing a legal basis to protect GRs, TK and TCEs internationally. Based on the progress made, the current draft documents should be of adequate maturity to convert into a legally binding instrument. The Delegation supported the IGC's future work program, which would crystallize those facts. Regarding the DLT, Member States had in past years endeavored to develop draft articles to submit to a diplomatic conference. The Delegation reiterated its position concerning the need to include technical assistance and mandatory disclosure requirements in the Treaty as legally binding provisions. In light of the

decision of the 2016 WIPO General Assembly, the Delegation was ready to engage in constructive discussions, in order to overcome all remaining differences among WIPO Member States, and hoped to see a decision made through consensus to the satisfaction of all Member States. The work of the CDIP had played an important role in achieving WIPO's development objectives. The CDIP was to be commended for its contribution to the implementation of the WIPO DA Recommendations. The Delegation hoped that the CDIP, taking advantage of the views and experiences of Member States and identifying projects on IP, would take the essential steps towards creating a balance between rights and obligations and the economic and social wellbeing of the Member States, especially developing countries. On the issue of financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, the Delegation recognized the political determination and willingness of the members of the Lisbon Union to find a long-standing financial solution to the problem. While declaring its readiness to provide a voluntary subvention to compensate for the 2016-2017 budget deficit, the Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Member States of the Lisbon Union for their indefatigable efforts to consider and implement all possible options to tackle the short-term deficit and to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the system. In that regard, the Delegation underlined the importance of a robust and focused promotion of the Lisbon System which would highlight the improvement potential of GRs, with a view to attracting new contracting parties. Concerning the agenda items of the SCT, the Delegation hoped to see progress towards consensus and acceptable work on the protection of country names. The Secretariat's compilation of national laws and practices clarified the need for stronger protection of country names against registration or use as trademarks. There was a clear need for international action to prevent the undue registration or use of country names as trademarks and the SCT should accelerate its work in that regard. With regard to International Nonproprietary Names (INNs) for pharmaceutical substances, the Delegation highlighted the importance of access to the list of recommended INNs by trademark offices and trademark examiners. Iran (the Islamic Republic of) has taken a number of steps over the last year for the promotion and protection of IPRs in the country, including the revision of related laws and regulations; a workshop on the utilization of external examination results during the national phase under the PCT; training workshops and seminars in line with the implementation of the biennium project for the establishment of TISCs and in the various fields of IPRs; and the signature of a MoU on IP with many WIPO Member States. It was important for norm-setting activities within the framework of the respective WIPO committees to be accelerated, taking into consideration the interests of all Member States.

66. The Delegation of **Italy** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and that of the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B. The growing demand for technology in an increasingly competitive global market was changing the geography of innovation and, while most investment in R&D was still directed at the North, many countries in the South were also attracting increasing investment. Knowledge was starting to flow more freely across the globe and the debate on IP protection was becoming more complex. The benefits of harmonizing IP systems for the development of countries in the South were also becoming increasingly evident. The current international system for protecting IP had been created during the age of industrialization in the West and developed subsequently in line with the perceived needs of technologically advanced societies. In recent years, indigenous peoples, local communities and governments, mainly in developing countries, had made legitimate demands for equitable protection for their TK systems. Geographical indications could become an outstanding tool among existing IP instruments for protection of traditional forms of knowledge, innovation and tradition. The creation of mutually beneficial tools could contribute to the development of a balanced and effective international IP framework. Efforts in the Secretariat to increase transparency and efficiency had been effectively conjugated with the need to preserve the overall unity of the budget and cooperation among Unions. The flexibilities of the current budgetary system enabled WIPO to achieve more policy

efficiency by allocating costs and resources among Unions in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity in order to achieve more balanced IP development.

67. The Delegation of **Jamaica** supported the statement made by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC. Jamaica continued to strive for legislative balance with respect to IPRs. It was developing a patent and designs bill for submission to Parliament by the end of the legislative year; drafting legislation for the protection of new plants varieties, TK, TCEs and GRs; and finalizing regulations on collective management organizations. It was also amending a number of laws, including: the Copyright Act, to enable cross-border copyright transactions and increase the number of bodies authorized to provide access to formats for visually impaired and print-disabled persons; the Trade Marks Act and the Trade Marks Rules, to update information on fees and forms and provide for the international registration of marks under the Madrid Protocol; and the Protection of Geographical Indications Act and Regulations, to provide better protection for all goods and establish a geographical indications advisory committee. At the meetings of the SCT in October 2016 and March 2017, Member States had continued deliberating on document SCT/35/4 outlining possible areas of convergence in the examination of trademarks consisting of or containing a country name. They had identified broad areas of convergence and many other areas of divergence in their treatment of such marks. In the vast majority of Member States, applicants wishing to register marks consisting of or containing a country name – and thereby unfairly benefiting from its goodwill and reputation – could avoid rejection simply by stylizing the name or supplementing the mark with words and/or figurative elements. The case of *Iceland v Iceland* clearly demonstrated the threat to the sovereignty and autonomy of States posed by the persistent lack of adequate protection for country names. That threat was further intensified by the ability to register top-level domain names comprising country names, adjectives or codes. Member States should bear in mind the aim of the draft joint recommendation tabled before the SCT: to establish a coherent and consistent framework to guide IP offices and other competent authorities and international traders in their use of trade marks, domain names and business identifiers consisting of or containing a country name. Over the past year, Jamaica had benefited greatly from its cooperation with WIPO. In June 2017, WIPO had sent the Director, Legal Division of the Madrid Registry on a mission to assess Jamaica's readiness for the Madrid Protocol. Jamaica was also proud to be establishing the first TISCs in the English-speaking Caribbean. To that end, it had recently hosted a joint workshop with WIPO on access to technology for innovation and the establishment of a TISC network in Jamaica. The TISCs were being established at the University of the West Indies and the University of Technology and would help to stimulate innovation and economic growth by facilitating access to technological information and improving the capacity of stakeholders to effectively exploit it. Jamaica and WIPO had also collaborated to improve patent-drafting in the country, hosting a sub-regional course on the subject attended by a wide range of experts from the private and public sectors. As a small island developing state, Jamaica was home to mainly SMEs and was intent on improving their understanding of IP. WIPO had supported it in that endeavor, helping it to organize a national workshop on the effective management of IP assets for SMEs. One of the most significant and pioneering aspects of Jamaica's collaboration with WIPO had been the thorough examination of the relationship between IP and sport. Indeed, in September 2017, the parties co-organized an inter-regional seminar on the strategic use of IP in sport in Jamaica, attended by representatives of a vast array of sporting disciplines in Jamaica and other countries from Latin America and the Caribbean. Jamaica was working with WIPO to organize a national consultative workshop on the issues and options to be taken into account in developing national policy and legislation on IP and the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. In parallel to those efforts, Jamaica was preparing a national law for the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs, guided by the ongoing deliberations and text-based negotiations of the IGC. Jamaica was most grateful for WIPO's support in all the areas alluded to and was committed to supporting the Organization's work. The Delegation hoped that further progress would be

made by the SCT on the protection of States against the registration and use of trademarks consisting of or containing a country name.

68. The Delegation of **Japan** wished to discuss the issues that new technologies had raised and the position to be adopted in tackling them, in order to open up a new era for the IP system. Three major events had shaped the IP system. Firstly, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property introduced an international framework. Secondly, international filing systems, such as the PCT, had eliminated procedural duplication for both offices and applicants and thirdly, the TRIPS Agreement had established high standards for IP protection. At the same time, emerging technologies and changing social structures had engendered problems: IT advances had led to abuses of patent rights through patent trolling and patent hold-ups in relation to Standard Essential Patents; trademark squatting ensued as simplified e-filing systems, combined with the more relaxed requirements under the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT), had opened the floodgates for bad-faith trademark applications that avoided paying fees. Moreover, in an Internet of Things (IoT) era, everything would be connected to the Internet, exposing industry to the risk of involvement in patent disputes. These and other problems had created doubts about IPRs, but none was so fundamental as to shake the entire system, nor was the advance of IT and emerging technologies problematic: the importance of the IP system for rewarding and encouraging risk taking innovators remained unchanged. Those problems should therefore be solved to prevent any further spread of anti-IP sentiment. Once they had been overcome, and the IP system prepared to accommodate emerging technologies, the fortified IP system could be called "IP4.0" following the three eras marked by the Paris Convention, the PCT and the TRIPS Agreement. Regarding WIPO's role in the establishment of IP4.0, Japan was committed to leading efforts for its realization in conjunction with WIPO and Member States. To that end, Japan had been working on certain initiatives with WIPO. The first was on enhancing global IP services, in keeping with Article 3 of the WIPO Convention. In order to make WIPO even more attractive for users, Japan looked forward to further discussions on the appropriate measures and policies. Particular attention should be paid to enhancing global IP services, given that the bulk of WIPO's income derived from fees paid by users for services such as the PCT, the Madrid and the Hague Systems. The Government of Japan had again made the largest voluntary contribution to WIPO in 2017 – around 5,900,000 Swiss francs. The Japan Funds-in-Trust (FIT) at WIPO had been used primarily to support the development of IPR-related human resources in Asia and Africa and this had included inviting to Japan more than 1,800 trainees from 57 countries and four regions since 1996, sending more than 300 Japanese experts to 35 countries since 1987 and holding various fora and workshops. An active role had been played by the WIPO Japan Office (WJO) in collaboration with the Japan Patent Office (JPO). With the Japan FIT celebrating its 30th anniversary in the current fiscal year, the JPO planned to mark the occasion by holding a high level forum in Tokyo in February 2018, where top level members from some 50 IP offices in the developing world and elsewhere would be invited to discuss IP policy. The Delegation was committed to continuing its activities through the Japan FIT and looked forward to further collaboration between WIPO and the WJO to realize more effective and valuable assistance. Japan had formally joined WIPO CASE in 2015 and from July 2016, any user could access and reference dossier information from both IP5 offices and those offices participating in WIPO CASE by using the Japan Platform for Patent Information, J-PlatPat. It was hoped that WIPO would continue to increase the number of Offices participating in WIPO CASE and expand the use of this common platform for sharing dossier information worldwide. Discussions had begun between Japan and WIPO with a view to launching ePCT, the electronic filing platform, in Japan. Since IT infrastructure was an area where user satisfaction could be easily enhanced, The Delegation hoped that WIPO would continue to focus on investment in that area. With regard to norm setting activities, the Delegation would contribute to the ongoing discussions on the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations so that a diplomatic conference could be convened to adopt the

treaty as soon as possible. It would also work to have the DLT adopted. In response to the fourth industrial revolution currently under way, the Delegation had been examining the impact that emerging technologies, such as the IoT, artificial intelligence (AI) and big data would have on IP. This had led to the development of an examination regime specifically geared to dealing with IoT related inventions, the establishment of new patent classifications for IoT and publication of examples of IoT examination results. Japan had also been working on its international exchange activities in the field of IP law and, in November 2016, the Symposium on Patent Litigation in Europe and Japan, held in Tokyo, was attended by more than 400 people, among them judges from both Japan and Europe. From October 30 to November 1, 2017, Japan would be holding the Judicial Symposium on Intellectual Property/Tokyo 2017, inviting judges from China, the Republic of Korea and ASEAN. The globalization of corporate activities and the advance of emerging technologies such as IoT and AI would inevitably create an increasingly important role for IPRs. Given that strengthening IP systems had the potential to further advance technological innovation, WIPO's role would also continue to grow and the Delegation looked forward to drawing on its own substantial experience and achievements to date as it continued to contribute to WIPO's activities and the ongoing evolution of WIPO itself toward the development of a global IP system to promote and nurture innovation.

69. The Delegation of **Kenya** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. Programs and activities currently being undertaken in Kenya in conjunction with WIPO included the IP audit at the University of Nairobi, the TISCs and support for capacity-building to benefit IP system employees. Kenya recognized the importance of IPRs in certain aspects of human endeavor. To ensure that it continued to reap the maximum benefit from various IP regimes, the country was modernizing its IP policies and legislation to conform to national, regional and international frameworks. With regard to the agenda of the 2017 Assemblies, Kenya looked forward to progress, especially as concerns the IGC, the SCCR and the DLT.

70. The Delegation of **Kyrgyzstan** greeted the Chair and all delegates and expressed its appreciation to WIPO for its continued efforts to strengthen the global architecture of IP, as well as to the Secretariat for its work on the preparation of documents for the Assemblies. The Delegation congratulated Marshall Islands and Timor-Leste with joining WIPO this year. The Delegation commended the work of WIPO committees and expressed confidence that the issues under consideration in various committees would be addressed with due account of the interests of all Member States. The Delegation supported the activities of the SCCR on issues concerning protection of rights of broadcasting organizations and limitations and exceptions to copyright. With regard to the SCT, the Delegation expressed its hope that the fundamental differences regarding the DLT would be eliminated in the near future, and the dates of the diplomatic conference for the adoption of the treaty would be set. The Delegation informed that Kyrgyzstan has joined another major treaty this year, namely the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation thanked WIPO for the technical assistance provided to Kyrgyzstan in the development of its national IP system. It welcomed the holding of regional and national seminars on topical IP issues aimed at encouraging sustainable development of the IP system. The Delegation specifically commended the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its active support in the adoption of joint projects, in particular the project on drafting strategic documents concerning the development of the IP system. The Delegation expressed its hope that WIPO would continue to provide support to national patent offices in the development of the IP system, and wished Member States successful work during the Assemblies.

71. The Delegation of the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** expressed the hope that WIPO would continue working closely with Member States to further develop a balanced global IP system for the economic development of all countries. The Delegation had

cooperated closely with WIPO over the preceding year and made significant progress in formulating its national IP strategy, which was now finalized. This would not have been possible without the dedicated attention and hands-on support of WIPO, especially the Director General, and the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. The Delegation hoped to benefit from WIPO technical assistance. Over the past year it had continuously made changes to improve its IP administration and had stepped up efforts to coordinate its IP system with the changing regional IP landscape. It had taken steps to accede to the Rome Convention and had pursued its efforts to accede to the Hague Agreement which it hoped to join by 2020. The Delegation would focus on further strengthening its geographical indication system to afford adequate protection to local geographical indications, which were vital to future national IP development. It also intended to explore ways of implementing mechanisms that protect GRs, TK and TCEs, in line with its goal to fully leverage the IP system for its national development. The Government was working closely with WIPO to administer its IP legislation, formulate its national IP strategy, establish a TISC and perform a resource management diagnosis of its IP department. These initiatives would pave the way for the Delegation to meet its commitments as a member of the global IP system. Most importantly, they would make the system more responsive to the needs of its people.

72. The Delegation of **Latvia** stressed the need to reach agreement on the convening of a diplomatic conference in order to adopt the draft DLT, which had been drafted several years ago to facilitate the registration process for users and IP officers, and which would be beneficial to all Member States. It considered that the intergovernmental discussion of the Guiding Principles and the possible location of WIPO External Offices would be appositely complemented by the Organization's vision, as they were highly political and sensitive matters and as WIPO External Offices and their designation should reflect the needs of the Organization rather than the wishes of Member States, in furtherance of the common interest of fostering innovation and creativity for the benefit of users.

