

## WIPO Coordination Committee

### Seventy-Ninth (28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session Geneva, December 3, 2020

#### REPORT

*adopted by the WIPO Coordination Committee*

#### ITEM 1 OF THE AGENDA

##### OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Seventy-Ninth Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang.
2. The session was opened and presided over by the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, Ms. Zsuzsanna Horváth (Hungary).
3. The Chair made the following statement:

“Your Excellency, Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors, Director General Daren Tang, Distinguished Delegates, it is my pleasure to open the seventy-ninth session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. I welcome you all to this important session, which has the objective to consider the appointment of the Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General. We are in a hybrid meeting with some delegates joining us here and others participating remotely; we are all increasingly used to conducting our business in a virtual environment and dealing with occasional technical hiccups. I count on your cooperation and understanding so that we may accomplish our task despite the very difficult circumstances. Before we move ahead, I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat for sharing information on practical organizational matters.”

4. The Secretariat highlighted a few organizational matters in view of the extraordinary circumstances in which the meeting was held that day. Firstly, for delegates attending on site, the Secretariat explained that health and safety measures were informed by the latest guidance

from the Swiss authorities. Measures taken included, in particular, the strict seating limits in the meeting rooms, the request to maintain physical distancing, and to wear a mask at all times except when making a statement. The Secretariat indicated, regarding the technical arrangements to request the floor, that delegates that were seated in the WIPO conference hall should press the red button and use the microphone system in the usual way. Further, the Secretariat asked the delegates that were participating remotely *via* Interprify to request the floor by clicking the “raised hand icon” on the screen, which would add their request to the queue. The Chair would announce when she would give a delegation the floor, and a WIPO operator would then open the line to the microphone of the delegation, which could then speak. The Secretariat reminded delegations to click on the video camera icon when taking the floor. The Secretariat further recommended, in the event a delegate had a technical issue, to open the private chat and click on the button marked “moderator” at the top of the list of the participants, which would enable the delegation to send a private message to a technical assistant. The Secretariat would also post troubleshooting tips and the telephone direct help line in the chat. Delegations could also consult the user guide on the website. The Secretariat indicated that, in the case a delegation would need to raise a point of order remotely, it could simply type “point of order” in the event chat and at the same time click the “green raise hand” button and the Chair would give the floor to that delegation immediately. Finally, the Secretariat reminded delegations that the job of the interpreters was even more challenging in a remote conference setting, so it asked the delegations to speak slowly and clearly and to use a headset to improve the sound quality if possible.

## ITEM 2 OF THE AGENDA

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE SESSION

5. Discussions were based on document WO/CC/79/1 Prov.
6. The WIPO Coordination Committee adopted its agenda as proposed in document WO/CC/79/1 Prov.

## ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA

### APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS GENERAL

7. Discussions were based on document WO/CC/79/2.
8. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 3 and stated that there was one document under consideration “Appointment of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General”, document WO/CC/79/2.
9. The Chair invited the Director General to introduce the document.
10. The Director General thanked the Chair, for presiding over the meeting and the many delegates from the WIPO Coordination Committee who were present at the session. He also thanked those who had travelled to be in Geneva on this occasion and mentioned that their presence, whether physical or virtual, and their support for and interest in WIPO, were deeply appreciated. The Director General stated that he had last met many of the delegates in person in March this year, when the world was a different place and that since then, circumstances had changed dramatically, in which we have had to adjust our way of working, and indeed, our way of living. He added, however, that in the midst of the disruption and change, some things remained constant and that innovation remained as important, and the work of WIPO remained as relevant as ever, if not even more so. The Director General also said that the work of WIPO,

as the world's innovation agency, could not be carried out by one person alone, and that it was a responsibility and duty that had to be shared with a team. Therefore, the role of the Deputy Directors General (DDGs) and Assistant Directors General (ADGs) was therefore critical to the success of the Organization. The Director General also recalled that his original plan to assemble the team ahead of time had not been possible due to the severe disruptions caused by the pandemic. He was therefore grateful for the support from Member States at the last Coordination Committee meeting, on September 25, 2020, for having approved his proposal as the then Director General-Elect for the Exceptional Re-Appointment of the Deputy Directors General, namely Mr. Mario Matus, Mr. John Sandage, Ms. Wang Binying and Ms. Sylvie Forbin and for the favorable advice granted by the WIPO Coordination Committee on the Exceptional Re-Appointments of the Assistant Directors General of Mr. Minelik Getahun, Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi and Mr. Naresh Prasad. The Director General wished to place on record his thanks to these seven DDGs and ADGs for their support and assistance during the first weeks and months of his term of office. He also expressed his deep personal gratitude, as well as that of his colleagues in the Secretariat, for their service to the Organization over the years, during their terms of office. He mentioned that this also included Mr. Ambi Sundaram, who had left at the end of September. He added that, together with his predecessor, Dr. Francis Gurry, they had worked hard to bring WIPO to where it is today – an Organization that is respected, relevant, resilient, financially healthy, and in a good position to move on to its next chapter. The Director General stated that, following the invitation issued on August 3, 2020, in Note C. N 4025, for Member States to nominate nationals for consideration for the posts of DDGs and ADGs, 49 applications were received, of whom about a quarter were female and three-quarters were male. He expressed his gratitude to the many Member States who had made recommendations, as well as the candidates themselves, who had taken time and effort to submit their letters of motivation and curricula vitae. The Director General mentioned that, as part of this process, and over the course of several weeks, he had a one-on-one meeting with every applicant. He added that, given this broad slate of candidates, and the experience, skills and dedication they had each brought with them, it had been a difficult task to make the final choice. He noted that it was important to assess not just their individual qualities, but also their ability to work as a team. The Director General stated that, in making his choices, he had paid attention not just to experiences and competencies, but also to the need for geographical and gender diversity. The Director General recalled that the sector leads play an important role as senior leaders of the Organization, and that collectively, and together with him, they set the tone at the top and shape the culture of the Organization. He mentioned that, as a team, they were responsible not just for strategy, but also for translating strategy into concrete plans, initiatives and actions. Moreover, and given that the work of WIPO is multi-faceted and complex, much of what needs to be done requires cross-sectoral work across the Organization. In other words, teamwork would be critical for WIPO, and he believed that the group of DDGs and ADGs he was presenting, was not just individually strong, but would also make a strong team. The Director General stated that, first, as a team they brought together a range of experience and skills from academia, the private sector, the national IP offices, the United Nations (UN), WIPO system and international diplomacy. They came with a strong background and knowledge in intellectual property (IP) over years and decades, as befits a technical agency, and/or with substantial knowledge and experience at the most senior levels in diplomacy and international relations, as is appropriate for a UN agency. Second, it was a mix of those with experience from years of working in WIPO, all at senior or top levels, and those who were joining from outside, but who already knew WIPO well, through chairing Committees or being intimately involved in the work of the Organization, for example, in the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) or the Program and Budget Committee (PBC). Third, three out of the four DDGs nominated were women, and therefore three out of eight of the sector leads, or almost 40 per cent were women. He added that this was the most gender diverse senior leadership in WIPO's history, and that it was his conviction that it would be a source of strength for WIPO. The Director General also wished to note that he was proposing the regularization of the fourth ADG position in view of the increased workload of the Organization over the years,

