

Program and Budget Committee

Thirty-Second Session
Geneva, July 12 to 16, 2021

REPORT

adopted by the Program and Budget Committee

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1. The 32nd session of the WIPO Program and Budget Committee (PBC) was held at the Headquarters of WIPO from July 12 to 16, 2021.
2. From October 2019 to October 2021, the Committee is being composed of the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh (2020-2021), Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India (2019-2020), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2020-2021), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Malaysia (2020-2021), Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman (2019-2020), Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines (2019-2020), Republic of Korea (2019-2020), Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore (2019-2020), Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Tajikistan, Thailand (2020-2021), Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (2020-2021), United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam (53).
3. Members of the Committee represented at this session were: Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Viet Nam (46).
4. In addition, the following States, members of WIPO but not members of the Committee, were represented as observers: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia (the), Georgia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, Oman, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe (50).

ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

5. The Director General opened the 32nd Session of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) by welcoming all delegates to the session.
6. The Chair welcomed participants and announced the official opening of the 32nd session of the Program and Budget Committee. The Chair hoped that everyone who was joining from everywhere in the world had been able to connect to the meeting. The Chair stated that this was a very interesting exercise and a collective challenge. However, he reminded the Member States that the previous session was successful in a similar format, which was an extraordinary experience that enabled the Committee to take important decisions despite the circumstances. The Chair hoped the commitment of everyone involved in this session would achieve a successful outcome for PBC 32. WIPO found itself in good financial health, contrary to the effect that the pandemic had on many United Nations organizations. The 32nd PBC session was happening at a crucial time. WIPO had a new Director General and the organization had been reorganized under his leadership. The Chair welcomed the new Director General. The Chair welcomed the Vice-Chair José Antonio Gil Celedonio, Director-General, Spanish Patent and Trademark Office. Before handing over the floor to the Director General for his opening remarks, the Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to make administrative announcements.
7. The Secretariat gave an overview on the logistical and administrative points before proceeding with the meeting, and the first point related to the conduct of the meeting. When a

person is requesting the floor, the Chair would announce the opening of the floor in the usual order, giving priority to Regional Group Coordinators first, after which the Member State delegations would be called on. The request for the floor and the speaker list would be monitored by the Secretariat both for those in the room physically as well as those connected virtually. The Secretariat would inform the Chair of who had requested the floor, after which the Chair would announce who would take the floor in the order of the speaking list that the Secretariat shared with him. Interpretation for the meeting was in all six official United Nations languages, and the Secretariat requested that all delegations try to speak slowly and clearly, because the work of the interpretation colleagues was even more challenging in this new hybrid environment. The Secretariat requested that delegates silence any equipment that could potentially interfere with the audio system. The Secretariat stated that the participant list would be posted on the PBC website. In respect of the Interprefy platform, the virtual platform, the use of the event chat or the chat to all function was not to be used for normal side conversations. The chat was dedicated for the use of delegates who were intending to raise a point of order, which would be done by typing point of order in the chat and using the raise hand function so the Chair could then give that request immediate priority. The chat would also occasionally be used by the WIPO Secretariat, or the interpreters or the technical support team if necessary, to broadcast a message to all. For technical questions or issues, the Secretariat indicated that participants should use the private chat to send a message to the remote support chat, and ensure not to use the general chat function or the event chat function. Finally, the Secretariat mentioned a few points for delegations and delegates who were physically present. Requests for the floor would be as usual with the delegation pressing the button in the microphone in front of them. The rest of the process would follow the order mentioned earlier. If physically present delegates were to experience a technical issue, they should not hesitate to wave down conference colleagues and the technical team who would assist them. Physically present delegates were requested to not log into Interprefy so the Secretariat could distinguish between those who were attending in person and those attending on Interprefy. To support contact tracing, everyone, including delegates, were required to badge prior to entering the cafeteria. Health and safety of delegates is of utmost importance to the organization. Following the recommendations by the United Nations Medical Directors Network, all delegates and WIPO staff present were requested to kindly keep their masks on at all times, except when seated and when taking the floor. While going into the cafeteria, masks had to be kept on except when seated in the designated seating area. Delegates were requested to complete the health safety self-declaration form when arriving on premises. Delegations were also reminded to hand over their color coded tickets to the security guard at the entrance to help with contact tracing. Cleaning would be done everyday during the lunch break between 1pm and 3pm, and at the end of the session at 6pm. All physically present participants were requested to kindly vacate the conference room to be able to conduct the cleaning. The Secretariat mentioned that one person should occupy elevators at a time, or a maximum of two people with the compulsory use of masks. If participants had to go between the ground floor and the first floor, the Secretariat kindly requested that they take the stairs in order to reduce the wait times for the elevators. The WIPO Medical Unit was reinforced on site and available for all delegates. The Secretariat stated that extensive and intensive preparations had been made for the meeting, and that the technical teams were well prepared and stood ready to resolve any issues that may arise.

8. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the administrative announcement. The Chair indicated that the Director General having taken office in October 2020, was able to make contact with the Member States over the previous months. The Chair believes that the work of WIPO would be focused on the creation of a global intellectual property ecosystem, which is inclusive and serves all stakeholders. The Chair invited the Director General to give his opening statement.