73. The Delegation of **Lesotho** fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of LDCs. It agreed with the Delegation of Senegal that the work of the IGC was a priority for Africa, a continent that abounded with indigenous knowledge which should be harnessed to achieve its developmental goals. Lesotho supported the proposal that the mandate of the IGC be renewed until a binding international legal instrument for the protection of TK and TCEs was finally adopted. It was important to finalize the establishment of External Offices as soon as possible as they would certainly enhance IP management in the regions where they would be located. Accordingly, the guiding principles of geographical priority should underpin any decision on the selection of External Office locations. Lesotho hoped for the convening of the diplomatic conference and would like its agenda to include issues pertaining to technical assistance and disclosure articles indicating the origin of a design. The Government had initiated the process towards ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Registrar General's Office (RGO) and the National University of Lesotho library had jointly organized an awareness workshop on the Marrakesh Treaty, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) and the World Blind Union (WBU) from September 12 to 13, 2017. After that workshop, the Government had commenced the ratification process and hoped to rely on WIPO support in the implementation phase. With regard to educating all sectors on IP, the RGO was attending the national curriculum improvement meetings of the Council on Higher Education, primarily to ensure that IP was included in the national curriculum from basic to higher education. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for technical assistance and for sponsoring the attendance of its delegates at various WIPO meetings and programs. It would attend the next CDIP meeting in November 2017 and the Casablanca meeting of youth innovators in November 2017, with WIPO's support. The LDCs Division within WIPO had also invited Lesotho to attend the WIPO-UNECA meeting on

partnership for innovation and technological capacity-building in LDCs to be held in Ethiopia in November 2017. That meeting was a welcome opportunity because the Delegation was keen on sustainable development and committed to forging partnerships in this area. The country had benefitted from the WIPO Academy which was increasing the critical mass of trained IP experts and looked forward to WIPO assistance in the establishment of its own TISCs.

74. The Delegation of **Liberia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and that of the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. WIPO's support to the Liberian IP system had enabled the first phase of the WIPO-endorsed Liberia Intellectual Property Development Plan to be completed. That covered finalizing membership in all treaties, training IP office employees and organizing the collective societies. Most importantly, a new IP Law had been enacted. At the 54th Assemblies, the Delegation had made a request for a workshop for the Liberian judiciary. This had not been possible and it put forward a request for such activities to be implemented in 2017. Those important training opportunities were needed to enhance IP enforcement in accordance with the new IP Law. Liberia had laid the foundations for the construction of its new IP Office, the technical details of which had been worked out. A fact-finding mission would be necessary to fulfil the second phase of the project. Appreciation was due to WIPO and ARIPO for their collaboration in continuing technical assistance, especially that relating to capacity-building for the employees of the new IP Office. The Delegation has sought to meet previous commitments; various treaties had been ratified and the IP law passed. Although there was still much to be done, it had made great strides. Continued support for IP in Liberia would be required to achieve the full implementation of its IP development plan. That commitment would need to impact the lives of all members of society: WIPO's role therefore remained critical as a driver of inclusive growth. WIPO's commitment to establish External Offices and TISCs to serve as a much-needed resource for innovators and students of IP would truly impact the pace of transformation of IP services in the region.

75. The Delegation of **Madagascar** stated that its Government was determined to transform IP into the springboard of national economic development. Accordingly, since 2016 many activities had been implemented, including the national IP innovation strategy and policy. In a bid to strengthen various initiatives on awareness-raising and promotion of inventive activity, the Ministry in charge of industry and private sector development, in collaboration with the Malagasy Industrial Property Office, established and inaugurated many TISCs in several regions of the country. These centers effectively contributed to the encouragement of creativity at the national level. The results were palpable, particularly regarding the steps taken with the IP office to obtain protection for inventions after usage of the databases made available at these centers. A significant number of inventions based on the GRs of the country could be identified both nationally and abroad. In order to protect the interests of the country, and especially of local communities that own resources, legal instruments had been adopted to regulate access to these resources, including the principle of sharing the benefits that could be derived from their utilization. These legislative frameworks mainly related to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ratified by Madagascar. The Delegation duly appreciated the efforts made by WIPO to provide an appropriate and effective legal framework for protecting the interests of communities that own GRs. The Delegation also expressed the wish to participate fully in the studies and activities of the Working Group on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore in order to better understand the issues related to the exploitation of these assets. The Delegation welcomed the importance given to the strengthening of its legal instruments for the optimization of IP to ensure the rapid and

sustainable development of the national economy. Accordingly, the country recently ratified the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement. This was a major step toward reform of the national IP legal framework which would be submitted soon to the Government for approval. Madagascar would spare no effort to that end, given the impending establishment of a global uniform IP system. The contribution of the Malagasy Industrial Property Office to the global databases for patents, trademarks and industrial designs was one of the actions attesting to the country's determination in that regard. Similarly, the country planned to adhere to the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The Delegation urged WIPO to organize awareness-raising activities to ensure greater understanding of the relevance and benefits these treaties. Collaboration with WIPO was essential to address the challenges raised by the prospects and plans of two national IP organizations, namely the institution of a quality approach toward ISO 9001 certification for the Malagasy Industrial Property Office. This approach entailed, *inter alia*, constant capacity-building for office staff who will then be better able to support industry operators, as well as improved support to entrepreneurs in the areas of creativity and innovation by facilitating the transfer of technology through universal up-to-date documentation on IP at the service of the industry. In conclusion, the Delegation fully associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs.

76. The Delegation of **Malawi** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, especially its comments on disagreements during the deliberations of the IGC. It noted that WIPO continued to play an important role in promoting IP as a tool for wealth creation and national development, especially for LDCs like Malawi. This included efforts to help LDCs build their innovative capacities so that they could take full advantage of the IP system in line with the WIPO DA. The establishment, with WIPO's support, of TISCs in academic institutions in Malawi had provided access to invaluable technological information and expertise, which was essential to building the country's capacity for innovation. Other institutions were now expressing an interest in hosting TISCs, underscoring their importance. Over the past biennium, WIPO had played a valuable role in supporting the work of the IGC. During that period, significant progress had been made towards bridging gaps and building consensus for the adoption of an international legally binding instrument for the protection of IP, TK, GRs and TCEs. While the general consensus on the need to renew the IGC's mandate was welcome, it was crucial to translate its work – which had spanned a decade – into tangible results in the next biennium. WIPO was continuing to provide Malawi with much-appreciated technical support to help raise the profile of the IP system in the country, modernize the national IP office and build the capacity of its staff. In 2017, it had held a PCT seminar in the country, which had been well received. It had also supported Malawi's participation in both the Regional Training Workshop on the Industrial Property Automation System for Trademark Examiners, in Gaborone, Botswana, and the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications, in China. Furthermore, Malawi had participated in the Symposium on Copyright and Related Rights, organized by WIPO and OAPI in Harare, where participants had made recommendations for the advancement of the African agenda on copyright and related rights. With WIPO's valued support, officials from Malawi had made a study trip to Ghana focused on the implementation of the private copy system. The lessons learned from that visit would help Malawi to develop robust creative industries as a tool for wealth creation. WIPO had sent a mission, led by the Director of the Special Projects Division, to Malawi to discuss plans for the modernization of the IP office, the significance of which could not be overstated. Among other things, it would digitize the office's application and grant processes, improving the delivery of services. The signing of the cooperation agreement in that regard between WIPO and the Government of Malawi was highly anticipated. The Delegation had made great strides towards embracing IPRs as a tool for fostering economic growth and

development. A draft IP policy had been submitted to the Cabinet for approval in the near future, and a proposal for a new trademark law incorporating the Madrid Protocol had been tabled before Parliament. Moreover, the Government was in the process of amending its laws in compliance with the Marrakesh Treaty, for which it had deposited an instrument of accession in July 2017. Lastly, the Delegation was due to host two important events in November: a high-level meeting on policy coherence and access to medicine among ARIPO member states, under the auspices of the UN; and the ARIPO Administrative Council.

77. The Delegation of **Malaysia** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN, and by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. It thanked the Director General for his support, lauded the excellent financial performance of the Organization over the previous year and welcomed the Director General's assurance that this good performance would continue in the next biennium with an expected 10.4 per cent increase in revenue. This positive trend reflected a robust global IP system and steady growth of the knowledge-based economy as a new source of wealth. Malaysia was making great strides to achieve high-income status, including further expansion of its knowledge-based economy. Relying on its National Intellectual Property Policy and the 11th Malaysia plan, the Government was steadily harnessing IP as the new engine of growth, while focusing on innovation as the main thrust of the national DA. Furthermore, through the IP monetization road map 2015-2020, the Government intended to transform Malaysia into a vibrant IP trading hub in the ASEAN region and beyond. Malaysia was appreciative of its collaboration with WIPO which had yielded, *inter alia*, the project on the establishment of an enabling IP environment for technology development, management and commercialization. Others included the TISC program to help local innovators commercialize their IPs. Currently 12 universities and one research institution in Malaysia were involved in the TISC program. Since innovation determined social and economic well-being, continuous effort should be made to ensure that innovation really worked for the benefit of society through a balanced IP framework. The WIPO DA adopted in 2007 was aimed at ensuring that development concerns are mainstreamed into WIPO's work and the 17 SDGs. The Delegation hoped that WIPO, as a UN specialized agency, would continue to give priority to development-related issues. It also hoped that the inclusion of IP in development as a standing agenda item of the CDIP would give a new impetus to the Committee to take concrete action towards implementing WIPO DA Recommendations as well as the broader SDG agenda. Deliberations on renewal of the IGC mandate must be guided by the fundamental objective of extending IP system benefits to all communities. Accordingly, the IGC must carry on with advanced text-based negotiations to produce a specific international legal instrument for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. To ensure realization of the principle of "leaving no-one behind", the SCCR should expedite its work on exceptions and limitations for educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities, as well as exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives. The Delegation was ready to work constructively with all Member States, in setting the priorities and direction of WIPO for the coming 2018/19 biennium.

78. The Delegation of **Mali** welcomed the assistance provided by WIPO, in particular to enable the country to join the African Intellectual Property Organization in 1984, to accede to international conventions on IP and to build the IP capacity of key Malian personnel and the technical and management capacities of IP management bodies, namely the Malian Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Property (CEMAPI) and the Malian Copyright Office (BUMDA). Cooperation between Mali and WIPO had been marked in the past few years by the memorandum on the formulation of a national IP development strategy, signed by the Director General and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment in July 2009. The overarching objective of the strategy document, adopted by the Government of Mali on November 26, 2014, was to promote the creation of an environment conducive to the promotion and protection of IP and the effective and efficient use of the IP system pursuant

to Mali's economic, social and cultural development policy and strategy. Equally noteworthy was the agreement on the establishment of a TTISC in Mali, signed on October 8, 2012 by the Director General and the Ambassador of Mali in Geneva, in which WIPO and Mali had undertaken to foster technological creation and innovation by strengthening access to technical knowledge. National seminars had been held on themes such as "The Role of IP in Promoting Medicine and Traditional Pharmacopeia", "Stakeholders' Knowledge and Awareness of the PCT System", "The Use of Intellectual Property Assets to Enhance Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Mali" and "The Efficiency of the National Network of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)". It was regrettable that the security and political crisis in Mali since 2012 had adversely affected the implementation of those programs and the follow-up to various seminars. As substantial progress had been achieved in ending the crisis, WIPO could thenceforth provide full support to the country in order to implement various initiatives. Accordingly, the Delegation had indicated its wish to hold, in collaboration with WIPO, a high level forum on IP for policymakers and all stakeholders and to continue to build institutional capacity in the context of the establishment of the TISC and supporting measures arising from agreements initiated by or jointly with WIPO.

79. The Delegation of **Mexico** noted that its country had been one of the first to voice its support for the initiative to change the electoral cycle for electing WIPO General Assembly officers. A year on, the positive impact of that decision was clear to all: currently, there was greater involvement and active participation in various agenda issues with a view to building consensus. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Director General for maintaining close ties with Member States through information sessions in February, April and July 2017 on issues of relevance. Mexico was enjoying active and productive collaboration with WIPO on invention, trademark and copyright matters and with the WIPO Academy, with which it had coordinated a range of activities, including the 10th edition of the WIPO Summer Course. Its relationship with the WIPO Academy was all the stronger for the fact that the course had been run at the world-renowned National Autonomous University of Mexico for the second time. The Government had also participated in various fora and seminars organized by WIPO in areas such as compliance, marks and designs. The WIPO Lex database had been widely consulted, nowhere more so than in Mexico, where around 380,000 sessions had been logged in 2017. The Delegation wished to see progress made towards concluding agreements on the various normative agenda issues. In that regard, it was prepared to support decisions aimed at convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT and continuing the work of the IGC, based on a mandate similar to that adopted two years ago for the equal treatment of all agenda items. The importance of concluding negotiations on a basic proposal for a treaty to protect broadcasting organizations and of convening a diplomatic conference could not be understated. WIPO was to be lauded for its robust financial performance and its mechanisms for transparent accountability to Member States. The full involvement of the Member States in monitoring activities and making decisions in that key area was both desirable and positive in that it helped to improve WIPO's performance. Mexico attached particular importance to maintaining consistency across the UN system in the implementation of measures and decisions that had budgetary and administrative implications. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for its diligence in abiding by decisions concerning the Organization and renewed its call for fairer geographical representation within WIPO staff. The issue of External Offices was outstanding because Member States had failed to definitively take ownership of the process after agreeing on the Guiding Principles in 2015. Regrettably, much like last year, those principles had gone from being an objective and transparent evaluation tool to a list of minor, secondary requirements. The process had derailed and no suitable blueprint had been set out for a solution acceptable to all parties. Mexico felt that the Guiding Principles enabled the parties to put forward proposals, each with its own merits, an approach which naturally complicated the decision-making process. Consequently, the Delegation believed that a report from the

Secretariat providing factual but high-quality information would enrich discussions. Perhaps now was the time to defer to the Secretariat, given the inability of Member States to assume their responsibility and resolve the issue at hand. As Costa Rica would attest, GRULAC had gone to great lengths to define a single consensus application for the current biennium and had not submitted any for the next biennium. All regions should assume a constructive and flexible position. All parties needed to compromise so that a balance could be struck and decisions could be made to help strengthen WIPO's IPRs protection mechanism. It was vital to work together so that WIPO could fulfil its mission to drive the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that promoted innovation and creativity for the benefit of all countries.

80. The Delegation of **Montenegro** commended the joint efforts of the WIPO Secretariat and the Member States in considering further advancement of WIPO services within the increasingly demanding environment. Montenegrin authorities had made great progress in a bid to achieve the level of IPRs protection and enforcement similar to that existing in the European Union countries. The Delegation announced that the Government of Montenegro had formed a Coordination Body, composed of all public administration authorities from the IPR protection and enforcement system. Further, the Ministry of Economy had prepared a Draft Law on Amendments of Copyrights and Related Rights, incorporating latest developments and European Union Directives in the respective areas. The Draft Law had been open to a public debate. The Delegation requested WIPO support in implementing the new provisions, in particular those related to collective management of copyrights and related rights. Additionally, given the need for preparing a National IP Strategy, the Delegation would also appreciate discussion in the Department for Transition and Developed Countries concerning possible expert support in development of the strategic document. The Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro had recently undergone changes in status and management. The Delegation noted the progress recorded in innovation, as reflected in the Global Innovation Index 2017, ranking Montenegro 48th out of 127 economies. The Delegation restated its appreciation to the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for the ongoing fruitful cooperation and support provided to Montenegro, and to Georgia, Coordinator of the Central European and Baltic States, for due care in providing WIPO-funded assistance enabling Montenegro to participate in regional and international conferences. The Delegation expected to enhance Montenegro's cooperation through the next Work Plan for 2018, to be considered and agreed with the Department for Transition and Developed Countries.