and the desire of Member States for WIPO to provide support in connecting IP with the enterprise and economic ecosystems. He stated that this would allow the Organization to have a focus on developing the expertise, resources and energy to allow IP to be better used by researchers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and other innovators and creators to take their ideas to the market. The Director General presented the names he was proposing, for approval, as Deputy Directors General: Ms. Lisa Jorgenson (United States of America), Patents and Technology Sector; Ms. Wang Binying (China), Brands and Designs Sector; Ms. Sylvie Forbin (France), Copyright and Creative Industries Sector; and Mr. Hasan Kleib (Indonesia), Regional and National Development Sector. The four Assistant Directors General he proposed, for the WIPO Coordination Committee's advice, were Mr. Kenichiro Natsume (Japan), Infrastructure and Platforms Sector; Mr. Edward Kwakwa (Ghana), Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector; Mr. Marco Aleman (Colombia), IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector; and Mr. Andrew Staines (United Kingdom), Administration, Finance and Management Sector. The Director General expressed his gratitude to the Member States of the WIPO Coordination Committee for having given him a strong mandate earlier this year to move WIPO to its next chapter. He mentioned that, in this new chapter, WIPO needed to continue being strong in running the IP registries, providing tools, services and information, and shaping the normative agenda. He added that, at the same time, the Organization's work needed to broaden to look at IP from an enterprise and economic perspective and that this needed to be done in a world where the shift to digital had accelerated, and the importance of innovation and technology had increased, which in turn would result in increased demands from Member States, for support and assistance. The Director General stated that WIPO was ready to meet this challenge, and that he believed that the individuals proposed not only had the experience, expertise and commitment, but also the ability to work as a team to build a balanced, inclusive, forward looking and dynamic global IP ecosystem, and to partner with all Member States and stakeholders to advance the work of the Organization.

11. The Chair thanked the Director General for his presentation of the document "Appointment of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General" and proceeded to open the floor to delegations for their comments.

12. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for having made this session possible under the current circumstances and whilst it appreciated the challenges, it attached great importance to the session, as it was an important moment in bringing to life the new leadership team of this Organization. Group B stressed the importance that Group B attached to the WIPO Senior Management Team (SMT) and that it saw the team as a set of individuals, each leading a portfolio with its own challenges and opportunities. It also saw the team as a group working together, advancing the impact of the entire Organization with innovation and creativity. Group B expressed appreciation for the number and focus of all eight portfolios and thanked the Director General for his clear explanations of the portfolios and how they fit his vision of the Organization going forward. It viewed all of the portfolios and updated narrative as valid, keeping WIPO fit for purpose in the digital age. Group B thanked the Director General for the process he had embarked upon exactly four months ago. With regard to the invitation for nominations to the positions, Group B mentioned that the process to date had been fair and open, and that it specifically appreciated the Director General for having talked to each applicant to make sure that the nominees were the best fit for the individual roles and for his own team. Group B stated that while this took time, it was time well spent. Looking at the resumes, the Group was convinced that the proposed SMT would be a professional, experienced and competent team, combining well continuity with fresh perspective, stability, and experienced backgrounds. Group B also highlighted the gender representation as nominated to the top ranks of the Organization. Group B said that it would engage with all the SMT members early in the New Year. Considering the current situation and the challenges immediately ahead, the team would need to hit the ground running given the Extraordinary Assemblies that would take place in the first half of 2021, as well as the upcoming Program and Budget cycle. The Delegation also

expressed its gratitude to the outgoing senior staff, Mr. Sandage, Ambassador Matus, Ambassador Getahun, Mr. Takagi and Mr. Prasad. The Delegation paid a particular tribute to Mr. Prasad for his service as Secretary to the Assemblies and the WIPO Coordination Committee for over a decade. Group B also extended its best wishes to Mr. Sundaram who concluded his duties in September. In conclusion, noting that it was invited to approve the appointment of the DDGs and to give advice on the ADGs at this session, Group B shared its approval of and positive advice on the SMT nominated by the Director General. Group B wished the Director General and the team success in the coming months and years and stated that they could count on Group B's full support and rigorous scrutiny.

13. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), thanked the Secretariat for having organized this session in these difficult circumstances. It also thanked the current SMT of DDGs and ADGs whose terms ended at the end of the year, as due to their work and professionalism, WIPO had moved to a new level of development. The Group had seen a broadening of the international legal basis in the IP sector, of the geographical scope of the international registration system, as well as new services and tools for different users, and it hoped that the intents of development of the Organization would continue. The Group welcomed and congratulated the new SMT on their appointment as DDGs and ADGs. The Group stated that the Organization could count on its support on all constructive initiatives and proposals aimed at promoting innovation and creativity and the development of the IP system. The Group added that the appointment of the leadership team was happening in difficult times, in which the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it changes in the normal modes of work of WIPO and had caused turbulence in the economic markets. The Group believed that the nominees' knowledge and experience would enable them to contribute to achieving the mandate of the Organization and to resolve a number of key topical issues, particularly with regard to standards, the Development Agenda (DA), and ensuring Sustainable Development. The Group noted that it was important that the financial stability of WIPO was maintained and that the strategy of development of the Organization would undoubtedly continue with a digital transformation and harmonization of its approach to cutting-edge technology, including 3D model representation, artificial intelligence (AI) and distributed ledger technology. It added that the support for WIPO's development depended directly on ensuring diversification of its services and broadening the language regime of the international registration systems, and that it looked forward to constructive cooperation with the new leadership team with regard to the digital agenda and progress in the multi-lingual policy. The Group noted that it was not represented among the candidates proposed for the leadership team of the Organization although there was a broad scope of other regions and that this led to an imbalance. It mentioned that the current crisis was unprecedented and obviously affected the whole global community and it hoped that the new leadership team would work transparently and inclusively, with dialogue and partnerships with all members so that it could resolve the issues facing WIPO. The Group concluded by wishing the team success in its work and good health to all of the colleagues within WIPO who had been effected by the pandemic. It believed that a new chapter was opening for the Organization and that there would be many productive ideas and achievements together.