9. The Director General welcomed everyone to the 32nd session of the Program and Budget Committee. He was confident that the hybrid deliberations would ensure that week's agenda proceeded in a transparent session and was grateful for the flexibility participants had

shown. He thanked the Chair for his wise guidance and counsel since he had assumed his duties as Director General, as well as his efforts to bring Member States closer on the issue of membership of the PBC and the Coordination Committee. He wished to put on record his appreciation for the work of the Vice-Chairs of this Committee, Mr. José Antonio Gil Celedonio, Director General of the Spanish Trademark and Patent Office, and Ambassador Katrina Naut of the Dominican Republic. He expressed his deep appreciation to Member States for their engagement with him and his team in advance of the deliberations during the week. Their input, views and guidance had been instrumental in helping put together the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, as well as the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026. These were not just the Secretariat's plans, they were truly the Member States plans as well, and he hoped to continue this close engagement with all Members in the years ahead. The Director General acknowledged the work of his Assistant Directors General and Deputy Directors General and their teams in the months long process to the discussions for the PBC week, and especially the work of the Finance team led by Assistant Director General for the Administration, Finance and Management Sector. The Director General indicated that over the course of the week, they would be considering performance and financial reviews, planning and budget documents, as well as items related to decisions taken at the 31st PBC and 2020 Assemblies. He said a few words about the context in which the meeting took place and how this had influenced WIPO's operations. When the pandemic first struck, WIPO rapidly transitioned to digital and remote working. WIPO pivoted quickly and teams were able to maintain their work output thanks to the adaptability, dedication and professionalism of WIPO staff. As a result, overall performance had shown resilience and strength, despite the challenges of the year 2020. The 2020 WIPO Performance Report highlighted that two thirds of targets were assessed as on track, only a slight reduction when compared to the first year of the last, pre-pandemic, biennium. The surplus for 2020 was estimated to be around 136 million Swiss francs, through a combination of lower than expected impact on intellectual property filings, and a reduction in expenditure. WIPO therefore remained in good financial health. However, this was not a time to let up on being prudent with WIPO's finances. Historically there was often a delay between an economic downturn and its full impact on intellectual property and innovation, and the global economic output remains highly volatile. More importantly, it was only right that WIPO provided value to members for each dollar spent. Therefore, the Secretariat would continue to take a prudent and responsible approach to WIPO's finances. This would ensure that the organization remained on a healthy financial footing and would continue to invest in people and services as well as provide for long-term liabilities. Turning to the organization's future, the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 raised the bar for what was hoped to be delivered, within a modest expenditure increase of 3 per cent. This was set against the forecasted 8 per cent increase in income. Within the Budget, the organization intended to maintain expenditure at current levels but to deliver more through empowering staff, working better across teams and units and transforming WIPO's culture. For the non-personnel costs, the additional investment proposed would enable the organization to continue momentum towards WIPO's digital transformation as well as ensure that the wider infrastructure and services remained appropriately resourced. WIPO's work must support all Member States, and especially bring the benefits of intellectual property to developing countries and least developed countries. It was noted that the development expenditure accounted for 18.5 per cent of the budget, a 4.5 per cent increase over the last biennium. Beyond these numbers there was a shift towards an impact driven development, where the organization needed to go down to the ground, to the grassroots, to help intellectual property be used by innovators, creators, small and medium enterprises, communities and others who had traditionally been left aside by the intellectual property ecosystem. This budget also placed a key emphasis on simplicity, transparency and accountability. As the document indicated, significant steps had been taken to streamline the reporting framework. Moving from 38 Expected Results to 16, from over 240 Performance Indicators to 77 and from 52 Program-Level Risks to 26 Organizational and Sector level risks. The organization believed that all of these would help make it easier for the Member States to monitor progress towards the

expected results and to engage with each other concretely and meaningfully about WIPO's work. The 2022/23 Budget was not a stand-alone document. It was closely connected and gave effect to the Medium Term Strategic Plan 2022–2026. The MTSP's vision, which encapsulates the Member States aspirations as well as those of WIPO colleagues, was for a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by Intellectual Property for the good of everyone. In this Vision, intellectual property was a powerful tool for every country to create jobs, attract investments, support enterprise growth, lift up communities and ultimately develop dynamic economies and vibrant societies. To do this, WIPO would need to continue doing well in its areas of strength, as the global norm and standard setting agency for Intellectual Property, and in the provision of its global services. However, WIPO needed to go beyond the technical and legal aspects of intellectual property to bring it to the people on the street, and to make them understand how intellectual property was a part of their aspirations, their journey and their lives. WIPO needed to go beyond engaging with only the experts and specialists and to start engaging with people everywhere to allow them to see how intellectual property is relevant to them and could be used as a tool by them to bring their innovations, their ideas and their creativity to the world. There was a need to build practical intellectual property skills and step up WIPO's work in support of innovators, creators, businesses, researchers and communities. WIPO would ensure that youth, women, small and medium enterprises and others that had not been so well served by the intellectual property ecosystem were now areas of collective focus for WIPO. WIPO would bring members of the United Nations family and other international agencies to strengthen sustainable development and address global issues and challenges. In this regard, the Director General reiterated WIPO's commitment to the 2030 SDGs. These SDGs ran throughout the MTSP and the Program of Work and Budget. Each of the global challenges faced from combating climate change to providing equal access to education, reducing inequalities *via* fair work and stable growth required innovation and creativity to be harnessed around the world. In addition, there was no challenge more pressing than overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting Member States to build back better. The Director General repeated what he had shared in different forums over the previous months that WIPO believes in vaccine equity and that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Whilst witnessing the fastest deployment of vaccines in history, with delivery into people's arms within one year of the start of the pandemic, there was much more to do to ensure that this reached all communities around the world. There was a commitment at WIPO to play the full part in this shared endeavor. WIPO was also committed to continue assisting Member States on a unilateral basis as they addressed the pandemic and planned for the post-Covid recovery. WIPO recognized that building back inclusively and sustainability was a priority for governments around the world and an area where innovation and creativity would play a key role. Therefore, the Director General was happy to announce that WIPO was providing a package of services and measures designed to support all Member States as they overcome the pandemic and rebuild. This package covered five areas where WIPO had significant in-house experience and expertise. The package covered five areas: Policy and Legislative Assistance; Technical Assistance and Capacity Building; Innovation Support and Technology Transfer; Intellectual Property Dispute Resolution and Knowledge Resources. The Executive Director of the WIPO Academy would serve as WIPO's focal point for this package of services and measures. The Director General advised the delegations to contact him directly to begin tapping into the package. At the same time, the trilateral cooperation would continue with the WHO and WTO. Member States would be aware of the joint communique issued the previous month with the Director Generals of the WHO and the WTO, announcing the intensified cooperation to offer trilateral technical assistance and capacity building initiatives. The Director General confirmed that the first trilateral workshop on technology transfer and licensing was being prioritized to take place before October 2021. The Director General mentioned that during the course of the week, various items would be discussed following the decisions at the 31st PBC session and the 2020 Assemblies. The Administration was pleased to table a revised policy on languages. Multilingualism is an essential part of the organizations' ethos and a vital tool in reaching out to all in the world. If WIPO were to reach the innovators of tomorrow – whether youths,

entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises or communities on the ground – then it would have to connect with them in their language. As such, the revised Language Policy forms a core component of the broader impact-based approach as outlined within the MTSP and the Program of Work and Budget. The Secretariat also proposed to embrace and expand the use of cutting-edge translation technologies through the multi-year implementation roadmap. With regards to membership of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), as requested by the Committee, the Director General had engaged with the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations in her capacity as Chair of the UNSDG. The Secretariat remained ready to assist Member States in their deliberations on this matter. Finally, the Secretariat would continue to be guided by Member states on the Terms of Reference for the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices and the Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union. As always, the Secretariat remained available for any kind of support on both issues. As the PBC 32 documents highlighted, WIPO is committed to leading the development of a balanced and inclusive global intellectual property ecosystem. One that supports all Member States to use intellectual property as a tool for growth, development and sustainability, and one that helps advance shared objectives from accelerating progress towards the SDGs, to ensuring that all countries have the tools to overcome COVID-19 and build back from the pandemic. Despite the challenges of the previous 16 months, WIPO's strong foundations remained intact, and for this, the Director General wanted to acknowledge and pay tribute to his colleagues, and his predecessors. Over the coming biennium, he proposed to maintain this balanced and responsible approach to WIPO's finances while placing a new and renewed emphasis on how intellectual property could meet global challenges, have a positive impact on people's lives around the world and support growth and development in all Member States. The Director General thanked everyone for their engagement and wished everyone a successful PBC week.

10. The Chair thanked the Director General for his exhaustive and extremely interesting presentation. The Director General's vision would be reflected in the new budget. It was very important in the following days and in the following few meetings to come close to that vision. The Chair welcomed the Director General's commitment in favor of young people, job creation, innovators and creators in various countries and everywhere in the world. This budget was meant to be a tool to help face global challenges. He also welcomed the announcements concerning WIPO's response to the challenges, to the impact of COVID, and the commitment with other United Nations agencies.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/1 Prov.3.

12. The Chair introduced the draft agenda and explained that it was set out in document WO/PBC/32/1 Prov.3. The Chair explained that in order to facilitate the review and discussions of the various items, the agenda had been structured in accordance with the following high-level groupings: Performance and Financial Review; Planning and Budgeting; and thirdly, Items following Decisions of PBC 31 and 2020 Assemblies of WIPO Member States.

13. The Chair inquired whether Delegations agreed to adopt the draft agenda. As there were no objections or comments, the decision was adopted.

14. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) adopted the agenda (document WO/PBC/32/1 Prov.3).

15. Before moving on to the first agenda item, the Chair made some general remarks. Firstly, he recalled that the Secretariat had already communicated the schedule that he had suggested in order to make the best use of time. The schedule followed the order of the agenda items of the Draft Agenda. The Chair explained that if the PBC advanced more quickly

than expected, items would be brought forward accordingly, if a discussion was not concluded within the allotted time, the discussions on the next agenda item would follow, and the outstanding discussion would be taken up at a later stage. The morning session would begin with general statements, followed by substantive consideration of items under the high-level sections of Performance and Financial Review with item 4, WIPO Performance Report 2020, and item 5 of the agenda, Financial Situation as of End 2020: Preliminary Results. In the afternoon, the PBC would then move to items under the section on Planning and Budgeting, starting with item 6 of the agenda, Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, which would be presented at 3:00 p.m. The Director General would be in the meeting to present his vision under this agenda item. Item 6 would be followed by item 7, Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 after completion of discussions on item 6. Discussions on Item 7 would continue to the following morning, to review proposals for 2022/23. Next, under the section on Items following Decisions of PBC 31 and 2020 Assemblies of WIPO Member States, item 8, United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership would be considered. This would be followed by item 9 on Revised WIPO Policy on Languages, and item 10 on Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. Lastly, item 11 on Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union would be considered. The Chair explained that Friday morning had been left open for all outstanding discussions and pending items before the closure of the session, which was expected to take place on Friday afternoon. Before the Chair opened the floor for opening statements, he encouraged only Regional Coordinators to make general statements for the efficient use of time, and he indicated that all Member States and Observers would have the opportunity to make statements on each agenda item during the meeting. In emphasizing the high priority for efficiency in the PBC's work, the Chair explained that the morning sessions would start promptly at 10:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. and the afternoon sessions would start at 3:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. Should informal sessions be needed, participants from different time zones would be accommodated. The Chair opened the floor for general statements from the Regional Coordinators.

16. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), was pleased to see the Chair again at the Committee meeting, and expressed its confidence in the Chair's leadership in achieving the desired results for the 32nd Session of the PBC. The Group thanked the Director General Daren Tang for his opening statement and was encouraged to hear his thoughts, and his mission in guiding the Organization to achieve its objectives. The Group was also grateful to the Secretariat for the preparation of the meeting and for providing all the relevant documents. The Group noted that in order to realize WIPO's mission, and vision to ensure a development orientated Intellectual Property environment across the world, the work of the Committee was very important. Particularly, the Program of Work and Budget whose role was the most crucial, since it entailed the Organization's targets as well as the strategies and plans for implementing those targets, hence, the requirement for simplicity in budgeting. Simplicity in budgeting would not only ease and facilitate the work for the Secretariat in terms of management and execution but it would also provide Member States with a clear understanding and monitoring of the overall process. The Group expressed its appreciation of WIPO's leadership for introducing the new format of the Program of Work and Budget. The Group made specific comments on the budget on the relevant Agenda item 4, it noted that the Organization's performance in 2020 was slightly lower as compared to the first year of the previous biennium, however, it was fully cognizant of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning of 2020. Nevertheless, the Group commended the Secretariat for adopting quick responses to adapt its functions to ensure continued delivery of IP services and program of work. The Group indicated that the post-COVID 19 situation would be more critical in the aftermath of the pandemic. Therefore, the Organization needed to be more careful and vigilant, as well as remain well prepared to address any unforeseen challenges. The Group indicated that with regards to preliminary results for the financial situation in 2020, it had taken note of document number WO/PBC/32/INF/1 and the generally positive and reasonable financial performance of the Organization in 2020. The Group looked forward to the presentation of the document by the Secretariat. The Group also took note of the

Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, and commended the Secretariat for taking into account the impact of the pandemic in formulating the document, and indicated that particular deliberations would be made under the relevant agenda item. The Group concluded by indicating that its members were ready to engage constructively in deliberations during the session.

17. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS), thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair and expressed its confidence in their ability to facilitate the week's session. The Group thanked the Secretariat for organizing the 32nd PBC Session and the preparatory work for the meeting. The Group also expressed its gratitude to everyone that contributed to creating and preparing all the relevant documents, including the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23; the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 which offers insights of the mission and the strategy for the Organization for the coming years, and provides information regarding specific actions and initiatives, with an emphasis on impact and results-based management. The format of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 was a symbolic mark for the new vision, and the Group believed that it would also facilitate future discussions. The Group also expressed its appreciation for all efforts made by the Director General and his team to develop new approaches for WIPO despite the extraordinary circumstances. The Group indicated that it was confident that WIPO would be prepared for new opportunities and challenges at the end of the pandemic. The Group assured the Chair that it could be counted on for its constructive engagement in all discussions during the session.

18. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its gratitude to the Chair and Vice-Chair for leading the session, and its confidence in the Chair's leadership of the Committee to guide discussions. The Group thanked the Secretariat for its hard work in organizing the PBC session and expressed its appreciation for the draft documents, and the Secretariat's engagement prior to the session. The Group indicated that it would deliver comments under the relevant agenda items. Overall, the Group recognized the efforts made by the Director General and his team at large, to develop a new approach for WIPO, which focuses on how the Organization could have an impact by looking at the management of each Sector to deliver results across the overall landscape. Additionally, the Group believed that the focus on tangible impacts would be beneficial, and looked forward to what the Organization could deliver in the future rather than looking back at how it had worked in the past. The Group expressed the fact that the new outlined vision cut to the very core of what was expected from WIPO as an Organization. In particular, it appreciated the focus on various communities and target groups, while at the same time keeping in mind vital WIPO services and their value for Intellectual Property-intensive businesses, amongst others. The Group noted the translation of the vision to the Program of Work and Budget, and supported the shift in its importance from activities to impact. The Group expressed its support for the new approach and looked forward to that new chapter in the Organization. The Group appreciated the challenges ahead and expressed its readiness to advise and discuss adjustments that would be necessary in order to uphold the good programmatic and budgetary standing of the Organization. As in the past, the Group would scrutinize closely the draft proposal to ensure sound financial management and it would also look into how the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 could aid effective internal processes. The Group expressed its confidence in the Chair's wise guidance and the fact that the Groups' collective efforts throughout the session would lead to positive outcomes that could lead to only a few key issues, if any, ahead of the September PBC session. Lastly, the Group expressed its full support to the Chair on the deliberations.

19. The Delegation of China congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair on their election and leadership. The Delegation noted that despite the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, the Secretariat had managed to prepare, translate and publish the large number of documents, in addition to organizing a series of relevant preparatory meetings prior to the session. The

meeting was also the first time in the year that the Organization would hold a traditional full day meeting in hybrid format. The Delegation was pleased to note that over the past year, under the leadership of Director General Daren Tang, the Organization had successfully completed the formation of a new Senior Management Team and a major restructuring. The Delegation also appreciated the fact that WIPO's financial position had remained healthy and sound despite the pandemic. The Delegation noted that by the end of 2020, the Organization's operating surplus of CHF 136 million and the net asset of CHF 387 million provided a solid foundation for the Organization's work in its new phase and under the new normal. The Delegation indicated that it would be deeply engaged in the session in discussions on the following very important documents; Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, and also the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The revision of the Language Policy was also of great significance for the Organization, and for the promotion of the six official languages of the United Nations. The Delegation expressed the great importance that it attached to that matter and it would make specific comments on those documents. The Delegation shared an old Chinese saying "When drinking water, think of the source". WIPO's healthy financial position and growing international standing would not be possible without the trust and confidence of the users of the Organization's global Intellectual Property service system and the importance and the support of its member states for the work of the Organization. Therefore, the Delegation proposed that first of all, WIPO should focus on its users and their interests; secondly, it should enhance the level and quality of services provided by the PCT, Madrid and Hague Intellectual Property server systems; thirdly the Organization should invest more in those service systems and delegate to them sufficient human resources. On the other hand, WIPO should also make development issues a top priority in the work of the Organization, and WIPO should mainstream development and increase investment in development. In doing that, Intellectual Property could benefit more countries and people in a balanced and effective manner. The Delegation indicated that the meeting documents were published late, and unfortunately that presented certain difficulties in its participation. Nonetheless, the Delegation expressed its readiness to participate in the meeting and its willingness over the course of the week to work with all parties in a positive, open and constructive manner, and that it would participate in discussions and consultations.

20. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the Group of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), expressed its pleasure in the Chair's leadership of the Committee and it would ensure its proactive and constructive cooperation in working on the agenda items. The Group expressed its gratitude to the Director General, Daren Tang for his optimistic message reflected in his words with regards to the work ahead. The Group thanked the Secretariat of WIPO for preparing the meeting documents for the session, the information sessions of the different Regional Groups, and for its work and effort that enabled WIPO to continue working despite the situation imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group noted the importance of the agenda for the Organization and the fact that the majority of the agenda items were very specific and significant for the correct functioning of WIPO. The Group indicated that it would have more to say specifically on the agenda items once they were tabled. The good administration of human and financial resources of the Organization and their transparent and effective use was of great importance. The Group congratulated the Organization for the information contained in the WIPO Performance Report 2020 and the Financial Situation as of the End of 2020. The Group expressed that the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 was important, and congratulated the Organization for the vision, "A world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by intellectual property, for the good of everyone." Concerning the Four Strategic Pillars, the Group looked forward to learning more about the form in which they would be reflected in WIPO's activities. With regards to the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, the Group congratulated the Director General for his open, dynamic and constructive spirit that was demonstrated in the preparation and presentation of the proposal, which included all stakeholders. The Group was pleased to see the results-based management that the Organization uses and the strong support for capacity-building. The Group agreed with the

vision that Intellectual Property should be a tool for growth and development. The Group also thanked the Organization for its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and its intention to work closely with the various different bodies of the United Nations system. The Group hoped that work on the Sustainable Development Goal's would provide responses to questions regarding WIPO's participation in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. The Group expressed the importance of the External Offices, their optimization and the utilization of that network of offices as a mechanism to support national offices in identifying, planning for and dealing with the needs of countries and regions. The Group assured the PBC of its intention to collaborate and its commitment to the discussions on that agenda item. The Group also expressed its desire for a solid Language Policy. The Group closed by reiterating its commitment to deliberations on the various agenda items for a successful session.

21. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), thanked the Secretariat for organizing the session and for the preparation of the relevant documents. The Group expressed its great interest in the proposal of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 and also the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which are important for the priorities of WIPO and its work. The Group expressed its desire to see more active work with regards to the IP ecosystem, supporting small and medium enterprises, youth and other excluded groups. Improvisation and innovation was needed, and internships were a good idea to propose. The Group expressed its belief that the activities of WIPO could be supported in specific projects with transparent results. Concerning the WIPO Policy on Languages, the Group was thankful for its review, which it believed would help to ensure automated translations and other tools that could be used for broadening access to Intellectual Property. The Group stated the need of ensuring that specific technical support was available for countries in its region and the enabling of experts from the CACEEC region to work together with the Secretariat of WIPO. The Group was grateful for consultations done by the Secretariat in advance of the session, and the fact that Ambassadors and Intellectual Property experts from the National Offices could address issues of countries in the region with regard to documents presented at the session. The Group expressed that its members at the national level were ready to actively work in the session.

22. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, was delighted to participate in the 32nd session of the PBC, and expressed its confidence in the Chair and Vice-Chair's work to steer the important work of the Committee towards a successful outcome. The Group assured the Chair of its support and cooperation. The Group thanked WIPO for the wonderful work in the preparation for the meeting and outreach to Groups, ahead of the PBC session which would be taking place in a slightly more familiar setting, albeit the fact that not all participants would be participating physically. The Group stated that it was happy to see work slowly coming back to normal after the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had had far-reaching implications. As the pandemic continued to wreak havoc in many parts of the world, particularly in developing countries, WIPO should assume a greater role in assisting countries to deal with the effect of the pandemic, and it should position itself at the center of global efforts to build better. The Group noted that as an important member of the United Nations family, WIPO had a key role to play, and it was pleased to see that the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 was not silent on WIPO's role in dealing with the pandemic and welcomed the remarks of the Director General on this important issue. The Group acknowledged and commended WIPO for committing to assist Member States, and it believed that more concrete actions supplemented by monitoring resources could have been outlined. The Group believed that this could be achieved by, for example, allocating a special fund dedicated to assisting developing countries Intellectual Property offices to respond to the challenges brought about by the pandemic. Capacity-building on technical assistance would be even more important for nations to navigate their way towards a post-pandemic future. Taking into account the negative effect that the pandemic had on that area of work, the Group believed that efforts should be redoubled, to help developing countries use Intellectual Property as a catalyst for development. The Group welcomed the commitment of WIPO in the implementation

of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and in the associated targets, and it believed that WIPO should sustain its efforts on the agenda, as well as contribute to SDGs which had suffered a severe setback as a result of the pandemic. The Group believed that sufficient resources should be allocated to developmental work and that the percentage increase in the budget should reflect the commitment to do more. The Group implored WIPO to continue supporting a balanced Intellectual Property system that ensured that Intellectual Property was an enabler rather than a hindrance in addressing current and future challenges such as access to public health. The Program and Budget Committee provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate that the Intellectual Property system could be a catalyst for growth and for solving some of the world's most pressing problems. The Group stated that it was aware that with every new administration, there was bound to be organizational changes. The Group had noted with interest the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2026, and looked forward to receiving more details about the key elements contained in the document, particularly the pillars and foundations on which it was based on. The Group also noted the methodology used for the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and while the efficiency of the new method could not yet be assessed, the Group hoped that it would assist with streamlining and coordination efforts. The Group stressed that the role of Member States in the program of work and budget process should not be diminished, and that transparency and accountability should be paramount. The Group was aware that the Secretariat had received a response from the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) regarding the set of questions that the Committee raised in the previous session, and believed that the responses from the UNSDG would assist the Committee in its deliberations on that matter, and in deciding the way forward. The Group looked forward to discussions on the two issues from the 31st PBC session, the Terms of Reference for the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, as well as the Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union. The Group hoped that progress would be made on both of these issues as well as progress on the issue of the WIPO Revised Policy on Languages for which the draft document prepared by the Secretariat was appreciated. Finally, the Group looked forward to engaging constructively on all agenda items that week.