81. The Delegation of **Morocco** associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and reaffirmed its determination to promote the IP system. Accordingly, it fully supported WIPO's work and the actions and projects undertaken to establish an efficient, balanced and accessible IP system. In that regard, it welcomed the agreements reached between WIPO and various intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the League of Arab States (LAS), which were helping to address IP challenges in their respective regions. Given WIPO's role in attaining the SDGs, it also applauded the appointment of a sustainable development representative under the Director General. Morocco had embarked on the process of strengthening its IP system through the development of its 2016–2020 strategic plan – one of the most ambitious of its kind – which is founded on a new vision of the role that industrial and commercial property should play in promoting innovation and creativity. Morocco's IP initiatives over the past year had also included the signing of a cooperation agreement enabling the Moroccan and Chinese patent offices to share their patent search and examination experiences. Furthermore, discussions were being held with partner offices to strengthen collaboration and information-sharing in the area of patent examination, not least through Patent Prosecution Highway programs. Since IP development in Morocco and the region was predicated on the existence of IP

expertise, Morocco, through the Moroccan Academy for Industrial and Commercial Property, was rolling out high-level training programs for users and stakeholders within the country and in the region. Productive collaboration in that regard with WIPO, France and the African Intellectual Property Organization was greatly appreciated. Now convinced, more than ever before, that improvement of the IP system at the national, regional and global levels called for the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, the Delegation was fully committed to developing IP partnerships with other Member States in a spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance. The Delegation held the view that the effective protection of TCEs, GRs and TK was founded on the existence of a legally binding international instrument. Accordingly, it reaffirmed its support for the ongoing deliberations of the IGC and called for consolidation of the gains from the process with a view to producing such an instrument. Morocco attached great importance to negotiations on the draft DLT and hoped that a consensus could be reached on the organization of a diplomatic conference. It reiterated its unwavering commitment to the universal IPRs protection system, which served as an example for the region, as well as its full support for ongoing negotiations within WIPO, aimed at contributing constructively to the attainment of set goals and helping to build consensus among the Member States on outstanding issues.

82. The Delegation of **Namibia** fully associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. The Government had adopted various policies and strategies – such as Vision 2030, the Fifth National Development Plan and the Harambee Prosperity Plan – to foster an enabling environment for industrialization and the development of SMEs, facilitate trade and thus address threats to citizens' aspirations. Those policies and strategies formed the basis of Namibia's national IP policy and guided its implementation. The Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act had entered into force in January 2017, establishing the Business and Intellectual Property Authority as an autonomous institution with the mandate to administer and promote the registration of businesses and IP. Much progress had been made with the draft national IP policy and strategy, thanks in no small part to WIPO's support. The policy would create the conditions to unlock the potential of IP as a tool for economic development. Since the conclusion of an MoU between Namibia and WIPO at the preceding Assemblies, cooperation between the parties had helped to establish a framework for the implementation of the National IP Development Plan. Accordingly, they had jointly embarked on a number of projects in various areas such as: the development of a national IP policy and strategy; the model IP office; IP, tourism and culture; the establishment and development of TISCs; and ensuring compliance with IP strategy. Namibia wished to thank WIPO for all such assistance in developing its IP services. Lastly, the Delegation supported the African Group's position on the identification of appropriate solutions to outstanding items on the Assemblies' agenda.

83. The Delegation of **Nepal**, after endorsing the statements made by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group, stressed the importance of WIPO's support for training, capacity building, the modernization of national IP system policies, strategies and institutions, the establishment of TISCs, the provision of knowledge-based platforms and the transformation of the informal sector. It urged WIPO to continue to ensure program priorities and budget allocations in order to achieve development outcomes, in particular productive human and social development, involving the creation of employment opportunities for young people in LDCs. As Nepal's wealth of GRs, TK and cultural heritage could reduce poverty, add value to products and services and lead to inclusive and sustainable development, it was crucial to raise awareness thereof and build capacity to manage and utilize those resources. A comprehensive national IP policy that met international IP regulatory standards had been adopted in March 2017, IP Acts and Regulations consistent with international treaties were being drafted, and an integrated IP office was being established to implement the integrated policy and thus protect all IPRs effectively and adequately, while accommodating both the

rights of creators and the wider society's development needs. It called for progress on the Marrakesh Treaty and for the early conclusion of the DLT, which should include legally binding provisions on technical assistance and capacity-building. It considered that effective regulatory protection of GRs, TK, TCEs and geographical indications was required in order to avoid misappropriation for economic gain, and therefore urged all countries to reach a speedy consensus on the text. It supported the role played by the CDIP in guiding WIPO in its efforts to implement the SDGs and the WIPO DA to make IP systems work for all.

84. The Delegation of **New Zealand** said that New Zealand continued to recognize the critical role IP played in driving innovation and ultimately productivity and raising standards of living. New Zealand was focused on supporting innovation to ensure that its economy continued to generate new firms and industries, higher-value products, and remained internationally competitive and resilient to the inevitable systemic shocks. Crucial to these efforts was an efficient and effective IP regime which encouraged additional innovation and allowed the wide dissemination of ideas. New Zealand was committed to continually improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its IP regime. Over the previous year, the Government of New Zealand had begun a review of the Copyright Act to ensure that it was fit for purpose in a context of rapidly changing technology and had announced its intention to implement the Marrakesh Treaty. The Government had launched a geographical indications registration regime for wine and spirits to help promote and protect New Zealand wine and geographical indications and give greater protection for foreign wine and spirit geographical indications in New Zealand. A package of minor reforms had been made to domestic IP legislation. A review of Plant Variety Rights (PVR) legislation was under way to determine whether the PVR regime provided adequate incentives for the development and dissemination of new varieties, and how the regime might recognize the interests of Māori in native flora. Finding ways for the IP system to protect TK and cultural expressions was of particular interest to the Delegation. New Zealand supported the work of the IGC and was committed to finding meaningful and workable solutions within the IGC. The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) has been in a period of growth which has seen another record filing year for trademark applications and the expected doubling in the size of its patent examination team. IPONZ had also expanded its offering by joining the Global Patent Prosecution Highway pilot in 2017. The Delegation confirmed its willingness to work with WIPO and Member States to deal with the challenges and opportunities related to the international IP system.

85. The Delegation of **Nigeria** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and reaffirmed its commitment to WIPO's norm-setting agenda. Nigeria had ratified four key WIPO treaties: on copyright, performances and phonograms, audiovisual performances and access to published works for the blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. The protection of IPRs was a priority, as Nigeria was gradually transforming into a country with an innovation-generating economy which had begun a holistic review of the statutory framework for copyright protection. Nigeria was grateful for the TISC program under the DA recommendation and reported significant progress in copyright enforcement and various administrative actions to support the growth of local copyright-based industries. WIPO had provided support and assistance to collective management systems in Nigeria, which was one of the four beneficiary countries for the pilot project for education on IPRs and professional training with judicial training institutions in developing and LDCs, under the aegis of the CDIP. For the Delegation, the project was a high priority as it was expected to enhance the application of IP rules by the judiciary to facilitate fair, efficient and well-informed resolutions of IPR disputes in the larger context of protection and enforcement of rights. The Delegation was honored to host a WIPO External Office in Africa within the biennium. The Decision of the 57th Assembly to confirm Nigeria's selection to host the External Office was not only timely, but crucial in restoring balance and equity to the global administrative structure of WIPO. Prior to this development, Africa, in

spite of its huge population and abundance of human and material resources, had not been geographically represented in WIPO's network of External Offices. Accordingly, the new WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria would bring WIPO significantly closer to the African Region and enable the Organization to better deliver results on relevant organizational strategic goals and programs, including facilitation of the use of IP for development in Africa. Nigeria was gravely concerned at the continued delay in the agenda of the SCCR, and on the settlement of matters concerning GRs, TK and TCEs currently before the IGC. This situation required reappraisal by Member States. WIPO was doing considerable work on the TISC program, in which Nigeria had made significant progress. WIPO should assist national offices, especially in LDCs, to access specialized patent databases to encourage national economic development through innovation and technology transfer. Similarly, WIPO should expand the scope of its technical assistance programs by undertaking a complete automation of registration processes in Member States' national offices and the regional and sub-regional IP offices as a matter of priority. That would make it possible to match its action with IP-related development needs and be in line with DA Recommendation 9, which sought to bridge the digital divide among Member States. Moreover, WIPO should scale up capacity-building programs, given that automation came with new demands and needs.

86. The Delegation of **Norway** stated that Norway maintained the importance of improving the ability of Member States to monitor the economy and administration of WIPO and welcomed the continued efforts and cooperation to that end. The Delegation commended the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for the benefit of the users were crucial to continued and increased use of those global IP services. The Delegation noted with pleasure that the working groups under those systems continue to make progress for improving regulations, guidelines and practices. 2017 had also seen the renewal of the agreements for the International Authorities under the PCT, including the Nordic Patent Institute. Norway was committed to the work on global services, in the interests of existing and future users of the systems. Norway supported a renewed mandate for the IGC and looked forward to a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT. In Norway, the Patents Act had been amended with effect from September 1, 2017 to implement legislation pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1901/2006 and Regulation (EC) No 469/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of May 6, 2009 concerning the supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products and the possibility for a six-month pediatric extension.

87. The Delegation of **Oman** commended the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly for his work, convinced that under his wise guidance consensus would be reached on the various issues. The Delegation congratulated Ambassador Duong, Viet Nam, for his election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly for the 2018/19 biennium. The Delegation extended its deepest appreciation to the Director General for his efforts leading the Organization and the Secretariat for their work in preparing for the meetings. The Delegation affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman attached great importance to IP, as demonstrated by the country's supportive legal framework and efforts to translate international standards into national laws and legislation leading to its accession to IP-related international treaties. Indeed, IP was placed at the heart of the *National Innovation Strategy* anchored in its vision to establish "a knowledge society with an effective IP protection system conducive to innovative ideas, goods and services at the national and international levels". The Delegation praised the close cooperation between Oman and WIPO which contributed to the achievement of Oman's national goals and WIPO's strategic objectives, developing new IP tools and models. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation on establishing a national ecosystem that protects all innovative and creative products of the human intellect across the industrial, scientific, literary and artistic fields. With regard to opening new WIPO External Offices, the

Delegation believed that the Sultanate of Oman's geographical position, stability, neutrality and distinguished international relations with all members ensured its contribution to WIPO's mandate "to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all". The Delegation reiterated its commitment to work diligently and constructively with all Members to reach consensus on that matter. The Delegation welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC, and hoped that further progress would be made in its work to reach an agreement on international instrument(s) for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment to working together with other Member States in a positive and constructive manner, wishing all members success in their endeavors.

88. The Delegation of **Pakistan** supported the development of a balanced international IP system, responsive to the diverse needs and public welfare of all Member States. In light of the latest report of the IOD, it considered that there was a need for IOD to coordinate effectively with other WIPO units, such as the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Ethics Office, and to network with other oversight functions. The report by the External Auditor, in particular recommendations 5 and 23, deserved special attention. It was satisfied with the performance indicator ratings of the Program and Budget for 2016-2017 and hoped that agreement would be reached on the proposed Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium. It called for progress to be achieved in the CDIP and for the DA to be effectively implemented and mainstreamed in all WIPO organs, as the DA was the best mechanism for identifying and gauging imbalances to ensure that IP systems were integrated and yielded tangible results. It had hoped that outstanding normative issues in the Standing Committee would be resolved at the current WIPO General Assembly and was keen to see an advance in the work of the IGC to bridge existing gaps in the draft text. It considered that its position on the External Offices was well known, and it hoped that the decision to participate in the 2015 WIPO General Assembly would be seen in the spirit of consensus and unyielding support for Africa, namely Nigeria and Algeria, from an IP development perspective. It noted that many of the current External Office candidates were already self-sufficient, with sound IP credentials, and that nothing tangible could be achieved by duplicating those External Offices. In its view, there were too many candidate countries for new External Offices, which would cause political bickering and ill feeling at a time when Member States ought to adopt a consensual and inclusive approach. As Member States had yet to identify a methodology or criteria and had obviously lacked a clear vision for establishing External Offices, it proposed that instead of waiting until 2021, an objective cost-benefit analysis of the new External Offices should be conducted in order to ascertain the feasibility of the pathway forward.

89. The Delegation of **Paraguay** stated that the National Directorate for Intellectual Property (DINAPI) was established in 2013 as the first institution in Paraguay dedicated exclusively to IPRs protection. Consequently, DINAPI was the structure responsible for implementing the national IP policy. Enforcement of the law creating DINAPI marked a turning point in IP development in Paraguay as this entity gained control of almost all IP disciplines through its three technical directorates, namely: copyright, industrial property and compliance. Poverty reduction was one of the Government's main objectives and IP was a smart approach to combatting poverty, since it served as a global legal mechanism for protecting creations, inventors and their rights and wealth. The progress made in IP by Paraguay would not have been possible without cooperation with Member States and organizations. Accordingly, the Delegation thanked WIPO and its Director General for the assistance provided in developing various programs; the Director General's visit to Paraguay on May 8 and 9, 2017, to launch the First National IP Plan; and the visit of the Deputy Director General in charge of the Patent and Technology Sector. It was also grateful to Member States for voting for one of its citizens as Chair of the ACE, Dr. Héctor Balmaceda, stating that Paraguay perceived such support as a vote of confidence in the current Government's unprecedented drive to combat counterfeiting and piracy, which had

resulted in the seizure of goods worth approximately 300 million United States dollars and combatting of the organized crime responsible for these acts. Paraguay faced the challenge of developing a creative, knowledge-based economy that is in step with global trends. Knowledge management generated intangible assets, thereby helping to develop new markets, introduce innovative products and mobilize human skills protected through IP. Accordingly, under Article 177 of the Constitution, Paraguay had developed a National IP Plan that was binding on the private sector and provided guidance to the public sector. Far from being an end in itself, this plan paved the way for institutions to overcome their greatest challenge, namely: achieving the well-being of citizens; generating legitimate wealth; and protecting the valuable, rich and diverse cultural heritage of Paraguay. The IP Plan was for all citizens because Paraguay was a country of creators.

90. The Delegation of **Peru** endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, in which those countries' commitment to ensuring that IP contributed essentially to social and economic development in the region had been expressed. Accordingly, it reiterated Peru's keen interest in all Member States reaching a consensus on the proposed designation of an External Office in the region for 2016-2017 in accordance with the Guiding Principles and the understandings reached at previous sessions. In asserting the vital importance of IP in countries in the region, it acknowledged, highlighted and appreciated the work accomplished by the IGC, which required the continuity that could be ensured by the WIPO General Assembly. It thanked WIPO for its cooperation which in 2017 had taken the form of technical missions to implement the IPAS and other technological products, and the signing of the agreement establishing TISCs in Peru. It announced that the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (Indecopi) had launched Indecopi Digital, a two-year project on internal digitization, through a virtual document processing system, and external digitization, through which all IP, competition and consumer protection services and procedures would be effected virtually or digitally, for the benefit of all Peruvian and foreign users. Moreover, the Electronic Gazette on Industrial Property, launched two months earlier, had simplified matters as applications to register a trademark or patent must thenceforth be published not in the Official Bulletin but in the Electronic Gazette, a digital platform administered by Indecopi on its website, which had official status, entailed no publication costs and had reduced the trademark registration time frame to a record average of 40 working days. Those program accomplishments had been due largely to WIPO support and to experiential exchanges in meetings such as the current Assemblies, with WIPO teams and in other fora such as GRULAC, the Iberoamerican Program on Industrial Property and Development Promotion and the Regional Cooperation System on Industrial Property.

91. The Delegation of the **Philippines** said that its application to be designated as an ISA and IPEA had been endorsed and recommended by the PCT Committee on Technical Cooperation in May 2017. The IP system of the Philippines had undergone remarkable change in the past 20 years with the passage of the IP Code, which had modernized its IP system. IP was now viewed as a vehicle for creativity and innovation, as both served as critical pillars in the Philippines Development Plan for 2017-2022 (PDP). The adoption of the PDP made the national IP strategy being implemented with WIPO assistance even more significant. Through this strategy, the Philippines would mainstream IP and international development programs using a comprehensive societal approach. To achieve its vision, it had crafted an IP Agenda covering the entire IP ecosystem from creation to protection, commercialization and enforcement. Initiatives included online and offline service delivery and improvement and mind-to-market initiatives. As a result, the Delegation already had a network of 85 local TISCs contributing to the generation of valuable assets and knowledge. Regarding enforcement and adjudication of IP cases, a two-year timeframe had been fixed for resolving administrative cases concerning IP infringements. There was also an interest in mediation, outside litigation and dispute resolution through mandatory mediation. As

concerns IP learning and education, the aim was to establish a self-sustaining national IP training center that would provide capacity-building on IP to government officials, entrepreneurs, industries and IP practitioners. Lastly, partnerships would be forged to strengthen stakeholder rights and to conclude agreements with local and foreign development partners, IP offices and WIPO.