14. The Delegation of Panama, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), thanked the Organization for this very important meeting. GRULAC thanked the Director General, the Chair, the Secretariat and in particular Mr. Prasad's team, which had done excellent, professional work in preparing the meeting. GRULAC wished to thank the Director General for the document and presentation on the Appointment of the Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General, which highlighted the level of technical knowledge and professional experience of the candidates chosen to make up WIPO's SMT for the years 2021 to 2026. GRULAC mentioned that the measures adopted by its members to contain the COVID-19 pandemic had significantly affected their economies and had exacerbated the structural problems facing the region, exposing their vulnerabilities and

imposing new challenges. It believed that IP played a fundamental role in the economic growth of the Group's countries by promoting innovation and knowledge-based industries, contributing to a more meaningful participation of countries in global value chains. For the Group, it was important to strengthen the transversal, crosscutting approach of the DA and the 45 recommendations into all WIPO initiatives and Committees. Therefore, GRULAC expected the strengthening of technical assistance, cooperation, and technical capacity building, provided by the Organization through an innovative, dynamic agenda that allowed the region to use IP as a tool for growth and innovation. In particular, GRULAC said that it would like to see enhanced cooperation in the area of Copyright, which was particularly important for Latin America and the Caribbean, given the importance and potential of this industry in the region. GRULAC was confident that the designated SMT would contribute to the work of the Organization in a manner that would enable it to meet the goals and objectives of the Organization, and expressed its commitment to the new SMT. It added that it was proud to have a representative from its region, Mr. Marco Aleman, who was a very experienced professional who would be in charge of the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. It was convinced that this Sector was key to WIPO's future work as it would promote the development of IP and innovation ecosystems from the legal, economic and business perspectives to encourage the flow of ideas to the market. GRULAC expressed its support for the innovative vision of the Director General and pledged to work with his team to enable this important mandate to be fulfilled for the benefit of all Member States. Finally, GRULAC thanked the outgoing SMT for their efforts and paid tribute, in particular to Ambassador Mario Matus (Chile), responsible for development issues, under his leadership, cooperation projects for development were implemented in various regions in the world. It thanked Ambassador Matus for the work performed with great dedication and professionalism, and for having organized and carried out support activities that benefitted the region. GRULAC reiterated its thanks to the outgoing leadership team and wished them the very best in their future work and undertakings, and congratulated the new incoming SMT.

15. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat for having organized the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee, particularly during this difficult time. It also extended its appreciation to the Director General for his proposal for the Appointment of the DDGs and ADGs of WIPO and the respective sectors. The Group stated that it had full confidence in the Director General and respected his judgment and that it believed that he had chosen his team with skilled, capable and experienced persons. It added that the SMT played a crucial role in realizing Member States' expectations and that it was certain that the new SMT would effectively advance the Organization towards achieving its goals. The Group hoped that under the able leadership and guidance of the Director General, the new SMT would put WIPO on a strong foundation and lead it to greater heights, and to that end, the team could count on its full support. The Group wished to put on record its appreciation to the outgoing SMT members for their contributions to the development and success of WIPO, and for their dedication and commitment to WIPO. It added that the global IP system had delivered concrete results to all WIPO members and stakeholders. The Group stated that it had high hopes that WIPO's future activities would ensure that the global IP regime would contribute to the social, economic and cultural development of Member States. With this in mind, the Group requested that the new leadership pay due attention to the various substantive and governance issues, which have been long pending in various Committees of the Organization.

16. The Delegation of Latvia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), expressed its gratitude to the Director General and to the Secretariat for their work in preparing all the necessary practical and safety arrangements that made this meeting possible. It added that the WIPO Coordination Committee's meeting was taking place in the context of an ongoing global pandemic and it was pleased to see that the work of the Organization continued, which was particularly important in light of the session's agenda. The CEBS Group also expressed its great appreciation to the outgoing SMT, namely Mr. Sandage, Ambassador Matus, Ambassador Getahun, Mr. Takagi, Mr. Prasad and Mr. Sundaram who

concluded his duties in September. The CEBS Group wished to approve and give its favorable advice on the appointment of DDGs and ADGs. The CEBS Group stated that although it remained concerned that not all Groups were represented in the SMT, the CEBS Group would continue to promote geographic diversity, and was looking forward to cooperating with the Director General and his new SMT.

17. The Delegation of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed its gratitude to the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, the Director General and the Secretariat for their strenuous efforts in convening this 28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. The Group also thanked the Director General for the preparation of document WO/CC/79/2 and recalled that at the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in September 2020, Member States had agreed to the exceptional reappointment of DDGs and ADGs for a period of three months ending in December of this year. It added that the exceptional reappointment was to afford the Director General sufficient time to carry out consultations on the nominations to appointments to the positions of DDGs and ADGs. The Group stressed the important role of the SMT in achieving the goals and objectives of the Organization, and emphasized that the composition of the Organization's Secretariat at all levels must reflect geographic diversity of Member States. It added that merit, experience, geographic diversity and gender inclusivity must be considered when making any and all appointments. The Group therefore applauded the nomination of the three female DDGs as a step in the right direction, applauded all the nominees and was satisfied with their level of experience and qualifications. However, while congratulating each of the nominees on the appointments, the Group wished to express its astonishment and concern at the lack of equitable geographic representation. As indicated, it welcomed the increase of female representation in the SMT, however consideration should have been given to gender balance in both the DDG and ADG positions. The Group mentioned that, out of eight nominees, only Dr. Edward Kwakwa, a national from Ghana was the only African appointed to the position of the ADG in the Global Challenges and Partnership Sector and that this was in contrast to other geographic regions that had multiple nominees on the SMT at the highest level. The Group therefore expressed its concern and disappointment at the lack of equitable geographic representation. It added that the Secretariat must reflect the diversity of Member States in an inclusive manner and that it was only through inclusivity that the Organization would be able to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Group recalled that the Director General intended to undertake, at his own discretion, future changes taking into account the operational needs of the Organization. The Delegation noted that the Group would follow with interest the envisioned changes, which should be undertaken according to WIPO's established rules and procedures, and in full compliance with a Program and Budget approved by Member States. The Group noted the proposal of a new portfolio and that it was willing to accept the addition of this portfolio in the hope that it would pay particular attention on developing countries and assist SMEs to grow their businesses. The Group hoped that there would be close cooperation with other sectors, such as the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, to ensure that issues of Traditional Knowledge (TK) were not left behind in the conversations and programs focusing on IP innovation and commercialization. While reiterating its concerns and disappointment at the lack of equitable geographic representation, the Group expected the observed inequalities within the Organization to be adequately addressed in the near future at all levels. Finally, the Group stated it was willing to endorse the nominees for appointment to the positions of DDGs and ADGs, and it stood ready to work with the Director General and the new SMT and congratulated each of the candidates on their nominations.