23. The Delegation of Tunisia thanked the Chair and the Director General, and stated that it supported the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation expressed that it was convinced that under the Chair's direction, the Committee would be able to make significant progress, and they assured the Chair of its support. The Delegation thanked Director General, Mr. Daren Tang for his opening comments, which it found interesting on some specific points. The Delegation stated that it was keen to discuss the PBC agenda items that week, given the challenges of COVID-19 and its impact on the institution, programs, and objectives. The Delegation believed that WIPO needed to play a major role in supporting Member States in mitigating the effects of the pandemic and to position themselves at the center of the world's efforts for overcoming the pandemic. The Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 defined the strategic direction for WIPO over the following five years, and it would be a source of guidance for the Organization. The Delegation stated that the MTSP was of great interest, and the Delegation was open to working with WIPO on the fundamental elements of the strategic plan, which should enable WIPO to play a leading role in the development of a balanced and inclusive world and Intellectual Property ecosystem. With regards to the 2022/23 biennium, having looked at results-based management, the Delegation reiterated the importance of development. The Group expressed that the development area needed to remain a priority with clear activities in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, using Intellectual Property for job creation, particularly for the youth, for the growth of economies and companies, and for development. The Delegation also welcomed the contribution of WIPO to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the related objectives; and upon reflection on reports, the Delegation underlined the importance of gender equality and the promotion of women both in WIPO policies, activities and programs and also in human resources management. The Delegation also expressed its pleasure in cooperating with the Algeria External Office of WIPO, and underlined the need to

strengthen the financial resources of the Algeria External Office, so that it could continue to provide useful services in the region. The Delegation hoped for progress during the session.

24. The Delegation of Spain thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for leading the session and the Secretariat for organizing and preparing the documents for the Committee to be able to proceed with its work appropriately. The Delegation was also grateful for the WIPO Performance Report 2020, the Financial Situation as of End 2020: Preliminary Results and the information on the COVID-19 pandemic's effect and the Organization's response. The Delegation congratulated WIPO for its move to virtual and remote work to continue its work, and thanked WIPO for its dedicated work to move towards a normal working environment, and ensuring the safety and health of delegations and staff members. The Delegation requested that WIPO continue assisting Member States in overcoming the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The commitment to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Intellectual Property registers and their updating, the arbitration and negotiation platforms of WIPO, the global Intellectual Property system all were important. The Delegation believed that in working towards a stable international health situation, it would be important to help with ensuring that desired outcomes of the Organization were achieved, and these would be shared with the Member States. The Delegation concluded by thanking WIPO for its support.

25. The Delegation of India thanked the Chair for presiding once again over the Program and Budget Committee, and looked forward to his able guidance. The Delegation also placed on record its appreciation of the efforts by the Director General, and the Secretariat for putting together the detailed documentation for the session. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and stated that the work of the Committee was fundamental in shaping the priorities of WIPO, the program, and for the Organization it was also a clear articulation of the vision of the WIPO leadership. The Delegation was therefore pleased to note the new approach, which had been adopted in drafting the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, and the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation stated that while the MTSP emphasized the need for development of valid and inclusive global Intellectual Property system, it should also be noted that the current global Intellectual Property ecosystem did not address the needs of developing countries. It was crucial that the current state be corrected and that the global Intellectual Property ecosystem's response to the needs of developing countries, especially in the areas of public health, education services and agro-technology amongst others be addressed. The Delegation expressed that Intellectual Property should be driving innovation and economic growth and must also remain a tool for development for all countries. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the work of the Organization in 2020, and the steps taken to adapt to challenges posed by the pandemic, so that the quality of Intellectual Property services could continue to be delivered to Member States. With regards to the Organization's draft budget, the new approach moving from a program-based approach to a sector-based approach would provide clearer accountability and greater oversight for the Member States, and it would also be linked to concrete outcomes. The Delegation expressed that it looked forward to the Chair's suggestions and constructive discussions on the Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, in an objective and technical manner as the External Offices remained important in strengthening the Intellectual Property network and inspiring innovation from the grassroots upward. Lastly, the Delegation looked forward to constructive and value-added deliberations in the 32nd session of the Program and Budget Committee.

26. The Delegation of Lebanon congratulated the Chair for leading the session and stated that the work of the community was pivotal if one was to deliver on the establishment of the Intellectual Property environment across the world. The Delegation was also grateful to the Director General for his remarks and to the Secretariat for their reports. The COVID-19 pandemic was a reminder of the importance of remaining vigilant and well prepared to address unforeseen challenges with extremely painful ramifications, particularly in developing countries.

The Delegation shared that Lebanon was well placed to measure the terrible impact on pre-existing fragile situations. For almost 2 years, Lebanon had been grappling with a multifaceted crisis sparked by an economic and financial meltdown. Therefore, the Delegation viewed innovation and creativity for sustainable economic growth and social growth as important tools that could be harnessed for economic recovery. In the same vein the Delegation was pleased that the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 had placed an emphasis on Small and Medium Enterprises and the youth as those were factors of paramount importance for sustainable development. The Delegation welcomed the readiness of WIPO Member States to consider favorably the invitation for WIPO to join the United Nations Sustainable Development Group as they deemed it indispensable for WIPO to be fully engaged in the UN system wide effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, the Delegation hoped that the Secretariat would keep promoting multilingualism by successfully integrating the Revised WIPO Policy on Languages in a comprehensive and financially sustainable manner.

27. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on the behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation thanked the Chair, the Director General and his team for their tireless efforts in conducting the session. The Delegation expressed that it understood the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic had created, and it noted the importance of the 32nd PBC as the Organization was working towards a new biennium on the Program of Work and Budget. The Delegation welcomed the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 as it provided a clear map on the way forward for the Organization in the years to come. The Delegation also appreciated the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 based on the Four Strategic Pillars, foundation and the focus of framework which would be easier to monitor and manage. The Delegation indicated that it would convey more specific comments on those two very important documents once the agenda items were addressed, particularly since it was still in the pandemic era there was now an understanding of how Intellectual Property could play a role in the economic recovery of Member States. The Delegation also expressed that it looked forward to the discussion on the United Nations Sustainable Development Group membership, which it believed that WIPO could play a greater role in. The Delegation also indicated that it looked forward to contributing constructively to the other issues necessary to the continuation of WIPO's work. Furthermore, the Delegation would also look at the opportunity to welcome the WIPO, WHO and WTO tripartite package of services and assess the funds indicated by the Director General. The Delegation also welcomed WIPO's commitment to support and facilitate partnerships and collaborations necessary to ensure the scaling up of COVID-19 related measures, including through providing enabling environments for innovation and technology transfer, utilizing the framework of Intellectual Property. To conclude, the Delegation conveyed its sincere appreciation to the Chair, as well as the Director General and his team for the Organization of the 32nd session of the PBC; and expressed its full confidence in the Chair's leadership. The Delegation indicated that it would participate fully in upcoming discussions.

28. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea thanked the Chair of the PBC and the WIPO Secretariat for their efforts in preparing and arranging the 32nd Program and Budget Committee meeting. The Delegation also thanked the Delegation of Bangladesh for delivering the opening statement on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, which it supported. The Delegation indicated that recently the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang, had hosted a virtual meeting with the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices in the Asia region to explain the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for his efforts to strengthen communication with Member States. Regarding the MTSP, research studies had shown that the Intellectual Property system had positively impacted economic development through protecting and utilizing the output of innovation. From that perspective, the Delegation was aligned with his plan to use Intellectual Property for economic growth and development. In this manner, the Director General had established a new Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystem Sector and had plans to strengthen WIPO's knowledge on Intellectual Property commercialization, Intellectual Property finance and support for SMEs.

Meanwhile, the Korean Intellectual Property Office had acquired a great deal of experience and know-how in Intellectual Property commercialization. The Republic of Korea had notably surpassed about USD 1.8 billion in its Intellectual Property finance market in 2020, and it was in the process of implementing various policies for SMEs. Therefore, based on those experiences, the Republic of Korea would actively cooperate with WIPO to build an ecosystem where Intellectual Property promotes innovation, which leads to economic growth. The Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices would be discussed, and in that regard, the Delegation recalled the 2019 General Assembly's mandate on external offices, which stated that the 31st session of the PBC would decide on the Terms of Reference for evaluation of the entire network of WIPO External Offices to be carried out in 2021. In order to smoothly implement that mandate, the Delegation believed that considering WIPO Secretariat's experience and expertise in conducting evaluations, it would require more active engagement on this agenda item. Furthermore, the Delegation also recalled the 2019 recommendation in which it was stated that the Secretariat should take a more active role. The Delegation indicated that the report should be considered particularly on the WIPO's External Offices. The Delegation expressed that it looked forward to continued constructive discussions with the hope that all delegations would be helpful.

29. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its pleasure that the Chair would be chairing again the Program and Budget Committee. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing the comprehensive documents for the session. The Delegation expressed its support of the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. This session was the first formal discussion of the Director General's Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and the first reading of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation expressed that the following PBC session in September, and the week's session would provide an excellent opportunity to bring up several key issues for the upcoming Assemblies. In the interest of time, the Delegation indicated that it would save any substantive comments for the relevant agenda items. However, the Delegation noted that it appreciated the brevity of both the Medium-Term Strategic Plan and the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, as well as the logical format and approachable layout. The shifting from a program-based approach to sectoral ownership and accountability appeared easier to track, but it would have to be ensured that nothing was lost during the transition phase. The Delegation reiterated that it would have more substantive comments under the relevant agenda items, and stated that it would continue to contribute to interventions that supported discussions during the week.

30. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates was pleased to participate in the Committee meeting, and expressed its confidence in the Chair's ability to lead the work of the meeting to a successful conclusion. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation thanked the Director General for the ongoing efforts in the preparation of the meeting despite the exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation expressed its willingness to participate constructively during discussions in order to find conclusions that could be submitted to the General Assembly. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the comments made by Director General, Daren Tang and also the WIPO Performance Report 2020 and the Financial Situation as of End 2020: Preliminary Results, and praised all efforts carried out for those essential services. The fact that this had been done despite the COVID-19 pandemic in particular, was admirable. The Delegation praised efforts made by the new leadership to take into account the interests of Member States in all fields of intellectual property. The Delegation welcomed the positive and ongoing developments, and the budgetary forecast for the forthcoming biennium, and praised the enviable financial situation of the Organization. The Delegation was in favor of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 and the framework of global challenges, and the fact that it stressed a search for sustainable solutions. Those challenges had led everyone to look for creative, open solutions in order to benefit from technological development. The Delegation was inspired by the efforts of the