92. The Delegation of **Poland** associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. It noted with satisfaction the numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report and encouraged the WIPO Secretariat to further improve, and even to increase, its efforts, thus maintaining the viability and efficiency of the Organization. WIPO had continued efforts to improve global IP systems (the PCT, Madrid and the Hague Systems), provide new IT services to users, institute user-friendly amendments and increase efficiency. It supported the activities of the PCT Working Group towards enhancing the PCT System and its use by users and industrial property offices. As a member of the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI), Poland contributed to the proper functioning of the system by providing high-quality services to its users in Poland and from other countries that appoint the VPI as an International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authority. Further improvements to and completion of the international normative framework for a balanced and effective international IP system remained important. Poland welcomed the agreement reached during the 26th session of the SCP to continue discussions on five topics. It was satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues, particularly on patent quality (including opposition systems) and the confidentiality of communications between client and patent attorney. Further work in this area would be beneficial for all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. With regard to the SCT, Poland regretted that the 56th WIPO General Assembly had been unable to agree to convene a diplomatic conference for the DLT. The text that all Member States had negotiated for so long was mature and Poland hoped that the 2017 Assemblies would decide to convene a diplomatic conference in 2018. It was firmly convinced that the treaty would bring real benefits to businesses in Member States wishing to operate abroad. Simplifying and aligning application procedures would render the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs more effective and that would significantly reduce the costs and formalities linked to exporting. The Delegation acknowledged the importance of the work carried out by the IGC. It remained in favor of the evidence-based approach and the initiation of text-based negotiations only after agreement on the core issues had been reached. It was willing to work towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome. In the SCCR, the main priority was focusing on establishing a road map on future work on the Treaty for the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations. Poland recognized and supported the need to adopt a meaningful treaty which would take into account rapid technological developments and the current and future needs of broadcasting organizations. Poland had been very supportive of a broad program of work for the ACE, sharing with other Member States its own experience in that regard and aiming at building respect for IP among the general public. Accordingly, it favored regular ACE meetings, on a yearly basis. Poland was especially supportive of the so-called follow-the-money approach to combating commercial-scale IP infringements. The Polish Patent Office (PPO) had made numerous improvements for accelerating and streamlining procedures for the grant of exclusive rights. One of the most significant changes in that respect had been the introduction in 2016 of a new procedure for trademark registration, namely the opposition system, which contributed to a considerable shortening of the waiting time for decisions on the grant of protection. On January 6, 2017, Poland joined the Global Patent Prosecution Highway Program. In 2017, PPO had continued to focus on promoting industrial property by organizing a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops and training events for various institutions and professions. Some of them were organized in cooperation and with the

participation of the representatives of WIPO. The PPO also undertook educational activities targeting entrepreneurs, economists, lawyers, scientists and judges on the latest issues connected with industrial property protection. The initiatives of the PPO also encompassed technology transfer issues with a focus on various aspects of technology transfer from scientific centers to business and industry.

93. The Delegation of **Portugal** supported the statements made by Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B. The Secretariat had posted good financial results for the 2016-2017 biennium, with the Organization garnering a surplus of 32 million Swiss francs, which has contributed to a reserve of 311 million Swiss francs. These good results would make for sound planning for the following biennium and enable WIPO to continue to play its part as a specialized agency of the UN, developing and promoting all IPRs. Although the negotiations in the PBC had been inconclusive, the Delegation hoped that during the 2017 Assemblies it would be possible to reach an understanding that preserved the integrity of the budget and the principles that have guided the Organization, namely solidarity among the various Unions, the equality of the various IP protection systems and the ability to pay rule. During the 2018/19 biennium, WIPO should continue to ensure the smooth functioning of all its programs and activities at the systemic level and independent of the criteria of the exclusive financial self-sufficiency of each Union. Lastly, given the importance of GIs and appellations of origin from an economic, social and cultural point of view, appreciation was owed to the Secretariat and the Delegation of China for the excellent organization of the World Geographical Indications Symposium in July 2017 in Yangzhou. Particularly noteworthy were the quality of the presentations and the diversity of the viewpoints on a theme that was both truly global and a driving force for the development of peoples.

94. The Delegation of **Qatar** expressed its thanks to the Secretariat for their work in preparing for the meetings and organizing side events. The Delegation congratulated Ambassador Duong, Viet Nam, Mr. Duong, for his election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly for the following biennium and looked forward to fruitful cooperation during his mandate. The Delegation extended its appreciation to the Chair for his wise guidance and its deepest thanks to the Director General for his comprehensive Report on WIPO's work over the previous year. The Delegation affirmed Qatar's commitment to the Global IP System as an enabler for socio-economic development and its support for all efforts undertaken to develop an equitable and balanced system for the benefit of all. The Delegation highlighted the efforts undertaken by WIPO, in particular implementing the DA and mainstreaming development considerations into the all areas of WIPO's work. The Delegation looked forward to fruitful discussions, hoping to reach an agreement on the protection of broadcasting organizations during the present Assemblies. The Delegation urged all Member States to increase their efforts to agree on a multilateral treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations which incur severe losses due to the absence of international legal protection for their legitimate rights. In that regard, the Delegation emphasized the recent illegal uses of Qatari channels' exclusive rights by neighboring countries, as part of an unjust blockade and in blatant violation of international law, which amply testified to the importance of WIPO's normative work in the field. The Delegation believed it was time to establish an agreement. Regarding the opening of new External Offices, the Delegation affirmed its support to developing WIPO's network as a means to building respect for IP for the benefit of all. The Delegation stressed the importance of choosing host countries in accordance with established guidelines. In that spirit, the Delegation invited all Members to adopt consensus in identifying host countries that enjoyed political stability and good relations with all other countries in its region. Indeed, WIPO's mandate to enhance international cooperation could not be fulfilled by opening an External Office in a country that spared no effort in undermining the very principles and foundations of international cooperation. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment to engage in

discussions in a positive manner and cooperate with Member States over the following year to further those results.

95. The Delegation of **the Republic of Korea** said that as new technology, such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data, rapidly advanced, the field of IP needed to be preemptively prepared for the changing technological environment. The world was at a crucial juncture and must establish a virtuous cycle of IP in which new technology could be sufficiently valued by providing strong and flexible protection, thereby further expediting innovation. However, there was growing international proliferation of counterfeit goods on a par with transnational organized crime. The ACE had held discussions in September 2017 concerning online infringements of IPRs in order to reinforce IP protection. Such initiatives were timely and there should be more dynamic discussions in WIPO on the issue of IP enforcement. If new ideas and technologies were not protected because there was no effective system for doing so, innovation would be hampered, so there was a need to consider more flexible IP protection, such as systems that broadly prohibited activities that took undue advantage of a third party's technologies and ideas. The fourth industrial revolution, that of new technology, was a burning issue that WIPO should discuss and address. The role of the Asian Region needed to be strengthened in order to improve the services WIPO provided to IP users. PCT applications accounted for 75 per cent of WIPO's income and 44.6 per cent of those applications came from the Republic of Korea, China and Japan. Moreover, 42 per cent of PCT applications were filed in Asian languages. However, WIPO engaged a disproportionately low number of personnel originating from Asian countries who had the capacity to process PCT applications in the original language. This affected the quality of the service. Accordingly, WIPO should reasonably consider how quality of service for WIPO users could be improved, and the steady performance of Asian countries, when determining the location of its new External Offices and when recruiting personnel. While it was important that WIPO sought to accelerate innovation, more effort was needed to bridge the IP gap among Member States for the sustainable development of the IP system. With FIT, the Republic of Korea had supported the development of appropriate technologies and brands for other countries. The Republic of Korea had achieved considerable economic development by using IP and therefore fully understood the needs of developing countries and the importance of IP for progress.

96. The Delegation of the **Republic of Moldova** fully supported the statement made by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. It also strongly backed the proposal to convene diplomatic conferences for the adoption of the DLT and the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations and pledged to help identify solutions to outstanding issues. In line with WIPO's efforts to bring IP services closer to users in the various regions through its externalization program, Moldova supported the proposal to open an External Office in Bucharest. In September 2017, the State Agency for Intellectual Property celebrated its 25th anniversary. The Delegation was proud to have a modern and viable IP system worthy of any country with a longstanding tradition of providing IP services. That system was established thanks in no small part to the support of development partners such as WIPO and its Member States. The WIPO Regional Conference on Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights, held in Chisinau and attended by over 40 participants from some 20 countries, had been a great success and a prime example of multilateral cooperation among countries. The Delegation looked forward to more of such collaboration. Its national IP policy focused on harmonizing IP protection with the highest European and international standards, enforcing IPRs and promoting IP knowledge. In this connection, the Delegation would continue to support the efforts of the ACE and the CDIP. The development of a comprehensive IP culture would also help to identify viable and balanced mechanisms to combat piracy and counterfeiting in Member States and increase revenue from IP services. The Delegation appreciated and wished to participate in WIPO projects aimed at passing on IP knowledge to younger generations, such as IP4Kids and IP for Universities. With the

support of the European Union, it had launched a program for cultural change focused on educating Moldovan society on the valuable role of IP in economic, social and cultural development. The program was demanding, complex and included a number of areas needing improvement. In the course of the Assemblies, the Delegation looked forward to working with other Member States to identify solutions to emerging issues and sharing experiences and best practices. Lastly, the Delegation invited WIPO Member Countries to an international conference on innovation, to be organized with WIPO's valued support in Chisinau on November 15 to 18, 2017.

97. The Delegation of **Romania** aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and the one delivered by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, reaffirming its commitment to the development of the IP system and the advancement of the WIPO agenda in its entirety. Romania was honored by the Director General's visit to the country in October 2016, during which high-level meetings and important discussions were held in various key institutions. Romania was committed to strengthening its national innovative capacity and competitiveness, and consequently wanted to establish robust, rich and mutually beneficial cooperation with WIPO. It attached great importance to the work of the SCT and hoped that a consensual decision will be reached on the holding of a diplomatic conference to adopt an industrial designs treaty. Both applicants and national IP offices would benefit from the simplification and harmonization of industrial design registration formalities. Romania thanked Member States for their cooperation and support provided during its tenure of the chairmanship of the SCP. The Delegation appreciated the agreement reached on future work during the twenty-fifth SCP session. The SCP was the only international forum for discussion of patent issues. Accordingly, Romania strongly supported the continuation of its work. With regard to the activities of the IGC, Romania recognized the importance of GRs, TK and TCEs. It also considered that the political objective should be to increase the transparency of the patent system. Accordingly, the request for disclosure of origin or genetic source could be accepted (with the mention that the request for disclosure should be limited to patents only). The Delegation particularly appreciated the activity of the PCT Working Group and supported the reduction of PCT fees to encourage the filing of international applications by publicly-funded universities and research institutes in developing countries. This was consistent with Romanian Government policy to support innovation and technology transfer. As regards the SCCR, Romania was greatly interested in convening a diplomatic conference on a treaty to protect broadcasting organizations. Such a treaty would be fully adapted to the technological realities of the 21st century. It also encouraged the sharing of best practices on limitations and exceptions included on the SCCR agenda and reaffirmed its openness to the exploration of new topics. Romania was also monitoring the debates within the ACE and reaffirmed its commitment to combating the phenomena of counterfeiting and piracy. It had submitted a proposal, supported by a significant number of regional Member States, to host a sub-regional WIPO External Office in Bucharest. Romania strongly believed that an equitable WIPO network of EO locations should include offices in all geographical regions, including the CEBS region, as stated in the Guiding Principles adopted by all Member States in 2015. Accordingly, the establishment of a WIPO External Office in Bucharest was consistent with the abovementioned principle and would bring added value to WIPO; boost the development of the IP system in the sub-region; promote WIPO services; and fuel the economic, social and cultural development of interested countries, given the strong connection between IP and development. The Delegation was confident that the Bucharest Office would increase WIPO responsiveness to the specific needs of the region and promote its values and services. Romania was grateful to all the countries that supported its proposal and expressed the hope that the meeting would enable WIPO and its Member States to enhance promotion of the IP system.

98. The Delegation of the **Russian Federation** greeted the delegations of the Assemblies, and expressed its hope that the joint efforts of Member States and readiness to balance interests would lead to mutually acceptable results aimed at strengthening international cooperation in the area of IP. The Delegation was pleased to report that the Federal Law on Ratification by the Russian Federation of the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs entered into force on October 2, 2017. The accession of the Russian Federation to the Hague System provided new opportunities for design creators to obtain exclusive rights in Russia on the basis of an international procedure. The Delegation actively participated in international systems of protection of rights (PCT, Madrid, and now the Hague System) and intended to further broaden its activities. The Delegation in its capacity of Chair of the Administrative Council of the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) announced that work had begun on the mechanism of a common Eurasian patent for industrial designs. This mechanism would allow applicants to obtain protection of their rights to industrial designs simultaneously in eight member countries of the Eurasian Patent Convention on the basis of a single application. The national project to develop IP policy for universities and research institutions was launched in 2017. The Delegation noted with satisfaction that IP issues were included in the agendas of all major international events held under the auspices and with the participation of the President of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, including the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, the St. Petersburg International Legal Forum and the Eastern Economic Forum. WIPO was represented at all of these events and participated in the discussion of topical issues on the global agenda, such as IP in the digital economy, transfer of technology, international and regional integration systems in the area of IP. The Russian network of TISCs has been growing: currently 161 centers have been established in 72 regions of the country; measures were taken to provide for qualitative development of the centers; and the list of their services has expanded. The WIPO Office in the Russian Federation has been working successfully: this year, the plan of joint activities provided for over 60 projects, 40 of which have already been implemented. The Delegation adopted legislation that provided additional safeguards for exclusive rights of directors of performances realized in performing activity. Public staging of a performance has become a means to use one's exclusive rights to a performance. Provisions concerning the subject of the right to inviolability of a performance and the term of validity of exclusive rights of directors of performances have been clarified. The Delegation would like to propose to conduct within the framework of one of the relevant committees a survey of normative legal acts and enforcement practice in the area of protection of rights of directors of performances in WIPO Member States. Currently, Rospatent is developing draft legislation on granting legal protection to geographical indications on the basis of state registration with the patent office. Rospatent has implemented a set of measures aimed at reducing the length of consideration of applications for inventions, utility models and trademarks through the use of information technology. During the past year, the share of electronic applications for different categories of IP grew on average by 11 per cent. Rospatent is preparing the Russian translation of the Cooperative Patent Classification, which will improve the quality of classification and search activity of Russian-speaking experts in the Russian Federation and other countries of the region. There are plans to sign during the Assemblies meetings a Memorandum with WIPO on the procedure of alternative dispute resolution, which would allow to strengthen cooperation in the development of mechanisms of arbitration and mediation. The Delegation was highly interested in furthering cooperation with all states in the area of development of patent analysis tools. It has been actively working on improving the algorithms and software for patent data analysis. The Delegation called for coordination of efforts of all states concerned in this important and promising area of cooperation. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the sound financial position of WIPO and the unqualified internal and external audit reports regarding the financial statements of the Organization. The 2016/17 biennium would end with a surplus; and the loan in the amount of 70.5 million CHF for the construction

of the new building has been repaid. The Delegation believed that it was particularly important that WIPO incomes were used for development purposes: technical assistance and the freezing of fees within the global systems for the last nine years provided opportunities for users all over the world, especially developing countries and LDCs, to greater benefit from WIPO global services and promote innovation in their economies. The Delegation welcomed the efforts of Management and the Secretariat to integrate the DA goals with the activities of various working bodies of the Organization. It also praised the work of WIPO committees and working groups and expressed hope for successful norm-setting activity within committees in the forthcoming period, with the aim of convening diplomatic conferences and adopting international legal instruments on a wide range of topical issues, while taking into account the stance of all Member States. The Delegation emphasized that during the WIPO General Assembly, Member States would have to consider a number of important issues concerning WIPO activities, and in particular to adopt the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium and to decide on the establishment of four WIPO External Offices. With regard to the methodology of distribution of income and expenditure by unions, the Delegation supported its improvement, including a detailed review of all sources of income (including such sources as the Arbitration and Mediation Centre (AMC), investments, publications). However, the Delegation pointed out the importance of adhering to the fundamental principles of WIPO and keeping the common budget system of the Organization for all unions of registration treaties. The Delegation believed that a revision of the methodology would undermine the current effective international system of registration and protection of IP globally. As for WIPO External Offices, the Delegation noted the importance of adhering to the Guiding Principles Regarding External Offices adopted in 2015, as well as transparency of decisions and equitable geographical representation. The Delegation believed that the establishment of new External Offices should facilitate the development of an efficient network of institutions in the interests of users in various regions of the world and help achieve the strategic goals of the Organization. The Delegation thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for their hard work and praised the level of cooperation with WIPO on a wide range of IP issues. The Delegation stated that the Russian Federation was committed to constructive work during the forthcoming series of meetings of the Assemblies and would make every effort to achieve results.