18. The Delegation of China congratulated the Chair on her election as the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee and believed that under her leadership this meeting would achieve the expected results. It also thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the meeting, in particular in the current pandemic situation. The Delegation highly appreciated the efforts made by the Director General in selecting the DDGs and ADGs and it believed that the proposed nominations were an important outcome reached by all Member States based on consensus.

The Delegation was of the view that all proposed nominees possessed the professional experiences and competencies that would most certainly allow them to duly carry out their functions and duties and to positively contribute to the development of the Organization. The Delegation was delighted to see that there were three female candidates for DDG positions in the SMT and that this was a further contribution of WIPO to gender equality and women's empowerment at the senior level. The Delegation therefore endorsed the proposed list of appointments for DDGs and ADGs as provided for in document WO/CC/79/2. The Delegation also thanked the outgoing SMT for their efforts and contribution to the Organization and believed that the new SMT would assist the Director General in all areas of work and would play an important role when the Organization was faced with risks and challenges, whilst promoting the purposes and objectives of WIPO. The Delegation mentioned that it would continue to cooperate closely with the Director General and his SMT, and would actively and constructively take part in all areas of WIPO's work. It added that, together with all Member States, it would promote the development of the global IP industry.

19. The Delegation of Singapore thanked the Secretariat for staging this hybrid meeting and for having prepared the relevant documents. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation commended the Director General for having adopted an open, transparent and rigorous selection process for the SMT and found it commendable that the Director General had personally met with all applicants, which underlined the careful attention that has been placed on the entire selection process. The Delegation stated that it supported the proposed list of DDGs and ADGs, which comprised well-qualified, distinguished individuals and that it was confident that they would bring the requisite skills and experiences to assist the Director General in advancing WIPO's goals. The Delegation warmly welcomed the new DDGs and ADGs and looked forward to working closely with them to strengthen WIPO. It also expressed its gratitude to the outgoing DDGs and ADGs, Mr. Matus, Mr. Sandage, Mr. Getahun, Mr. Prasad, Mr. Takagi and Mr. Sundaram, for their dedicated services and contributions to WIPO. The Delegation also expressed its special appreciation to the contributions of the longstanding Secretary of the Assemblies.

20. The Delegation of Brazil acknowledged the professional qualities of the individual names proposed by the Director General for the SMT. The Delegation added that, considering the selection process as a whole, it would be amiss not to point out that Member States could have been entitled to expect it to be more open, transparent and member driven. A more thorough consultation process would have been better aligned with the spirit that governed the selection for top managerial positions in multilateral organizations. The Delegation was of the view that it was fundamental to continue to strive in the future for more geographical balance at all levels of the Organization, making it truly representative of the diverse membership. It encouraged the Director General, SMT, Regional Coordinators and all Members to commit in the following years to a mode of governance that would enable WIPO to rectify this historical imbalance. The Delegation was confident that the Organization and Member States would be able to build the trust indispensable to overcoming the innumerable challenges that lay ahead and mentioned that the Organization could count on its support and engagement in this endeavor.

21. The Delegation of Japan expressed its appreciation to the Chair for all of the hard work performed to make this session of the WIPO Coordination Committee a success and commended the Secretariat for its efforts in arranging this meeting under the difficult circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic. As stated by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, the Delegation supported the slate proposed by the Director General and strongly expected the new SMT to continue to ensure transparency, impartiality and accountability in the management of WIPO. The Delegation also wished the new SMT to address the global issues, including responses to COVID-19 and the establishment of IP systems for new, emerging technologies to enhance convenience for users and to reinforce IP infrastructure through capacity building and the development of IP systems. With



those expectations in mind, it stated that it would continue to support the initiatives of WIPO under the Director General and his new team. The Delegation looked forward to working closely with them to bring in a new era of IP with increased importance of digital technologies and intangible assets and reiterated its commitment to support the strengthening of the role of the Secretariat and the SMT in particular. The Delegation took the opportunity to express its appreciation to the outgoing senior officials for their outstanding contributions to the Organization and wished them all the best and every success in their future endeavors.

22. The Delegation of Morocco thanked the Chair for the way she presided over the meeting and for directing the debate on the work at the session. The Delegation also wished to thank the Director General for having very carefully managed the nomination of the new SMT of the Organization and congratulated all of the nominees and wished them success in their new duties. The Delegation stated that WIPO was a membership-driven Organization, but at the same time was a highly specialized agency, with a very important mandate and perspective. For that reason, the Delegation considered that the way that the Director General deals with this important issue was of utmost importance for the future of the Organization. The Delegation thanked all of the countries who presented candidates, noting that it was a testament of the growing importance of WIPO worldwide and a testament of the active role the Organization was playing in the international arena. The Ambassador of Morocco, speaking in his capacity as the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, stated that he would be more than happy and honored to work with the new team under the direction of the Director General as he did with the former SMT. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly also thanked the outgoing SMT members, particularly Mr. Matus, Mr. Sandage, Mr. Getahun, Mr. Sundaram, Mr. Takagi and Mr. Prasad, to whom he wished to express his appreciation, particularly to Mr. Prasad who played and was still playing an important role in managing all meetings. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly further mentioned that he was preparing the next stage, particularly the Extraordinary WIPO Assemblies, which Member States had decided to be held early next year. The Delegation reiterated its full confidence and trust in the Director General in piloting the Organization together with this new very strong team. The Delegation also highlighted the efficiency and capacity of the Secretariat, which was working very hard despite the current situation and the consequences from this pandemic. The Delegation pointed out that WIPO, as everyone was witnessing, was working despite all of this, that the Committees were meeting, and that this was a really good signal to move forward in the next weeks and months together.