99. The Delegation of **Samoa** noted that as a Small Island State and a developing country in the Pacific Region, Samoa recognized the need for a firmer commitment among Pacific Island Countries, whose voices needed to be heard, particularly in the discussion on TK, TCEs and GRs. The Pacific Region therefore sought specific assistance from WIPO and other represented partners to ensure a continuous and more robust representation of the Pacific Islands in all WIPO meetings. On TK, TCEs and GRs, the Delegation supported the recommendation to convene a diplomatic conference to expedite efforts to establish an international framework for the protection of TK and TCEs. Any future discussion of exceptions should carefully consider the importance of TK and TCEs to the existence and livelihoods of small island states. Thus far, Samoa was the first Pacific Island State to accede to the Beijing Treaty. Samoa was preparing to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty, the Madrid Protocol and other agreements. The Delegation therefore requested technical support from WIPO and increased capacity-building opportunities for Registry staff and the private sector in Samoa to facilitate implementation of obligations under those agreements. The National Copyright Task Force, formed to enhance public private partnership in IP awareness, development and enforcement, had held its first meeting in August 2017. Samoa continued to actively encourage and support neighbors in the Pacific Region to join WIPO and to accede to WIPO agreements of interest to Small Island States. Recently, in collaboration with WIPO, Samoa had hosted the first conference for Heads of IP Offices in the Pacific Region and the first Workshop on TK, TCEs and GRs in the Pacific Region. The Delegation hoped for further collaboration. The efforts of the Director of the WIPO Regional

Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and of the Director of the WIPO Copyright Development Division were commendable, as was the assistance from the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea.

100. The Delegation of **Saudi Arabia** congratulated the Chair on his election and wished all Members every success in their endeavors. The Delegation praised the efforts undertaken by WIPO, in particular mainstreaming the DA into all areas of WIPO's work to build respect for IP and promote its use across Member States. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for their cooperation and great efforts and expressed its deepest thanks to the Director General for his visit to Saudi Arabia in December where several issues were discussed to further enhance collaboration and benefit under WIPO's initiatives. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the technical assistance provided by the Organization in several areas. The Delegation was pleased to announce that Saudi Arabia had decided earlier in the year to establish the Saudi Intellectual Property Authority (SIPA) as an umbrella body for all IP offices to improve coordination and performance in all IP-related work. The Delegation recalled that the decision was part of the 2020 National Transformation Program, noting that the Ministry of Commerce and Investment was making the necessary arrangements in that regard. Thus, Saudi Arabia would greatly benefit from further cooperation with WIPO and IP offices' experts to establish SIPA. The Delegation stated that Saudi Arabia had adopted electronic registration procedures to foster the IPR use, respect and enforcement. The Delegation recalled the proposal on integrating IP teaching materials in curricula, in line with the DA Recommendations. In conclusion, the Delegation supported the statements made the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, the Arab Group as well as the Representative of the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office).

101. The Delegation of **Senegal**, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement of the African Group, and underscored the excellent cooperation ties existing between Senegal and WIPO. The Organization had continuously provided highly appreciated support to Senegal in its efforts to develop the two main segments of IP, namely: literary and artistic works and industrial property. The targeted capacity-building and technical assistance activities carried out by WIPO were still having a positive impact on Senegal's IP system. The setting up of TISCs and holding of topical meetings at the national, sub regional and international levels were eloquent proof of such impact on innovation, creativity and technology transfer. Senegal welcomed WIPO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) support in the organization of a regional seminar on geographical indications and plant varieties in November. It was also a beneficiary of the audiovisual sector development project in Burkina Faso and some African countries. The Delegation unreservedly supported WIPO's development activities which were consistent with the recommendations of the action plan on development and the SDGs.

102. The Delegation of **Serbia** endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and expressed its appreciation for the exceptional results achieved by WIPO since the 2016 WIPO General Assembly. Significant improvements had been achieved in the integration of the global system for the registration of industrial property rights, and the Delegation stressed its strong support for the proposed amendments to the Schedule of Fees within the PCT. WIPO had played a key role in strengthening the capacities of Member States through numerous projects and supporting programs. As a beneficiary of Program 10 of the WIPO Program and Budget, Serbia had enjoyed regular support from the Organization in its efforts to strengthen public awareness of the importance of IPRs and to build human capacity in that regard. The Delegation's efforts to buttress its technological capacities would not have been possible without WIPO. Cooperation between WIPO and Serbia was chiefly in information technology as the Serbian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) had been improving its information systems, based on the WIPO IPAS

platform. Application of software modules developed by SIPO staff had significantly influenced new cooperation with WIPO and the EPO, leading to a number of joint workshops on data processing. Locally developed e-filing of patent, trademark and design applications had been introduced in SIPO in May 2016. With WIPO's support, the Delegation expected further development of its technological capacities. SIPO had been also recognized in the region for its readiness to share its experience on IPAS and other IT tools with other offices. SIPO staff had been involved in various technical and other activities in IP offices in certain countries in Europe and Asia, including San Marino, Belarus, Romania, Hungary, Cyprus, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Malta. In 2017, WIPO and SIPO had organized several events in Serbia, one of the most important being the WIPO Conference on Innovation and Intellectual Property. Two very well received WIPO seminars were also organized in Serbia. In addition, several SIPO staff members participated in professional development programs at WIPO.

103. The Delegation of **Seychelles** welcomed the continued support provided by WIPO, which had enabled it to attend a WIPO regional training workshop on IPAS for trademark examiners in Gaborone, Botswana earlier in the year, to upgrade the IPAS system and to participate in the related remote training sessions. It had also attended the 26th session of the SCP in Geneva in July 2017 and had established a National IP Committee in which IP-related issues and the State's position on IP-related negotiations would be discussed. A WIPO proposal to establish a single IP office had been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval by the National IP Committee, which had applied to ARIPO for membership. The Cabinet of Ministers had granted its approval for Seychelles to accede to the Madrid Convention.

104. The Delegation of **Sierra Leone** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and reported that the country continued making strides in developing its IP system, though progress was slower than expected. The Sierra Leone Intellectual Property Agency was to become operational in the coming six months, but its actual functioning would depend on assistance from WIPO, the ARIPO, and other partner countries. In Sierra Leone, patent registration was previously done through the United Kingdom, in colonial times and subsequently. Henceforth, patent registration and examination would be done locally. Accordingly, there was need for functional R&D departments in universities and colleges in the short, medium and long term. A one-week workshop or seminar did not suffice. Hence, the Delegation requested assistance from Member States through WIPO and ARIPO or directly.

105. The Delegation of **Singapore** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN, and stated that it was guided by a shared vision and common mandate to build a global IP system. This required a firm grasp of the shifting economic landscape, embracing change and evolving with the time for systems and services to remain valuable and effective for stakeholders. Innovation had become a key driver of economic growth and social progress globally and IP officers had to evolve into innovation agencies which transform ideas into assets. The Delegation was working with local and international partners to develop national expertise and ecosystems in IP commercialization and financing to boost enterprise growth. IP analytics capacities were developed to help policymakers. The IP architecture had been adjusted and refined for copyright, design and patent laws to continue supporting creators and innovators. The IP registry had now become an agency managing the entire innovation ecosystem with a view to developing the economy and society. Collaboration was crucial for proper work and close partnership within the ASEAN working group on IP recorded great progress in the quality of ASEAN IP systems. Singapore offered its full support and confidence to the IP office of the Philippines to become an ISA and international preliminary examination authority under the PCT as this office augment ASEAN effort to improve quality and efficiency in patent search and examination.

Further appreciation was given to WIPO's arbitration and mediation center. A speedy conclusion of discussions on the Broadcasting Treaty within WIPO General Assembly mandates of 2007 to 2012 was expected, notable "to continue to work on a signals based approach towards developing an international treaty to update the protection of broadcasting and cable casting organizations in the traditional sense."

106. The Delegation of **South Africa** endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and highlighted the importance of innovation and creativity in resolving many challenges and in undergirding development and inclusive growth worldwide. It called for technical assistance, as a pillar of the WIPO DA, to remain at the core of the Organization's mandate without ever being used as a bargaining tool and it voiced disappointment at the reported insufficient mainstreaming and implementation of Agenda-related recommendations. It considered that careful and appropriate protection was required for Africa's abundant GRs, TK and TCEs in furtherance of its socio-economic advancement and accordingly urged the IGC to adopt a rights-based solution. It undertook to continue to negotiate in good faith in the hope that a consensus would be reached on an international legal instrument. It would continue to argue for the disclosure requirement to be enshrined in the Data Law Treaty, as such inclusion was crucial to ensuring appropriate recognition of right holders. It affirmed its commitment to the protection of broadcasting organizations pursuant to the 2007 mandate, and called for progress in the outstanding work of the SCCR. Lastly, it urged Member States to cooperate in order to adopt the budget for the 2018/19 biennium so that progress could be achieved on those fronts.

107. The Delegation of **Sri Lanka** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. It welcomed the considerable efforts of WIPO and the Director General to mainstream the DA but stressed the need for substantive discussion on the broader conceptual framework of development to ensure that IP regimes contributed to countries' socio-economic growth and development. The deliberations of the IGC were of particular relevance to developing countries. Although the IGC's progress report for the 2016-2017 biennium was encouraging, tangible outcomes were needed in that important normative area. The Delegation strongly supported the recommendation to renew the IGC's mandate by a further two years. However, the IGC should conclude its negotiations during that period based on a clear work program and draft one or more consensual, legally binding international instruments to foster IPRs over GRs, TK and TCEs, particularly given the levels of maturity achieved over the past few years of negotiation. Although progress had been made in discussions on the draft DLT, further work was needed to address outstanding issues and factor Member States' different levels of development into the provisions of the DLT. Implementing and honoring the obligations of the draft DLT called for the capacity-building of States and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. The establishment of new WIPO External Offices for the current and next biennia should be inclusive, transparent and consensual in line with the Guiding Principles Regarding External Offices adopted by the WIPO General Assembly. The parties should continue their discussions during the Assemblies to reach consensus in that regard. Notwithstanding the close cooperation between WIPO and developing countries, including the provision of technical and capacity-building assistance to the latter through the CDIP and other bodies, the inadequate IP protection regimes of some developing countries, above all LDCs and small island developing States, were preventing them from making genuine progress with the Sustainable DA. Against that backdrop, the implementation of the DA was crucial. The Director General urgently needed to consult closely with Member States and the relevant UN agencies and international organizations to mainstream the SDGs into the work programs of all relevant WIPO bodies. WIPO deserved recognition for the steps it had taken on SDGs, including the presentation given by the Director General to Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives in Geneva in February 2017 and the first annual report produced by the WIPO Secretariat on WIPO's contribution to the SDGs.

However, the Organization needed to view SDGs holistically and consider practical ways to incorporate and mainstream them into the work of its various bodies and in partnership with the UN system. The CDIP could play an important role in that regard. Indeed, the CDIP's decision in early 2017 to make IP and Development a standing item on its regular agenda was welcome. It was also important to keep South-South cooperation visible on WIPO's Agenda to generate more discussion and action on that subject within the CDIP. The significant benefits offered by IP as a tool for technological and socio-economic development dovetailed with the Government's policy of building the national economy around knowledge and innovation. In that context, the Delegation was extremely grateful for WIPO's valuable cooperation and support, particularly with the implementation of a 10-point action plan that could potentially serve as an example for similarly positioned countries. The plan had yielded a number of tangible results. For example, Sri Lanka had been selected for the first time as one of four pilot countries to participate in a CDIP project on IP, tourism and culture. In Sri Lanka, the aim of the project was to help raise awareness of the role of IP and to support tourism-related economic activities. The report of the national consultant commissioned by WIPO to conduct a comprehensive study on the implementation of the project in Sri Lanka had been approved by WIPO and was due to be published and disseminated in November 2017. Workshops and meetings for stakeholders were scheduled to take place at the same time. The study would also be used to develop an 'IP for tourism' curriculum for the Sri Lanka Hotel School and for diploma and certificate programs targeting those operating in tourism-related SMEs. In April 2017, with WIPO's assistance, the Delegation had held a national workshop on TK and TCEs, at which stakeholders and experts discussed the development of a comprehensive national TK policy. The discussions supported Sri Lanka's efforts to finalize the draft national TK policy, which was under review by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. As former Chair of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), the Delegation had also hosted a TK workshop for G-15 countries in the same month. It was grateful for the visit of the Assistant Director General of WIPO's Global Issues Sector, who was the highest-ranking WIPO official to have visited Sri Lanka since the Director General in November 2013. As part of its ongoing collaboration with WIPO, Sri Lanka had been chosen to implement the Enabling IP Environment (EIE) project to increase the capacity of Sri Lankan institutions for the development, management and commercialization of technology, namely by encouraging universities and research institutions to up the pace of IP-based technology commercialization and help develop the local innovation ecosystem. In that connection, a hub, sub-hubs and spokes had been identified and an initial round of awareness-raising programs had been rolled out. With the support of both WIPO and the US Commercial Law Development Program, patent-drafting training had begun and technology transfer offices were being established in universities and research institutions. A select group of parties to the project would receive long-term training. The EIE project followed WIPO's mission to Sri Lanka in 2016 to discuss the use of IP tools and create IP hubs bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors. A national consultant would be appointed to draft a comprehensive IP policy with technical support from WIPO and in consultation with stakeholders. During the preceding Assemblies, the Delegation had submitted its instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. Discussions would begin soon with book publishers and visually impaired stakeholders to discuss the road map for meeting the Marrakesh Treaty requirements. Discussions would also be held with the ABC to obtain assistance in that regard. Steps had been taken to set in motion Sri Lanka's accession to the Madrid Agreement and the Madrid Protocol. The Government had provided two years' funding for the implementation of an action plan to that end. Measures had already been taken to bring the national IP office's website up to international standard and establish an electronic national IP office compatible with the Madrid System. A session to raise awareness of the Madrid System had been facilitated by WIPO in November 2016. WIPO had agreed to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to the national IP office from 2016 to 2018 to help bring the national IP system into line with the Madrid System. The national IP office was developing infrastructure in that

connection. A draft amendment to current IP laws was being finalized with a view to facilitating international and local trademark applications *via* the Madrid System. The online Sri Lanka Innovation Dashboard (SL-IDB), launched in July 2015 to provide an overview of science, technology and innovation in the country, had been further developed with WIPO's technical assistance and expertise. From early 2018, following legislative changes, it would fall under the overarching responsibility of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Coordination Authority. The SL-IDB would also be used to generate unique national researcher identification numbers. In 2017, Sri Lanka was ranked 90th out of 127 economies in the world according to the Global Innovation Index – a steady improvement since 2014, when it was ranked 105th out of 143. The Cabinet of Ministers had approved amendments to national IP law to facilitate the registration of geographical indications and safeguard the interests of producers and exporters of Ceylon tea and Ceylon cinnamon. Amendments establishing interim measures for the protection of geographical indications had been published in the official gazette and were due to be tabled before Parliament for approval. The national IP office was preparing to issue geographical indication registration certificates accordingly. During the 13th consultation meeting between WIPO and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), focused on cooperation in the field of IP and held in September 2017, the Delegation had stressed the need to finalize the proposed MoU to strengthen cooperation between WIPO and SAARC countries during the forthcoming SAARC meetings. The Delegation looked forward to expanding its cooperation with WIPO in all the areas discussed.

108. The Delegation of **Sudan** welcomed the convening of the 57th series of meetings of the Assemblies. The Delegation congratulated the Chair on his election, commended the Director General for his comprehensive report and the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the meetings and wished all Members every success in their deliberations. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. The Delegation reaffirmed Sudan's strong political will to support IP tools and assets for economic, social and cultural development. Indeed, Sudan had always attached great importance to IP, enshrining it in its Constitution and national legislation as well as acceding to several IP-related regional and international agreements. In order to enrich the IP culture and enforce national laws, Sudan had set up several integrated IP-laws enforcement bodies, including a Specialized Court and a Prosecutor Office for IP infringement cases as well as a Police Department for literary and artistic works. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for WIPO's role in the promotion and development of IP and related activities undertaken in Sudan within the framework of the Agreement signed with WIPO in 2013 such as the advisory mission from WIPO Academy to Sudan in February to disseminate IP culture and strengthen universities' capacities. The mission had identified medium and long-term areas of cooperation by opening new Master's Degree Programs in IP from Sudanese universities and the establishment of an IP Academy expected to start its operations in 2018. Furthermore, a Seminar on IP Policies for Universities and Research Institutions was held at the International University of Africa in Khartoum, Sudan, aimed at raising awareness and building capacities in the field of IP, highlighting the importance of IP for universities and research institutions and focusing on the economic and social benefits of marketing and protecting research products using IP tools. In conclusion, the Delegation thanked the Secretariat for their continuous efforts in providing, *inter alia*, technical assistance and capacity-building programs.

109. The Delegation of **Sweden** fully supported the statements by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. IP law was an important framework for investment in knowledge-based capital and a key area for growth and competitiveness, forming part of the framework conditions for innovation both in universities and within society. The Government of Sweden

had adopted a broader focus on intellectual assets and the role of IP in relation to these assets. Therefore, the Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV) had been mandated to promote long-term growth and strengthen innovation and competitiveness by helping to increase information on and understanding of the management of intangible assets by companies and by players in the public innovation system. As a consequence of this broader focus, in addition to registration services, the PRV was now financed by the Government. The Government had also commissioned the PRV and the Swedish Innovation Agency to increase knowledge and awareness of IP and encourage management of intangible assets among SMEs, universities, advisors in the public innovation support system, research funding agencies and government agencies. For users of the PRV, these changes would not affect examination and registration services for trademarks, designs and patents – or the PRV's role as a PCT authority. They would still receive the same quality of service. A more comprehensive search report in national patent applications had been introduced in 2016. To encourage digitalization, a lower fee would be charged for digital applications made through the PRV's web tools than for traditional paper applications. There had been excellent cooperation between WIPO and the PRV regarding advanced training programs financed by the Swedish international development cooperation agency (Sida). This cooperation had been an important factor when Sida decided to expand its commitment to IP in 2017 IP by funding an additional program, "Intellectual Property for Least Developed Countries" and a new training program on IP and GRs in support of innovation. WIPO had made great improvements under the Director General and more improvements were expected. Its services should be more efficient and meet customer's needs for the international protection of IP and it should provide and develop both the international legal framework for IP and the infrastructure to make the best use of IP as a driving force for economic development, creativity and innovation. The various unions must also be financially viable. The Delegation was willing to contribute to a just, reasonable and balanced solution and reaffirmed its strong commitment to the work of the SCT, especially with regard to the DLT. It was grateful to the Secretariat for its efforts to advance the agenda of the SCCR. The Committee on WIPO Standards had continued with solution-oriented work. WIPO's global IP services were very important and Sweden was ready to contribute to work within the PCT and Madrid Systems.

110. The Delegation of **Switzerland**, after endorsing the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B, stressed that WIPO's attention must remain focused on work that constituted the very core of its mandate, which was primarily to develop and modernize registration systems administered by the Organization. As the proper functioning of those systems was a key component of WIPO's mandate as the world IP services provider, it highlighted the crucial importance of the Capital Master Plan for 2018-2027, which provided for major investments in the infrastructure of registration systems and in the maintenance of the Organization's buildings, while stressing that everyone knew that continuous infrastructural modernization and upkeep gave rise to long-term savings and that prevention was always less costly than cure. Noting that both the Capital Master Plan for 2018-2027 and the Program and Budget for 2018/19 were yet to be discussed during the Assemblies and that those two vital documents must be adopted without delay in the interests of the Organization, it stressed that it was crucial not to call into question the financial principles that underpinned the smooth functioning of the Organization and its organs. It considered that WIPO was more than the sum of its unions and systems, and constituted the engine of promotion and protection of IP for all and by all. As such, WIPO is a unitary organization in the service of everyone; there was a *raison d'être* for each WIPO activity, and no system had greater legitimacy than another. It therefore hoped that Member States would show proof of responsibility and act accordingly to consolidate the foundation and the spirit of the Organization. It further stated that standard-setting activities, too, formed part of WIPO's core mandate and was convinced that once the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement had entered into force, the new system for the international

registration for appellations of origin and geographical indications would benefit as many people as possible. It hoped that norm-setting work in progress on industrial designs, GRs, TK, TCEs and country names would have a positive outcome. The Delegation expressed its confidence that the Assemblies would adopt a renewal of the IGC mandate which would allow the Committee to progress in its work, which should aim at guaranteeing a balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. Regarding country names and other geographical names, in particular geographical indications, Switzerland welcomed the ongoing work in the SCT. Switzerland was awaiting with interest the continuation of discussions relating to online protection of country names, geographical names and other distinctive signs within the SCT. In this connection, it lamented that UDRP principles did not apply to country names despite the recommendation adopted by the competent Assembly in 2002. Switzerland wished in time to strengthen protection for country names, names of regions and other geographical names using a mechanism that would prevent misuse and strengthen transparency. Lastly, it asserted that it was committed to contributing to a positive outcome of the Assemblies.

111. The Delegation of the **Syrian Arab Republic** congratulated the Chair on his election, expressing its pleasure to attend the present meetings. The Delegation extended its deepest thanks to the Director General for his outstanding efforts leading the Organization, harnessing the power of IP for the benefit of all, stimulating innovation and creativity in various fields and promoting the use of IP in SMEs. The Delegation affirmed the close cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and WIPO which helped the country move forward in IP-related fields notwithstanding current circumstances in the fight against terrorism. Indeed, Syria had always attached great importance to IP as an effective and integral enabler for economic development. In this spirit, the Delegation allowed for a strong legislative framework to protect the interests and rights of citizens. International conventions were also translated into national laws in line with the latest developments in international law. As a party to several IP-related treaties, the Delegation benefitted from numerous advantages and most importantly those provided under the Madrid Protocol. The Delegation was also developing a National IP Strategy in cooperation with WIPO and continued to support creators and inventors through the AI-Bassel Fair for Invention and Innovation. The 18th edition was successfully held from August 20 to 24, 2017 and brought together a large number of inventors. In that regard, the Delegation extended its thanks to WIPO for continuing to award the medals to the top winning entrants, demonstrating the importance of holding the Fair in support of creators and inventors to transform their ideas into products. Firmly convinced of the transformative power of Youth, the Delegation had strived to engage all actors in supporting creativity and innovation by playing a specific and integrated role aimed at enhancing the contribution of creators and inventors to the national economy. The Delegation announced that the Syrian Arab Republic pursued the implementation of the IP Culture Program to raise awareness of the importance of IP and stimulating creativity, among all stakeholders, including universities, school, SMEs and businesses. In that context, WIPO had provided a set of important resources and materials accompanied with a summary in Arabic. The resources were made available on CD-ROM copies which were distributed to the various sectors with a focus on the use of WIPO's free patent information services and training on the use of global patent collections and databases. The Public Outreach Program was also pursued by developing the website of the Directorate of Commercial and Industrial Property Protection (DCIP) as well as the online publication of the monthly journal of the DCIP, which features various news on IP and on trademark and industrial design registration in the Syrian Arab Republic. Furthermore, the IP Culture Program helped mainstream IP concepts in its schools, institutes and universities, especially since the signature of an MoU with the Ministry of Education to develop creative talents and skills through awareness programs based on WIPO publications. The Delegation had also focused on encouraging businesses, enterprises and productive enterprises to take advantage of the benefits provided under the Madrid System. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment

to the Organization's work, noting with satisfaction the progress made. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for their work in preparing for the meetings and extended special thanks to the Arab bureau for facilitating the cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and WIPO.

112. The Delegation of **Thailand** aligned itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. It called for differences to be narrowed and for common ground and political will to be found in order to resolve pending normative issues, stressing that it supported the continuation of discussions by the IGC. It urged Member States to discuss matters relating to the draft DLT, such as technical assistance and the disclosure requirement, cooperatively and constructively. It undertook to work constructively on issues arising in the SCCR, the SCP and the SCT in order to strengthen IP systems nationally and internationally. It hoped that Member States would be mindful of the Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices requiring due consideration for developmental aspects, regions without an External Office and the location of users of WIPO Premier Global IP services in order to take a decision acceptable to all on the establishment of additional External Offices. It announced that Thailand had given the highest priority to the development of the IP system under the new growth model designed to herald in a value-based and innovation-driven economy, and that a 20-year national IP system road map had been approved to support criteria for creation, innovation and creativity, strengthen IP protection and enforcement, and promote IP utilization and commercialization. It also announced that Thailand had deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol and was amending the Copyright Act preparatory to its accession to the WIPO Internet Treaties and the Marrakesh Treaty; it would subsequently accede to the Hague Agreement. The legal system for IP protection was being strengthened by amending the Patent Act in order to comply with the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement and by amending the Copyright Act in order to enhance protection against online piracy by providing a legal basis for removing or blocking access to IP-infringing content. The IP registration service was being improved by upgrading the IT system in the national IP office in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of application and examination processes and by the planned recruitment of some 120 patent and trademark examiners over a three-year period.

113. The Delegation of **Togo** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. It extended gratitude to the Director General for the efforts made since his appointment at the helm of WIPO to strengthen cooperation between Member States and the Organization. These efforts were evident in WIPO support in the organization of many activities in Togo, such as the national workshops held in Lomé on promotion of the IP system, which greatly edified the participants and enabled them to take ownership of the mechanisms and benefits of implementing the various IP instruments. WIPO had also funded Togo's participation in various regional and international workshops and seminars on IP issues. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to continue to intensify these technical cooperation actions for LDCs in order to improve their participation in the international economy and to support inventors, researchers, entrepreneurs and other innovators in LDCs. Cognizant of the importance of the knowledge economy through usage of the IP system, Togo had identified a few flagship projects which covered its priorities and specific needs. Implementing these projects would enhance usage of the IP system and transform it into a veritable springboard of socio-economic and cultural development capable of driving sustainable development as desired by the highest authorities of Togo. Accordingly, the Government of Togo hoped to continue relying on the cooperation mechanisms of WIPO and other partners to execute these projects. On the protection of GRs and TK discussed within the IGC, the Delegation strongly supported the idea of organizing the next diplomatic conference that could quickly lead to the adoption of a fair and equitable international treaty on this subject. It also favored the idea of organizing a diplomatic conference to adopt the

DLT which would address its concerns on disclosure requirements, technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries.

114. The Delegation of **Trinidad and Tobago** supported the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador, on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation had continued work toward enhancing the entire IP ecosystem and raising the awareness and capacities of stakeholders and creators alike. WIPO had assisted with the organization of a national workshop on making a living from music in 2017. Work continued on IP development in Trinidad and Tobago. An MoU to provide IP guidance, conduct IP Clinics and patent mining courses had been signed between the national Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The IPO interacted with various agencies to provide guidance to their respective business incubator clients and was establishing its own technical library, which could be transformed into a TISC with WIPO's assistance. The project on building respect for IP, which had been put forward under the public sector investment program, had continued as part of the work plan of the IPO. The Trade Marks Act had been repealed and replaced. The new act paved the way for implementing the Madrid Protocol. The Delegation was pleased to announce its first geographical indication registration for Montserrat Hills Cocoa, Trinidad. The Delegation was anxious to preserve the gains made in the IGC over the years and supported proposals to strengthen the endurance of the IGC and its work.

115. The Delegation of **Tunisia** unreservedly associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. It stated that, as a host country to the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and owing to its strategic position in the region and its expertise in multiple fields, in particular IP, Tunisia had a great deal to offer. Tunisia guaranteed IPRs under article 41 of its Constitution. IPRs were increasingly gaining prominence in Tunisia on account of their impact on the country's economic, social and cultural development. Accordingly, Tunisia had spared no effort in adapting its regulations and procedures to the highest international standards and acceding to international conventions and treaties, including 15 administered by WIPO. The most recent of these included: the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs; the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks; the Beijing Treaty; and the Marrakesh Treaty. Other treaties were being examined with a view to their ratification. The Delegation was satisfied with the progress made by the IGC. It hoped that the work of the Assemblies would give rise to practical solutions for the development of a legal instrument to protect such knowledge. Tunisia enjoyed excellent cooperation with WIPO and was benefiting from bold and well-structured assistance programs developed through effective coordination between the competent national structures and those of the International Bureau. It wished to strengthen that cooperation and continue receiving WIPO support for various initiatives, including: modernization of the information system of the National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property through the adoption of IPAS; creation of a national IP academy; and establishment of an initial four technology transfer offices (TTOs). An Arab regional workshop had been held in Tunis from May 17 to 18, 2017 to discuss the results of the WIPO pilot project for the establishment of TTOs in Tunisia. The participants had deemed the project a success and recommended that it be extended to other beneficiaries in the region. The subjects under discussion this year were of the utmost importance; the Delegation hoped that the decisions taken would meet the expectations of all stakeholders.