23. The Delegation of the United States of America supported the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B and was pleased with the Director General's SMT selections as outlined in document WO/CC/79/2. The Delegation stated that it fully appreciated the sensitivities and complexities involved in making such selections, and noted that the proposed SMT represented a well-balanced group that would undoubtedly support the Director General during his term. In particular, the Delegation was pleased to see that the list included Ms. Lisa Jorgenson, who was a highly respected patent practitioner and manager and who had worked on IP matters in a variety of capacities, including as Executive Director of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) and as Group Vice President of Intellectual Property and Licensing at ST Microelectronics based in Texas. It was confident that she would effectively lead the Patent and Technology Sector. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to her predecessor, Mr. John Sandage, for his contributions to WIPO and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

24. The Delegation of Algeria thanked the Director General for having carried out the consultations and interviews with candidates in order to put forward to the WIPO Coordination Committee the nominees for the posts of DDGs and ADGs of the Organization. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group and rendered homage to the outgoing members of the SMT and thanked them for the excellent work that had been accomplished under their mandate, whilst wishing them all the very best for the future. The Delegation noted that all of the candidates had the necessary qualities,

knowledge and skills to advance the agenda of the Organization. It was pleased to see good gender balance in the SMT and was convinced that the Organization would even be better able to take up the challenges with which it was faced in the future. The Delegation stated that it remained in favor of equitable geographic balance as well as the equitable gender balance and that it was pleased to have an African within the SMT. It believed that, among the senior staff of WIPO, it could see a greater geographic balance and that Africa should be more greatly represented, particularly among the decision-making and management teams. The Delegation welcomed the initiative of the Director General to create a fourth ADG post and believed that this new post would ensure development of IP for SMEs, focusing on projects aimed at development to ensure that innovation can have a positive impact on development in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Delegation stated that it supported the nominations put forward by the Director General and wished every success to the new SMT, whilst assuring its full support in accomplishment of the tasks.

25. The Delegation of Romania aligned itself to the statement made by the Delegation of Latvia on behalf of the CEBS Group, and thanked the outgoing members of the SMT for their devoted work for the benefit of the Organization and its Member States as well as IP stakeholders worldwide. The Delegation acknowledged the complexity of the task that the Director General had to accomplish in selecting the new SMT in these exceptionally challenging times and therefore congratulated the Director General for his decision, which it fully supported. The Delegation also congratulated the new SMT and wished them the best of luck in discharging their important functions. Whilst saluting the whole selection of the SMT, the Delegation was pleased to see in the selection the inclusion of two distinguished colleagues and peers, Ambassador Kleib (Indonesia) and Ambassador Staines (United Kingdom). The Delegation concluded by assuring the Director General of its full support and looked forward to a fruitful cooperation with WIPO in the years to come.

26. The Delegation of Guatemala endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Panama on behalf of GRULAC, and thanked the Director General for the introductory remarks on document WO/CC/79/2. With respect to the appointment process of the new SMT for the period of 2021-2026, the Delegation wished to underscore that the nominees were experienced professionals with a work dynamic, who would contribute and continue to face the challenges and targets of the Organization. For that reason, the Delegation congratulated the Director General and wished him success in these endeavors. It was pleased to have a representative of the region within the SMT and congratulated Mr. Marco Aleman on his nomination as ADG for the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector, expressing its readiness to continue working actively with the development of the projects. The Delegation took the opportunity to thank the outgoing SMT for their work and support provided during their terms, particularly Mr. Matus for his support in the different projects that contributed to the economic development of countries through the creation of strategies that promote innovation and the use of IP systems.

27. The Delegation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan greeted all members of the WIPO Coordination Committee and stated that this year, despite the pandemic, meetings about the future of the Organization have been held. It added that it would support the new Director General in reforms and activities of the Organization. The Delegation thanked the outgoing staff of the SMT and wished them success and good health in the future, adding that they had performed excellent work. The Delegation also stated that supported and approved the candidates put forward by the Director General for the DDG and ADG posts. In addition, it said that a lot would depend on the SMT with regard to the creation of the global architecture of the IP ecosystem and also the development of the innovation and creativity ecosystems at the national levels. The Delegation noted that these were difficult times for the whole world which meant that the team had an even greater responsibility in coming up with original solutions to new tasks. The Delegation wished the SMT every success as it commences its work and the energy for this task. It noted that the SMT did not have any representative from the CACEEC region, and that among its representatives, there were professional candidates who were

worthy and who could bring their contributions to the development of the Organization. The Delegation hoped that representatives from the region would be put forward for the higher and mid-management posts of WIPO, to ensure that fair geographical distribution was retained. Furthermore, the Delegation stated that there was a significant increase in IP ecosystem development in the region and that it believed that its representatives could ensure that they had new projects for the development of innovation and IP in the region.

28. The Delegation of Chile thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for having prepared this meeting and expressed its support to the statement made by the Delegation of Panama on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation congratulated the Director General for his program for moving forward the WIPO agenda and was very pleased to see a Latin American within the SMT. The Delegation was aware that the technical experience, knowledge and professionalism of the SMT would be very important to the future of the Organization and that it was always ready to collaborate with the Director General and the DDGs and ADGs, bringing its own experience of IP within the developing world. The Delegation also thanked the outgoing SMT for their great contribution, not only to WIPO, but also to the direction of WIPO, and the development of IP worldwide. The Delegation particularly thanked those who had contributed so much to the development of IP in the region, particularly Ambassador Matus, who fulfilled his functions with a particular focus on Latin America. The Delegation thanked him and his team as he had been one of the key Directors of WIPO, his work has helped the developing world over the last six years, and the contributions made will continue to have an effect on development of IP in developing countries, particularly with regard to awareness raising campaigns, integration of WIPO and online platforms, and coordination with the Regional Groups around the world, such as MERCOSUR, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), etc. The Delegation highlighted the significant achievements in WIPO's tools being used around the world in IP offices and by users, with regard to the essential components of IP for the protection of IP rights (IPRs) to help with the development of nations and to ensure innovation of technology. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the work of Mr. Matus during his tenure and wished him the greatest of success in his future endeavors, whilst adding that the success of the SMT was the success of WIPO.

29. The Delegation of Ghana commended the Chair, Vice-Chairs, the Director General and the Secretariat for having convened this meeting. While aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, the Delegation wished to express its gratitude to the outgoing DDGs and ADGs and welcomed the members of the new SMT. It mentioned that all the nominees for DDGs and ADGs have great expertise and distinguished achievements in their respective fields and that it was, therefore, confident that they would greatly assist the Director General in resolving challenging issues such as norm-setting, and achieving other common objectives and implementing the goals of the Organization. The Delegation, in addition to commending all countries that presented candidates in the process of election, was particularly pleased that Dr. Edward Kwakwa, who was highly regarded both domestically and internationally, had been included in the new SMT. It was confident that he would bring his experience and expertise to bear on the work of the Organization as well as the goals of the Director General. The Delegation looked forward to close collaboration with the Director General and the new SMT.

30. The Delegation of Turkey thanked the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the meeting under such difficult circumstances and was confident that the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee would conclude with success. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. It added that, going through these unprecedented times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, sadly nothing was exempted from its severe impact, including IPRs. The Delegation stated that since this would be the new environment for some time, there was a need to further support each other and to find more collaborative spaces than before. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the outgoing members of the SMT for their valuable work and efforts and its full support to the

proposed appointments for the DDG and ADG positions. The Delegation was of the view that all of the candidates had the experience and competencies to contribute to the Organization in realizing its unique position in leading the development of a balanced and effective IP system that enabled innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. The Delegation also expressed its best wishes to the Director General and each of the incoming DDGs and ADGs and strongly believed that the new SMT would make valuable and huge contributions to the Organization under the leadership of the Director General.