116. The Delegation of **Turkey** said that the country had modernized its industrial property system by ratifying the new Industrial Property Code, collating separate laws on the protection of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications into a single document while upgrading and enhancing the previous system. The IP system had been restructured to be more user-friendly and thus facilitate examination, reduce average

registration periods, enhance instruments for the enforcement of IPRs, encourage commercialization and increase the administrative capacity of the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TURKPATENT). The number of applications to TURKPATENT, which ranked among the first 10 offices for trademark and design applications filed, was expected to be much higher in 2016 than in 2017 because TURKPATENT had become an International Search Authority and other initiatives, such as the updating of the IP Court, had been taken. Commending the results of cooperation between Turkey and the WIPO Academy, it announced that the first cohort of Master's degree students specializing in patents and design law had graduated from Ankara University in 2016 and that Turkey had established its IP Academy which, through cooperation with the WIPO and national IP Academies, would become a regional center of excellence for IP teaching. It welcomed the progress achieved in the discussions on the DLT in the IGC and hoped that Member States would find common ground in order to conclude the negotiations. It endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B, on the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium and congratulated the Organization on its sound financial management. Reiterating Turkey's abiding interest in hosting a WIPO External Office, it called for an inclusive, transparent, objective, merit-based and non-party methodology, based on consensus reflecting the spirit of all candidates, for the selection of countries applying to host such an office. Turkey's applications, covering the 2016/17 and 2018/19 biennia, would create synergy with the prospective Technology Bank for LDCs, which would ensure success and add great value to the Organization.

117. The Delegation of **Uganda** aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. Uganda relied on creativity and innovation to address many challenges posed by disease, hunger, poverty and unemployment. It had also implemented the Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator (SDGA) to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and youth unemployment and to provide solutions to issues of access to medicine, food security and preservation of biodiversity. There was a strong need to ensure consistent growth in innovation, which could only be achieved with an effective IP system characterized by adequate protection and effective enforcement, founded on a balanced approach through the requisite policy, legal and institutional frameworks. WIPO was to be commended for the programs and activities during the 2016-2017 biennium in Uganda to encourage innovation and enhance the protection of IP, including technical support to Uganda for the upgrading and maintenance of the IPAS. WIPO continued to participate in the modernization of IP administration in Uganda; training and capacity building for human resources; support in the formulation and validation of the draft national IP policy; and the facilitation of technology transfer through TISCs. WIPO organized various events in Uganda, including a national symposium and a needs assessment. Protection of GRs and associated TK was a key ingredient of Uganda's national IP strategy, which sought to promote creativity and innovation amongst its indigenous peoples and local communities so as to promote access to alternative health care, increase food security, preserve biodiversity and bring about sustainable development. The significant delays in achieving a balanced and development-oriented update of the International IP rules were a cause for concern. Though real progress had been made in the IGC regarding work on international legal instruments, particularly for GRs, progress had been riddled with setbacks. The negotiations towards a diplomatic conference to adopt a binding international legal instrument on GRs and associated TK in 2019 should be accelerated. Fellow Member States should negotiate in a transparent and cooperative manner, in good faith, not only on issues before the IGC, but for all other work at WIPO. Uganda was committed to ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty. It also supported work to set limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives as well as educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities.

118. The Delegation of **Ukraine** commended WIPO for its professionalism, efficiency and the considerable progress made to establish a balanced and efficient global IP system, and to promote the effective and rational use of IP worldwide, through stable and harmonized cooperation at all levels and among various countries and regions. This was the prerequisite to the attainment of prosperity for all. The Delegation was convinced that productive collaboration under the STLT, the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and its Protocol was extremely beneficial to all stakeholders worldwide. Ukraine had made considerable efforts to reform IP management by the State, with a view to eliminating any risk of corruption. The reform process had come to an end and the Government system had changed, adopting a two-tier, rather than a three-tier, approach. This had undoubtedly produced a positive influence at all levels of system operation and would be useful for national and foreign applicants. Ukrainians paid special attention to the development of its national economic base in the domains of IP as well as copyright and related rights in order to comply with current international standards. The Delegation was grateful for the legal assistance provided in the drafting of the collective management bill. As regards European and Euro-Atlantic integration, Ukraine had launched the process of joining the CEBS Group, considering such a move to be historically and geopolitically relevant. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its support and assistance in the execution of major projects such as: the formulation of IP policies for universities; the creation of TISCs; and the legal development of the IP system. The Delegation was deeply convinced that Ukraine, just like other Member States, was making a significant contribution to the development and improvement of the global IP protection system, thus creating conditions conducive to the development and prosperity of all nations. The Delegation was determined to work closely with other Member States to resolve any outstanding issues and hoped that the proceedings would be effective and fruitful.

119. The Delegation of the **United Arab Emirates** expressed its thanks to the Chair for his successful conduct of discussions on various issues including the opening of WIPO External Offices. The Delegation congratulated Ambassador Duong, Viet Nam, for his election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly for the following biennium wishing him every success in his mandate. The Delegation extended its thanks to the Director General for his work in leading the Organization. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation stated its readiness to engage with all Members in a flexible and constructive manner to reach consensus on the substantive issues. The Delegation was pleased to announce that the United Arab Emirates had made great progress in developing its IP system as an enabler for economic competitiveness anchored in knowledge and innovation. Looking forward to contribute to the dissemination of IP culture and practices on both regional and international levels, the Delegation sought the support of other Member States on its proposal to host an External Office in the United Arab Emirates. The Delegation invited all Members to consider the ideal framework offered by the United Arab Emirates to host an External Office as presented in detail during the 26th Session of the PBC. The Delegation highlighted that the United Arab Emirates enjoyed political stability, high growth rates, strong competitiveness, a strategic geographical location, excellent international relations, a developed infrastructure, a modern legal framework, a robust commercial position as well as an ambitious development vision aimed at building a sustainable and highly productive knowledge economy driven by creativity, innovation and IPRs. Indeed, the United Arab Emirates was able to take a leading role in the region and achieve excellent results in several global performance and development indicators among which the GII where it ranked first among Arab countries and 35th globally. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to work constructively with other Members to reach consensus on host countries for the new External Offices during the present Assemblies. The Delegation invited all Members to define a clear and comprehensive methodology to select the host countries for External Offices in order to better serve WIPO's objectives and external activities, reiterating that the United Arab

Emirates stood ready to participate actively in such discussions. In conclusion, the Delegation hoped the present Assemblies would contribute to a more balanced and effective IP system.

120. The Delegation of the **United Kingdom** supported the statements made by the European Union Presidency and Group B. The withdrawal process from the European Union was under way and the aims of the United Kingdom were clear: to allow people and businesses in the United Kingdom and the European Union adjust to new arrangements in a smooth and orderly way and to ensure that the United Kingdom left the European Union with certainty, continuity and control. The United Kingdom's commitment to WIPO would remain constant throughout the transition period and it would engage in constructive and positive discussions on the future development of the services and frameworks provided by WIPO, for a robust and fair global IP system that could stimulate innovation and economic growth. Its businesses placed particular value in WIPO's key IP protection services such as the PCT, the Madrid and the Hague Systems. It welcomed the opportunities provided in WIPO for stakeholders to contribute to improving those services and the recent steady growth in membership in those systems. The United Kingdom would be joining the Hague System in 2018. It would host a series of WIPO roving seminars in the United Kingdom in 2018 to raise awareness on all WIPO systems, services and IT platforms. While improved expansion of those core services should be a priority, the opportunities to shape the future of the global IP system in WIPO's standing committees should be enhanced. Some discussions in the committees concerned normative proposals, but it was also important to recognize the value of using standing committees to share experiences and work together on improving the existing framework. Discussions in the ACE had been laudably formative and balanced. WIPO's strong financial position and the new investment policy to be implemented by the PBC were welcome. It was hoped that outstanding budget issues for the next biennium could be resolved.

121. The Delegation of the **United Republic of Tanzania** wished to associate itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group. It acknowledged WIPO's continuing efforts in undertaking a number of IP-oriented projects in the United Republic of Tanzania, some of which had been successfully completed, with others at different phases of implementation. WIPO had successfully launched a Technology Transfer Project in 2015, in collaboration with the National Commission for Science and Technology. Two undertakings, namely, semi-refined carrageenan extraction and aquaculture, had been identified for development and the country was in the process of preparing business plans as their realization would contribute greatly to economic development in specific industrial sectors and in the country as a whole. The use of the IPAS had simplified and increased the speed at which trademark applications were processed. Document scanning by WIPO to establish an Electronic Data Management System and the introduction of the IPAS Online Model were highly appreciated. The Delegation also appreciated WIPO's capacity-building and programs conducted at its national IP Office and at other Institutions, which had led to increased awareness of IP issues. There was an increase in IP awareness in the United Republic of Tanzania, which hoped for further cooperation with WIPO to bridge the knowledge gap.

122. The Delegation of the **United States of America** fully endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Group B. At last year's Assemblies, WIPO Member States had put aside their differences and adopted decisions on all outstanding items. The Delegation approached the current Assemblies with the same constructive spirit. WIPO was fortunate to enjoy a strong financial position due in large part to the success of the PCT System. However, the Delegation was concerned about the financial sustainability of all WIPO's fee funded groups, in particular the Lisbon Union. It would continue to press the Lisbon Union to pay its expenses without subsidies from other unions. The Delegation was

confident that the solution adopted to approve the WIPO budget two years ago could be adopted again for the next biennium and that a more equitable formula could be found for spending under WIPO's Capital Master Plan. WIPO's longstanding tradition of taking decisions by consensus had doubtless contributed to its success. The Delegation believed that while the Member States did not always agree, they strove to find consensus even on difficult issues. The subjects under discussion – IP and GRs, TK and folklore – were difficult ones on which no real consensus had been reached as yet. The Delegation supported the extension of the IGC's mandate for the next biennium but was opposed to convening a diplomatic conference. Moreover, it did not support the provision of funding for diplomatic conferences convened on any other basis than consensus. With regard to oversight, the Delegation welcomed WIPO's reform efforts over the past year. Effective member oversight within WIPO and strong whistleblower protection were essential for organizational transparency and accountability. Indeed, whistleblowers enabled organizations to address wrongdoings. The Delegation would continue to closely monitor the reforms to ensure their effective implementation.

123. The Delegation of **Viet Nam** expressed appreciation for WIPO's work in several areas, including the considerable efforts it had made to address barriers to the achievement of the Organization's strategic goals, the productive discussions held by numerous committees and the improvements made in institutional and governance matters. It looked forward to further progress in international norm-setting, particularly with the DLT and within the IGC. WIPO was to be applauded for its collaboration with ASEAN – now celebrating its 50th anniversary – which brought a different cultural perspective to deliberations. The continuation of that fruitful cooperation and of WIPO's support for ASEAN would no doubt foster the development of the regional IP system, not least by setting in motion the ASEAN IP Action Plan for the 2016-2025 period. In recent years, WIPO had provided timely and effective assistance to Viet Nam in multiple areas, including formulation of national IP policy, accession to WIPO-administered international IP treaties, establishment of IP services, development of IP infrastructure, human resource training and public awareness-raising. Viet Nam remained fully committed to its partnership with WIPO and would endeavour to support the establishment of a modern and balanced international IP system for the benefit of all Member States.

124. The Delegation of **Yemen** congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chairs on their re-election and Ambassador Duong, Viet Nam for his election as Chair of the forthcoming WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his comprehensive report and efforts undertaken to promote WIPO's efficient role in all IP-related areas, most notably in IP and development. The Delegation underlined the importance of mainstreaming development into the work of the Organization. The Delegation supported the statements made on behalf of ASPAC and LDCs. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to IP. Indeed, despite current circumstances, it continued to organize awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops for officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Ministry of Culture as well as relevant enforcement agencies such as customs and the judiciary, as well as outreach bodies such as universities and institutions. The Delegation extended its deepest thanks to the Organization and the WIPO Arab Bureau for the support provided. In conclusion, the Delegation expressed its readiness to work toward the successful conclusion of the present Assemblies.

125. The Delegation of **Zambia** aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs. It agreed with the African Group's views on the convening of the diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. It also agreed that issues related to TK, GRs and TCEs were critical for Africa and Zambia in particular. Consequently, the Government had already taken positive steps at the national level to protect and prevent the misappropriation of TK, GRs

and expressions of folklore through domestic legislation. Consensus had been reached by all local stakeholders on the text of the implementing regulations for a new law expected to come into force early next year. Against this backdrop, the Delegation lauded the commitment and progress of the IGC in its continued efforts to narrow gaps and build consensus on the text of an international legal instrument that guarantees the balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. Accordingly, it fully supported the recommendation to extend the IGC's mandate into the 2018–2019 biennium. Given the important role of IP in technological and economic development, it would be remiss to overlook WIPO's commitment to help developing countries and LDCs such as Zambia's benefit from the IP system and more effectively participate in the global innovation economy. The Delegation was grateful to the International Bureau and the Director General in particular for WIPO's continued assistance in multiple areas. It was proud to be one of the few LDCs in Africa to have adopted, implemented and reviewed the implementation of its national IP policy. The national IP policy review, launched in 2016 and now drawing to an end, would not have been possible without WIPO's much-appreciated support. Zambia was also grateful to WIPO for helping it to streamline and automate its IP administration procedures through IPAS, and in particular for the process optimization and capacity-building project launched early this year. Cooperation such as this had prompted Zambia to consider replacing its parallel IP administration system with a one-stop shop for IP administration and protection. Accordingly, earlier this year the Government had transferred the task of copyright administration to the Patents and Companies Registration Agency, which previously had administered only industrial property rights. In line with its DA, the Delegation looked forward to receiving WIPO's continued support for the initiatives discussed above and national efforts to secure the benefits of the IP system.

126. The Delegation of **Zimbabwe** fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group. The Zimbabwe National IP Policy and Strategy, developed with assistance and technical cooperation from WIPO, had since been approved by the Government and was ready for implementation. The Delegation was also relied on WIPO support for the implementation of that policy and continued to make significant progress in its legal regime, with a number of IP laws being revised to align them with provisions of the Constitution and international best practices. To this end, in March 2017, it had gazetted the Madrid Regulations in order to give effect to the Madrid Protocol, and had since commenced processing Madrid applications while seeking to become a party to the Marrakesh Treaty. It appreciated the continued support of WIPO for the modernization and digitalization of the national IP office, the Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office (ZIPO), including the upgrade of the IPAS software. Zimbabwe continued to benefit with gratitude from the Japan FIT administered through WIPO which included the ongoing digitization of records with a view to transforming ZIPO into a more modern, efficient, transparent and reliable IP office. Zimbabwe continued to be a beneficiary of the WIPO Academy training programs, in particular the Masters in Intellectual Property program jointly offered by WIPO, and the Africa University. This program had produced a critical mass of IP personnel with required skills in Government and other important institutions. WIPO was commended for mainstreaming developmental programs. Development was at the heart of every nation and the Delegation was pleased to note that the DA encompassed issues that were of critical importance to Africa. The Delegation also took cognizance of the work of the IGC, commended the progress made thus far and hoped for a speedy conclusion to that matter.

127. The Representative of the **African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)** endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Senegal, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDCs Group, especially regarding the work of the CDIP which had facilitated many projects in developing countries and had urged the creation of a binding international framework for the

protection of TK and expressions of folklore. It was important to highlight WIPO's support, in cooperation with other partners, in organizing workshops and seminars in the African region to create awareness on the importance and use of IP for technological and economic development. In that context, the WIPO/ARIPO sub-regional meeting on copyright and collective management in June 2017 was much appreciated; it had contributed to the design of the Copyright Agenda for Africa that was being implemented. Also appreciated was the support for the digitization of the archives of ARIPO and Member States; the automation of Member States' offices using IPAS would certainly improve business procedures. ARIPO had had received support to implement the project for the development of guidelines for the effective use of IP by universities and R&D institutions in Africa, which would go a long way to harness innovation happening in Africa. With the support of WIPO and its partners, ARIPO had also been very active in capacity-building and the development of human resources in the region: the Master's Degree Program in Intellectual Property (MIP), in its 10th year, had produced over 267 IP experts.

128. The Representative of the **Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office)** extended its congratulations to Ambassador Duong, Viet Nam, for his election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly for the following biennium as well as to all elected officers. The Representative welcomed the opening of the Assemblies and expressed its thanks to the Director General and the Secretariat for their outstanding efforts. Recent IP developments within the GCC reflected the growing importance the region attached to all subject-matter protected by IPRs. The GCC had implemented an intensive cooperation program on patent examination, business automation and infrastructure support between the GCC Patent Office and nearly all national patent offices in GCC Member States. The GCC had completed the initial draft of the Regulation for the GCC Patent System, a qualitative leap in GCC patent laws and regulations across its Member States. The Representative was pleased to announce that new GCC Member States had ratified the unified GCC Trademark Law, bringing it one step closer to coming into effect. In addition, an initiative to draft a unified GCC Copyright Law was proposed and a Standing Committee on Patents was established within the GCC to effectively promote the patent system as a cornerstone for IP. In conclusion, the Representative highlighted the work undertaken to reinforce IP capacity-building programs aimed at national IP professionals and the GCC Grievance Committee's officials, in cooperation with WIPO, relevant stakeholders and national experts.

129. The Representative of the **South Centre (CS)** recognized the advances made, notably the adoption of the WIPO DA and the Marrakesh Treaty, and hoped for a decision from the IGC that would lead to the prompt adoption of international legal instruments governing IP, GRs, TK, and TCEs. It also hoped that WIPO Member States would agree on the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium and maintain the principle of financial solidarity among WIPO Unions. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) was the universal road map to achieve sustainable development and coherence among national policies in various areas, including IP, was necessary for success. As part of the UN system, WIPO must realign its work with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. WIPO's mandate was derived from its Convention and an agreement with the UN. That should remain a shared understanding and a principle for the work in the Organization, including the mainstreaming of the WIPO DA Recommendations. A conducive global environment for innovation, as sought by Agenda 2030, was one in which national and policy frameworks and incentive mechanisms, such as IPRs, were aligned to meet the needs and challenges of society. WIPO should expand its work to cover models that were relevant in the 21st century and work towards an inclusive IP system that appropriately balanced private and public interests and provided sufficient policy space for countries to craft suitable IP regimes. In addition to supporting national IP office infrastructure and capacity development, WIPO should exert leadership in supporting

countries, especially developing countries and LDCs, on the use of flexibilities, including limitations and exceptions for the grant, exercise and enforcement of IPRs. That required WIPO to continue to increase its technical assistance activities, resources and practical tools for guidance on the use of flexibilities. WIPO Member States should refrain from plurilateral and bilateral trade and investment agreements that imposed restrictive IP obligations. WIPO should lead the UN system in denouncing coercive external political and economic pressure used to restrain countries from making use of the flexibilities in the IP system, as suggested by the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines. WIPO also needed to devise clear guidelines to frame its partnerships with private parties, to avoid potential conflicts of interest and to maintain the member-driven nature of the Organization.

130. The Representative of the **American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)** thanked WIPO for its continued focus on providing a global policy forum to address evolving IP issues. The Representative had been following with interest the discussions and proceedings of the IGC. In light of discussions on the provisional mandate of the IGC, AIPLA supported the objectives of preserving sustainable biodiversity and providing for fair and equitable benefit-sharing through the use of material transfer agreements between a user of a newly identified GR and the Member State from which it had been obtained, in the interests of providing certainty to both parties. However, AIPLA opposed a mandatory disclosure of origin or source requirement for GRs and/or TK in patent applications. Further studies were needed to understand how a mandatory disclosure requirement would be implemented and what possible impact it could have on stakeholders, before Member States moved towards a diplomatic conference from which a possible treaty could emerge. The Representative was currently canvassing its members to obtain more information regarding how a mandatory disclosure requirement currently affected them or would affect them in the future. It would be premature to move towards a diplomatic conference before further studies had been conducted and more information gathered and the Representative looked forward to continued engagement with Member States and Observers. The Representative commended WIPO for its continued transparency and inclusiveness and its negotiating bodies.

131. The Representative of the **Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)** stated that there was no official statement as the speaking opportunity had been announced at short notice. Accordingly, this was an informal statement from observers who had long participated in the IGC and worked within its indigenous forum. The Representative was grateful to the African Group and the European Union for their proposals and to Member States for their support. Progress had been made within the IGC. The Representative supported renewal of the IGC mandate, since these issues were crucially important to indigenous peoples. The gaps in the 2016/2017 mandate had only been partially filled, leaving whole sections of the text incomplete. A commitment should be made on the outcome because the open-ended nature of the current mandate was untenable. It did not prompt a determination to close the abovementioned gaps. It was preferable to have a binding treaty that would be discussed at a diplomatic conference. The mandate of the next biennium must be discussed taking all views into account and charting an effective path forward. Henceforth, all processes, including workshops and expert groups, must ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples. Despite generous contributions from some members to ensure effective and proportional participation, insufficient funding remained a concern. The focus seemed to have strayed from protection of GRs, TK and TCEs to emphasis on wider use and unfettered access by third parties. This situation had to be corrected without prejudice to work performed in other fora. The scope of legal regimes covering GRs, TK and TCEs expanded far beyond IP. Consequently, the IP system could not arrogate rights recognized in other fora.

132. The Representative of the **Health and Environment Program (HEP)** said that following the efforts of the members and observers of the IGC through sessions, workshops and seminars, it had become obvious that the work of the IGC needed to culminate in a worldwide legally binding instrument as soon as possible. In addition, efforts thus far in drafting and negotiating provisions governing GRs, TK and TCEs must seek to prevent misappropriation in order to fill the legal gaps contained in previous drafts. It was difficult to imagine the extent of negotiations that had occurred over the past years and it was necessary to solve the outstanding issues which were preventing the conclusion of a treaty.

133. The Representative of the **International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI)** stated that FICPI had been involved in the work of the SCT pertaining to harmonization of the requirements for filing design registrations since at least 2005. In 2008, it had submitted a list of key design issues to the SCT, chief among which was the ability to file one set of drawings for all applications. To date, that continued to be a key issue for users. The Representative hoped it would be a positive result of any treaty resulting from the diplomatic conference as currently proposed. On behalf of users of the design registration system globally, it encouraged the Member States to move discussions on the normalization of the formal requirements for filing designs from the SCT to a diplomatic conference. The Representative welcomed the continuing efforts of the IGC under its mandate for the 2016-2017 biennium and broadly supported the proposals for the 2018/19 biennium. However, given the work still required to draft legally binding instruments on GRs, Members States should consider any decision to hold a diplomatic conference on that topic at the Assemblies as provisional and subject to ratification at the next Assembly in 2018, contingent on sufficient progress having been made on the draft instrument.

134. The Representative of the **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)** stated that, in 2015, the Member States of the UN had transformed access to information into a target under Sustainable Development Goal No. 16, affirming that access to information fueled development. Accordingly, the Representative agreed with the statement of the Director General that attainment of the SDGs can and should be promoted. This was essential for libraries. In some localities, libraries were the sole means of access to information, both physically and on the Internet. Even in the most developed countries, it had been demonstrated that the youth and marginalized groups relied heavily on libraries. Libraries promoted innovation and its dissemination, and facilitated cross-border information-sharing where permitted by the law. Furthermore, libraries supported knowledge production at an estimated cost of 30 billion United States dollars per year. Providing libraries with the legal framework needed to perform their mission of public interest entailed boosting their development prospects. This had been amply demonstrated by the more advanced economies and by WIPO through the use of Creative Commons. Greater access was good, not only for readers but also for current and future creators and researchers. Society was living through a time of great changes and outstanding challenges. There was a growing concern and even fear for the future of formerly successful industries, although some were still in operation. Allowing libraries to do their job should not give rise to controversy, and current tensions between Internet platforms and traditional producers of content should not undermine the sustainable development driven by libraries. Accordingly, the Representative welcomed the action plan presented by the Chair of the SCCR and the WIPO Secretariat, and hoped that it would generate concrete actions that promote real change for the benefit of the world's libraries and their users.

135. The Representative of the **International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC)** mentioned serious concerns that had been raised by many Member States about emerging technology putting unprecedented burdens on existing IP regimes and said that for "IP 4.0" to facilitate fairness and benefit the world, the efforts of all concerned would be indispensable to deal with new challenges and address the needs of the real world, with

WIPO in a position to take the lead. That especially applied to the protection of trade secrets, an area that had often received less attention than other IPRs but that was vital to commerce. There was no reason registration of trade secrets could not be delivered to benefit the world. WIPO, regarded as the global IP organization, could provide such a vital service if all stakeholders cooperated.

136. The Representative of the **International Trademark Association (INTA)** stated that WIPO's work had a tremendous impact on the lives of individuals worldwide as countries increasingly relied on IP to drive the development of their economies and consequently improve general wellbeing. Accordingly, the Representative believed that all policy, legislative and regulatory structures at the local, national, regional or intergovernmental levels must mainstream IP into all branches of public policy, including education, social welfare, health and trade. Without a doubt, WIPO had and should continue to pilot this process as required by its mission of promoting innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries, through a balanced and effective international IP system. In an article in the September issue of the WIPO Magazine, dealing with the future of IP with a particular focus on technology, the Director General had stated that multi-stakeholder engagement was essential, both to clarify the role of the existing IP system, and to identify the economic incentives required to encourage and sustain these technological developments. The Representative believed that this also applied to trademark-driven innovation and economic growth. Inspired by the studies produced by the European Commission and the United States Department of Commerce on the contribution of trademark-intensive industries to national economies, the Representative had carried out similar studies for some Latin American and South-East Asian countries. These studies, available at www.inta.org, highlighted the need for governments to produce "intellectual property impact statements" for their various policy actions across the board. However, public policies, which narrowly focus on primary objectives like public health, were imposing restrictions on brands that, *inter alia*, impinged on well-established IPRs. Furthermore, they were adopted without consideration for the need to balance diverse policy objectives. This situation essentially stemmed from the "silo" nature of policymaking and the lack of overarching mechanisms to encourage a "holistic" approach to resolving critical economic and societal issues. Fortunately, efforts were being launched to bridge the gap between various policy objectives. The Representative lauded WIPO's leadership at the international level with regard to the "Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade." This was an attempt to begin a more dynamic conversation between WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) not only among their Secretariats, but also among their Member States, represented by the relevant experts in their respective fields and within their governments. The Representative wholeheartedly agreed with the Director General's suggestion that space should be created for risk-free joint reflection, where countries could engage liberally in non-binding discussions. It also agreed with the Director General that such an approach offered significant scope to improve the existing architecture of the international system, strengthen global cooperation and support more effective policymaking. It encouraged the Assemblies to embrace the Director General's initiative and hoped that such conversations would be taken up by the various delegations engaged in each of the subject areas of the Assemblies, and that similar initiatives would be developed within their national policymaking structures. The Representative would welcome the opportunity to engage in broader a conversation to ensure that IP continued to play its role of promoting economic growth and the overall wellbeing of individuals within a balanced and effective policymaking process.

137. The Representative of **Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)** noted that there was controversy worldwide about the costs and benefits of IP policies, in particular extended terms of copyright in some countries, access to out-of-commerce works, teaching and research and the role of patents in promoting or discouraging innovation and in hindering

access to medicine. It was important for WIPO delegates and the public to have access to economic analysis of the IP system, covering issues of interest to academic researchers as well as topics under negotiation in committees. It was desirable for WIPO members to ascertain the relevance of the economic analysis program to policy making through discussions with the Chief Economist and for WIPO to consider following many legislative bodies by establishing an impact assessment framework for proposed norms. It would be apposite to assess the impact of the draft WIPO Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, as it related to the extension of rights for foreign organizations that owned channels that distributed content over cable and satellite systems, and of the proposal to expand the Treaty to create a new layer of IPRs for information transmitted over the Internet. The Office of the Chief Economist could recommend possible terms of reference for such assessments.

138. The Representative of the **North American Broadcasting Association (NABA)** reiterated that broadcasters still faced operational difficulties in the face of signal piracy, especially Internet piracy, which continued to severely damage the industry. Therefore, the 2017 WIPO General Assembly was the appropriate forum for resolving the matter and deciding on a program to complete the work of the SCCR in respect of the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations. The Representative hoped that by the end of the Assemblies, a concrete and appropriate plan of work would have been defined, based on document SCCR/33/5, which, unfortunately, had not yet been examined by the SCCR, probably because its definition fell within the purview of the 2017 WIPO General Assembly.

139. The Representative of the **Third World Network (TWN)** agreed with the Director General's view that innovation had become central to many countries' economic and industrial strategies. However, not all innovation was necessarily driven by IP. The Representative deemed IP policy formulation to be important but not critical. Consequently, innovation should not be routinely cited as grounds for a maximalist IP agenda. In fact, such a maximalist approach could end up hampering innovation. According to a 2015 OECD report cited in the 2017 Trade and Development Report of UNCTAD, the average technological and economic value of patented inventions had fallen over time and the legal right to exclude others had become broad and susceptible to abuse. The report further stated that since 2005, when product patents for drugs were introduced in India, the sales-per-worker ratio of multinational companies' affiliates had more than doubled, whereas that of local companies had remained stagnant until 2010 and subsequently fallen, despite the resilience of the local pharmaceutical sector. The report added that these trends could be devastating for less competitive developing countries and sectors if allowed to continue. Another issue of concern was the growing number of partnerships that WIPO was entering into, some of which involved potential conflicts of interest that could tarnish its reputation. A mechanism was needed to give Member States oversight of such partnerships. Lastly, since WIPO could not compete with other international organizations in forming public-private partnerships, it was not reaping the potential benefits of such arrangements. Accordingly, considering the need for firewalls between WIPO's IP services, activities and legal and technical advisory functions, there was an urgent need for governance reform within the Organization.

140. The Director General said that the richness of the statements was clear testimony of how closely Member States were involved in the activities of the Organization. The Secretariat had paid close attention to all statements, in particular those directed at the practical cooperation between the Organization and its Member States, not least WIPO's technical assistance and development cooperation program. He was grateful for the guidance and orientations emerging for the program areas that Member States considered most significant. He was equally grateful for the kind remarks to the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the program of the Organization. Undoubtedly, the rising interest in

the subject-matter of IP and in the program and services of the Organization was evident from the interventions of all delegations, and greatly facilitated practical cooperation in respect of programs and systems already put in place by the Organization. However, it had the paradoxical effect of hampering progress to some degree, because interest arose from a vast and diverse community. It was apparent from the interventions that, in several areas, agreement remained somewhat elusive. One outstanding issue in the Program and Budget concerned methodology. He called on those Member States who were most invested in the issue to explore a practical way forward to enable the work of the Organization to continue in accordance with the outlines that had been set out in the Program and Budget, and that seem to be otherwise largely agreed among the membership. Many delegations had expressed the desire for a diplomatic conference on the DLT. Nonetheless, two issues in particular were pending agreement and all delegations should seek practical solutions to them. WIPO was a multilateral community with 191 Member States. 120 delegations had intervened and they could not each have matters resolved to their individual satisfaction. Be it for the Program and Budget, the DLT, the IGC or the External Offices, choices had to be made. Such choices should be those which best reflected the views of the membership of the Organization. In relation to the IGC, it was considerably heartening that no delegation had expressed a contrary view and all had favored the continuation of the work, the renewal of the mandate and the acceptance of the recommendation that has been made by the IGC itself to the Assemblies. Obviously, the terms of that mandate were yet to be settled and, that being the difficulty, the Director General called for flexibility among the membership to find a way forward in that exercise, the importance of which has been underlined by so many delegations. External Offices had been a long-standing item on WIPO's agenda. They were part of the architecture of the Organization, with the role of promoting its mission. It had become apparent that External Offices were able to add value to the Organization, but choices needed to be made. Unfortunately, the general discussions about External Offices were straying from the mission of WIPO and from the subject of IP. Member States should consider the choices that had to be made from a practical perspective. He reiterated his thanks to all delegations for their interest in, and support for, the Organization, which he considered to be the real reason why it was able to achieve results.

[Annex II follows]