31. The Delegation of Colombia supported the statement made by the Delegation of Panama on behalf of GRULAC, and was pleased to see the Chair leading this Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. It thanked the Director General for the preparation and presentation of the document on the Appointment of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General. The Delegation supported the proposal by the Director General, including the regularization of the fourth post for ADG on the substantive spheres under IP, not only from a legal perspective, but also from an economic and enterprise point of view, bringing ideas to the market. The Delegation stated that it was a great honor, that Mr. Marco Aleman would be heading the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, and that it was certain that his personal qualities and experience, his leadership, technical competencies and management skills would contribute to successful results for this new sector, particularly in ensuring promotion for SMEs, which was of particular importance to Colombia. The Delegation also wished to thank the outgoing SMT for its contributions to Member States, particularly to Mr. Matus of Chile, and wished him the best for the future. The Delegation assured the Director General of its commitment and support in his leadership of the Organization, and hoped that its outcomes would be positive for all.

32. The Delegation of Viet Nam aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and thanked the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee for their efforts in convening this meeting to appoint the SMT of WIPO in these unprecedented times. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for the preparation of the document of this session and expressed its appreciation to the Director General for conducting the work on the selection of the SMT and his explanation of the proposed SMT. The Delegation was of the view that the proposed candidates had high qualifications, very rich work experiences and professional expertise and that they could represent the Organization's interest in a balanced way. In addition, the consideration of those different areas of competence, experience, expertise, balanced geographical representation and gender diversity would lead to the further development of WIPO. Therefore, the Delegation fully supported the proposal of the SMT made by the Director General. It also extended its appreciation to the outgoing SMT for their outstanding contribution to the Organization. The Delegation stated that it stood ready to work closely and constructively with the Director General, the new SMT and other WIPO members to promote the work of the Organization and its aim in achieving SDGs for the benefit of all Member States.

33. The Delegation of Burkina Faso congratulated the Chair and the team that prepared for this Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee despite the pandemic. It reiterated its congratulations to the Director General, wished him all the best as he moved forward and assured that it would give its full cooperation to the work of WIPO. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and wished to congratulate the new SMT of DDGs and ADGs. The Delegation was convinced that the missions given to them would be successfully achieved due to their competence and great experience. The Delegation also expressed the hope that this new team would continue to follow the objectives of the Organization and took the opportunity to render homage to the former Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and his SMT for the positive results the Organization has achieved under their leadership. It added that the excellent results achieved over those years had led to greater promotion of IP for a new epoch and that it believed that this would be even more necessary for growth after the pandemic.

34. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, speaking in its national capacity, thanked the Director General and Secretariat for the organization of the WIPO Coordination Committee in hybrid format and welcomed the candidates for the new SMT of WIPO. It believed that future work together would bring fruitful results, that the IP system would become even better and more accessible to users worldwide. The Delegation mentioned that, as the Organization worked on very complex issues at the base of the IP system, it was necessary to ensure that the Organization had people who were well coordinated and decisive on actions. The Delegation mentioned that it counted on the representation and activity of all Regional Groups and that it supported the statement made on behalf of CACEEC and others with regard to the imbalance in the higher echelons of the Organization. In its view, it was important to have fair representation at all levels of the Organization and it drew the attention of the new SMT to the need for balance among the members. The Delegation mentioned that progress was dependent on having a team that worked well together and ensuring that urgent and current tasks facing the Member States could be resolved. It believed that the IP system could help ensure that solutions for challenges could be found at a national level, ensuring sustainable development. This required a harmonization in approach and in accordance with international standards, including for the use of cutting-edge technologies and making the IP system accessible, which was linked directly to the inclusion of many languages. The Delegation was of the view that open dialogue and partnerships should continue, which would open new horizons to advance the Organization's current agenda.

35. The Delegation of France thanked the Chair for holding this hybrid session as well as for her opening statement. The Delegation extended its warm congratulations to all of the DDGs and ADGs chosen by the Director General and hoped for resounding success with all their endeavors. The Delegation stated that the Director General's task was difficult as he had many candidates of high value and thanked him for having met them all individually. It added that the Director General's choice reflected a delicate balance and all of this was to his honor, and that it was never possible to fully satisfy everyone. The Delegation stated that the balance struck by the Director General had its full support and that it did not doubt the future success of the DDGs and ADGs, seeing their personalities and skills. The Delegation mentioned that it would stand by the SMT to accompany it in its future work and future mission. It also wished the outgoing SMT and former Director General, Mr. Gurry, Mr. Matus, Mr. Sandage, Mr. Getahun, Mr. Takagi, and last, but not least, Mr. Prasad, all the best in their new endeavors. The Delegation also stated that it was happy to see Ms. Forbin nominated to lead the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector and added that she would work effectively for the promotion of creators and innovators. The Delegation expressed its support, in today's context of the pandemic, to the extremely rapid development of IP fields and AI, a context which posed a challenge for all authors of IP and very important stakeholders.

36. The Delegation of Kazakhstan aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the Russian Federation on behalf of the CACEEC and emphasized the absence of representatives of the region in the SMT as well as the insufficient representation, below 4 per cent, of the region in the Organization in general. In that regard, the Delegation expressed hope for a joint effort with the Director General and the SMT to address this issue of significant imbalance in representation of regions in the Organization in the coming months to ensure equitable geographic representation. The Delegation also thanked the outgoing DDGs and ADGs for their cooperation and wished them all the best in their future endeavors.

37. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for convening this Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in these exceptional circumstances. The Delegation approved all nominees for the SMT, commended their levels of experience and merit, as well as the nomination of three female DDGs and was confident that each one of the nominees would contribute positively in achieving the goals of WIPO. The Delegation took this opportunity to congratulate and commend the outgoing SMT

for the excellent work undertaken during their terms in office. The Delegation hoped to see a more balanced new SMT in terms of equitable geographical representation and believed that the composition of the Organization's SMT, and Secretariat at different levels, must reflect geographical diversity, while considering merit, experience and gender balance, in order to meet the challenges and achieve the objectives of WIPO. It added that it would support any future efforts by the Director General to address that issue. The Delegation concluded by congratulating all nominees and endorsing their appointments and stated that it stood ready to work with the Director General and the new SMT.

38. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea thanked the Chair for presiding over this session and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat for arranging this meeting. The Delegation also expressed its heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and his SMT, Mr. Matus, Mr. Sandage, Mr. Prasad, Mr. Takagi, Mr. Getahun and Mr. Sundaram who conclude their duties, for their valuable contributions during their terms. The Delegation was convinced that the proposed DDGs and ADGs would be able to provide the appropriate skills and professional experiences necessary to achieve WIPO's Strategic Goals and added that it was fully in line with the Director General's proposal to regularize the post of ADG for the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. It was of the view that an IP-friendly ecosystem, where the value of IP was fully appreciated and IP commercialization was activated, would bring about a cycle of economic development and innovative growth. The Delegation further believed that the Director General and the newly appointed DDGs and ADGs would be able to bring new perspectives to solving WIPO's various long-standing issues and that it stood ready to provide its utmost support for the success of the new SMT.

39. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for organizing the WIPO Coordination Committee despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation mentioned that conducting this meeting was still possible, which was essential for the continuation of the Organization. It added that it supported all candidates as proposed by the Director General and congratulated the new DDGs and ADGs for their appointments. The Delegation stated that it had full confidence in the Director General's able leadership throughout the selection process, which was done in a transparent, fair and efficient manner. Consequently, it reflected the commitment of the Director General to place competence as the first and foremost criterion to fill the positions of DDGs and ADGs, and equally reflected WIPO's commitment to gender parity and equitable geographical representation. The Delegation stated that all of these were essential building blocks to ensure a fair and balanced IP system that promoted innovation while fulfilling the development needs of its members. It mentioned that IP was a powerful tool for economic, social and cultural development, and in that regard the DA was essential to ensure that the global IP system remained relevant and beneficial to all. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its congratulations to the new SMT and looked forward to continuing the excellent cooperation with WIPO, whilst adding that it was committed to supporting and promoting a global IP system to encourage creativity and innovation as well as fulfill the development needs of WIPO members.

40. The Delegation of Tunisia endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and thanked the outgoing SMT for the remarkable work accomplished at the service of the Organization, whilst wishing a resounding success to the new team that had been chosen. The Delegation, however, wished to stress that despite the efforts made in this delicate exercise in the choice of the new team, the African continent was underrepresented and that it would like to see that gap filled in the future. It welcomed the creation of the post dedicated to IP and Innovation Ecosystems, which would favor innovation and creativity. The Delegation concluded by expressing its wishes for every success to the Director General and his team in their mission to handle the challenges awaiting them.

41. The Delegation of Angola expressed its gratitude to the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Director General and the Secretariat for the commitment in convening this Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee and supported the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation recalled that, at the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee held in September, Member States had agreed to the exceptional re-appointment of the DDGs and the ADGs for a period of three months ending in December 2020, to afford the Director General sufficient time to carry out consultations on the nominations for appointments to those positions. Therefore, the Delegation applauded the nomination of three female DDGs as a positive step in the right direction for the promotion of gender parity, namely Ms. Lisa Jorgenson, Ms. Wang Binying and Ms. Sylvie Forbin, and congratulated each of the nominees on their appointments. The Delegation wished to emphasize the African Group's position that the composition of the Organization at all levels must reflect geographical diversity of Member States, noting that merit, experience, gender inclusivity must always be taken into account in making all appointments. The Delegation highlighted that, out of eight nominations, Dr. Edward Kwakwa of Ghana was the only African national appointed to one of the positions of ADG. It stated that this was in contrast to other geographical regions with multiple nominees on the SMT. The Delegation mentioned that it hoped that in the near future the Secretariat would look at the diversity of Member States in a more inclusive and just manner. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to participate constructively in the discussions and reiterated its congratulations to each of the nominees on their appointments.

42. The Delegation of Cambodia thanked the Chair on her leadership in steering this important meeting and associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his introduction and for his leadership in the process of the nominations for the new SMT and mentioned that the roles were very important to the Organization. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the outgoing SMT members for their hard work and efforts as well as the leadership of Mr. Francis Gurry for the successful results of the Organization. It also took the opportunity to deeply welcome and congratulate the new DDGs and ADGs on their appointments. The Delegation was confident in their leadership in promoting a successful outcome for WIPO and hoped that under the new SMT, WIPO would resolve all outstanding issues. This included increased participation of least developed countries (LDCs) to serve in active roles in Committees of the Organization as well as achieving the common goal in supporting IP for economic development and to ensure an IP system that was fundamental in encouraging activity and innovation in all countries. The Delegation looked forward to working with the new SMT under the leadership of the Director General.

43. The Delegation of Oman thanked the Chair and endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Region. The Delegation supported the new nominations and was pleased with the nomination of three women in the SMT. The Delegation stated that it would work in cooperation with the new team and thanked the outgoing SMT for all of the services that they rendered to the Organization. The Delegation hoped to work with the Director General and was pleased to do so to achieve the objectives of the Organization.

44. The Delegation of Kenya aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and commended the Chair and the Secretariat for having convened this Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. The Delegation also thanked the Director General for tabling document WO/CC/79/2 "Appointment of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General" to constitute WIPO's SMT. The Delegation had taken note of the contents of the document and of the efforts by the Director General to ensure a seamless transition and the painstaking process of the selection of the next SMT. It congratulated the nominees for their selection for the respective positions and believed that the WIPO Coordination Committee would approve the appointments. However, while the

Delegation was satisfied with the selection parameters in terms of the candidates' requisite experience, their intended contribution to technical and managerial competence at WIPO, leadership qualities and ability to work as a team, it noted with disappointment the absence of equitable geographical balance and therefore hoped that this would be remedied in the future. The Delegation also expressed its appreciation for the contributions made by the outgoing SMT and wished them the very best in their future endeavors. It looked forward to cooperating with the new team.

45. The Delegation of Mexico thanked the Chair for her work during this Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee and endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Panama on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation also welcomed the initial statement made by the Director General and the presentation of the proposal of the new SMT, which it welcomed. It recognized the very condensed exercise of the evaluation of the nominations and the direct involvement to that end. The Delegation was happy to see women in the new team and hoped for continuing progress with gender diversity and equality, and geographic equality at WIPO. It was equally pleased with the new SMT, especially with the nomination of Mr. Marco Aleman who has had a long career in the Organization and wished him great success. The Delegation also congratulated him for all of the work he has done, which was key for the Organization and it took the opportunity to wish the SMT success with the future work. The Delegation affirmed that the Director General would have its constructive support to advance the agenda of WIPO. It reiterated the need of fostering geographic diversity within WIPO, and recalled the relevancy and importance of the vision, which the Director General already shared, focused on making the benefits of IP reaching developing countries. The Delegation joined other delegations in expressing its gratitude to each and every one of the members of the outgoing SMT, recalling that it had always received effective support and that it wished them much success in the future for both professional and personal projects. The Delegation extended special thanks to Ambassador Matus who had always provided a positive response for cooperation and projects of interest to Mexico and to the region.

46. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) joined other delegations in expressing its gratitude to the outgoing SMT for their contribution and efforts during their terms of office. It was delighted to see the new team and thanked the Director General for doing a very good job during the selection process. The Delegation welcomed the candidates for the posts of the DDGs and ADGs as proposed by the Director General and wished them all the success in discharging their responsibilities. It also welcomed the Director General's initiative to establish a new sector entitled IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector to better respond to the demands of Member States to drive enterprise growth, especially for SMEs, and more broadly as a catalyst for economic growth. The Delegation also appreciated the Director General's efforts to make WIPO a more balanced and equitable Organization in terms of geographic representation. The Delegation was of the view that in both the SMT and overall staff, there was ample room for improvement. The Delegation also hoped that the new SMT remained sensitive to the concerns of the developing countries, in particular by mainstreaming the DA recommendations in the Organization's work and programs. Furthermore, due to the global challenges, especially those imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO required a more robust management to better respond to the Member States' needs and expectations. The Delegation stated that it was imperative for WIPO to pay more attention to the role of IP in effectively addressing these global challenges and that the current global health problem and potential IP-related issues, with respect to access to COVID treatments and vaccines, should be regarded as a priority by the new SMT. In conclusion, the Delegation looked forward to continuing its fruitful interaction with WIPO under the new team.

47. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia congratulated and thanked both the Chair and the Director General for having organized this meeting. The Delegation stated that it supported the nominations presented for the posts of DDGs and ADGs and wished the nominees all the very best in the performance of their duties. It added that it was ready to support the Organization



and its leadership in all efforts made to promote the objectives of the Organization in the field of IP.

48. The Delegation of Gabon congratulated the Chair on her nomination and assured its support to her and the Vice-Chairs throughout their mandate. The Delegation also thanked the Director General for having convened this 28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Secretariat for the preparation of document WO/CC/79/2 on the nomination of the SSMT. The Delegation took note of the nominations proposed by the Director General and congratulated the four new DDGs and the four new ADGs, which included three women. The Delegation also supported the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and it shared the regrets with respect to geographic imbalance at WIPO, particularly at the higher levels, which were clearly identified by the Director General in the reference document WO/CC/79/2. The Delegation believed that representation of all regions for posts at WIPO was the best insurance of having a policy of equity, and therefore it was looking closely at the changes. The Delegation also extended its best wishes to and expressed its confidence in the new SMT throughout their mandate, and thanked the outgoing SMT for their work.

49. The Delegation of Zimbabwe drew the Chair's attention to the Delegation of Djibouti's virtual request to take the floor, which had not been recognized.

50. The Delegation of Djibouti stated that it did not wish to slow down the proceedings, but mentioned that it wished to join other delegations in congratulating the Chair for her nomination as the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee and to assure her of its support and cooperation. The Delegation also thanked the Director General for his statement and the Secretariat for having prepared the meeting and making the documents available. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and took note of the proposal for the new SMT as proposed by the Director General. It wished the greatest of success to this team and took the opportunity to thank the outgoing SMT for the work that they had undertaken. The Delegation also recognized and particularly welcomed the creation of the new area of work for an ADG by the Director General in supporting IP and Innovation Ecosystems. It was very pleased to see this initiative and hoped that that it would contribute to the greater integration of development issues within IP spheres and WIPO as a whole. Whilst recognizing that in the new team there was an increase in representation of women, the Delegation hoped that this representation would be spread throughout the Organization and that it would also bring a greater representation of Africa within the offices of WIPO in the near future. The Delegation was very pleased to see Ambassador's Kleib's nomination for a post as head of a sector, and hoped for a fruitful working relationship with him in the future.

51. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group, and commended the Chair, the Vice-Chairs, the Director General and the Secretariat for their efforts in convening this 28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. The Delegation thanked the outgoing SMT immensely for their outstanding service and wished them success in their future endeavors. The Delegation also emphasized the significant role of the SMT in achieving the goals and objectives of the Organization and welcomed the nomination of three female DDGs as a great effort to ensure gender parity. It stated that it would like to see more women holding senior positions in WIPO and would also like to see more attention paid to having a better balance in the geographic representation of senior appointments. The Delegation mentioned the fact that there was only one African in the SMT, and not even at the higher level of the Team, and that it was a matter of great concern to the Delegation. It was of the view that the SMT should reflect the diversity in WIPO and give all regions a sense of equality. The Delegation concluded by endorsing the nominees for appointment to the positions of DDGs and ADGs.

52. The Chair thanked the delegations for the statements made and proposed to proceed to the decision required with respect to the Appointment of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General.

53. The WIPO Coordination Committee:

(i) approved the appointments as Deputy Directors General of Ms. Lisa Jorgenson, Ms. Wang Binying, Ms. Sylvie Forbin, and Mr. Hasan Kleib for the period indicated in paragraph 13 of document WO/CC/79/2; and

(ii) gave its favorable advice on the appointments as Assistant Directors General of Mr. Kenichiro Natsume, Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Mr. Marco Aleman, and Mr. Andrew Staines for the period indicated in paragraph 13 of document WO/CC/79/2.

#### ITEM 4 OF THE AGENDA

##### SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SESSION

54. Discussions were based on document WO/CC/79/3.

55. The WIPO Coordination Committee adopted the Summary Report as proposed in document WO/CC/79/3.

56. The Chair announced that the draft Extensive Report would be made available by December 18, 2020. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by January 8, 2021. The Extensive Report would thereafter be deemed adopted on January 15, 2021, and would be circulated accordingly.

#### ITEM 5 OF THE AGENDA

##### CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

57. The Director General made the following closing remarks:

“Thank you once again, thank you for ably leading us through today’s session. My deep, deep gratitude goes to Member States, to the Group Coordinators and to everyone else who has been supporting and giving me and the new team the opportunity to serve you. The feedback and the comments that I received from today’s session are well taken, well noted. The team stands ready to support the future work of WIPO and to address the concerns that were raised. Above all, the team aspires to take the work of this Organization to the next chapter and we look forward, and are standing ready, to building a balanced, inclusive, forward looking, dynamic IP ecosystem, one that serves our people, our countries, and our communities. I look forward to – the team looks very much forward to – a close cooperation in our work in the years to come. Thank you very much.”

58. The Chair wished the Director General and the new SMT every success in their future endeavors and, as the Director General had just remarked, to move the Organization to its next chapter. The Chair assured the Director General of her full support and support of the WIPO officers and of all Member State delegations.

59. The Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee declared closed the Seventy-Ninth Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

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