Organization to lead them to an Intellectual Property system which is inclusive and balanced in the service of growth, where emphasis would be laid on the role of young people. The Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 would lead to positive results. The Delegation welcomed the approach taken for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in favor of the climate and the fact that guiding principles for the implementation of the programs of the Organization were taking this direction. The Delegation was also in favor of Sustainable Development Goals 17 and 16 and hoped to see them reflected in the strategic pillars. With regard to the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, document WO/PBC/32/6, the Delegation welcomed the fact that WIPO attached great importance to multilingualism as being an essential value. The Delegation welcomed favorably all efforts to adapt to the digitization of communications and called upon all Member States to contribute to the discussion constructively and openly. The Delegation stated that contents of the documents should be made available in all languages, thus overcoming language obstacles, so that platforms throughout the Organization and the world could benefit from it. With regards to the criteria for evaluating external offices for 2021, the Delegation called upon Member States to find a means to moving it forward, objectively and practically. The Delegation welcomed the efforts of the Chair of the Committee to facilitate consultations, to enable the Committee to make a decision that year. In connection with geographical distribution and gender balance, the Delegation insisted on the importance of geographical representation. Additionally, as the role and empowerment of women in the last 10 years had increased, geographical representation had extended to 121 states, nevertheless, more work was needed for representation to be more balanced and complete by way of inclusion. The Delegation concluded by expressing its willingness to participate actively in the work of the Committee, and that it would also participate in discussions on the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026.

ITEM 3 ELECTION OF AN ACTING VICE-CHAIR OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

31. Moving to agenda item 3, the Election of an Acting Vice-Chair of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC), the Chair recognized that the posting of H.E. Excellency, Ms. Katrina Naut, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, ended in 2020. The Chair thanked her for her excellent work as second Vice-Chair of the PBC, wished her every success in her new tasks, and opened the floor for nominations.

32. As there were no nominations forthcoming, the Chair suggested leaving the item opened and encouraged the delegates to make proposals before the end of the week.

33. Returning to the pending agenda item, the Vice-Chair reminded the delegations how important it was to have a Vice-Chair for the Committee in the event that the Chair could not attend. Noting that there still had not been any proposals for nomination of candidates, the Chair asked that the decision paragraph be projected on the screen for the benefit of all delegations. The Chair observed that the wording seemed sufficient and reflected all that had transpired during the session, notably that there had not been any candidates proposed for the position, and that it would therefore remain vacant until such time as nominations were made for the 33rd session of the PBC. The Chair then opened the floor for discussion on the proposal.

34. As there were no objections, the proposal was gavelled.

35. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) decided not to take action on this agenda item.

ITEM 4 WIPO PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020

36. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/2.

37. The Chair suggested that following the Statements from Member States, the Committee move to the next Agenda Item. The Chair reminded participants that Agenda Item 4 dealt with the WIPO Performance Report (WPR) 2020 (WO/PBC/32/2). The Chair explained that the report was for 2020, it was a self-evaluation of the Programs' performance and an assessment of Organizational achievements for 2020. The Chair then invited the Secretariat to introduce the report, and he suggested that discussions be structured according to Strategic Goal.

38. The Secretariat explained that the WPR for 2020 was a mid-biennium report that focused on progress made towards achieving Expected Results with the resources approved in the Program and Budget 2020/21. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 presented unprecedented challenges in relation to the implementation of WIPO's Programs within the framework of the approved Program and Budget 2020/21. In response, the WIPO Secretariat adapted its work processes to ensure continued delivery of its Intellectual Property services and its program of work. The Secretariat explained that the Organization had managed an unprecedented move to a fully remote working environment in a matter of weeks, allowing it to run at 90 per cent productivity only three weeks after the beginning of the crisis. In order to facilitate Member States' monitoring of WIPO's financial situation, productivity of the Global Intellectual Property Systems and other key activities, the Secretariat had published a monthly Crisis Management Dashboard on its website since April 2020. With regards to performance, the Secretariat explained that as compared to the first year of the previous biennium, WIPO's performance in 2020 was slightly lower with 66 per cent of targets assessed as "on track", as compared to 70 per cent in 2018, and 23 per cent were assessed as "not on track", as compared to 20 per cent in 2018. While the Secretariat would never wish to see a decrease in performance, it was heartened that its performance, measured against the indicators decreased only marginally despite the pandemic. The Secretariat explained that, as was the case for the WPR 2018/19, the detailed performance data tables for each Program had been provided through hyperlinks and QR codes, in order to enhance readability and reduce the length of the document, while ensuring no loss of data. The Secretariat explained further that the QR codes were aimed at facilitating access to the information using mobile devices, and they could be accessed through a mobile phone's camera function. The Secretariat recalled that the design, planning and implementation of WIPO's activities in 2020 continued to be guided by the relevant Development Agenda (DA) recommendations. A detailed report on the implementation of the DA would be provided in the WPR 2020/21.

39. The Chair opened the floor for general comments on the WPR for 2020.

40. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive WPR 2020 (WO/PBC/32/2). The Group noted the impact of COVID-19 as set out in the Financial and Results Overview and in Table 1. The Group acknowledged the positive developments at the outset of the pandemic, including the full transition to online delivery of core WIPO services, the set-up of a Crisis Management Team, which oversaw a move to fully remote working, and the publication of an online Crisis Management Dashboard. The Group expressed that it was clear that there had been some underspend in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial reforecasting was an effective tool to react to change through the budget year. The Group wished to know if there had been any attempt at financial reforecasting to enable the budget to be clearly aligned with performance and to understand the underspend and its impact on the Organization. The report also noted a slightly reduced performance in 2020 plus an increase in targets not assessable. While these reductions were small, they were not insignificant, particularly in some areas. The Group was interested in learning if the Secretariat had any specific plans to address the fall in performance, particularly considering the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. The

Group continued to welcome efforts to streamline and improve reporting in that area. The Group expressed that the Strategic Goal Dashboards and an Overview of Performance by Expected Result were particularly useful tools. Reporting in that way had enabled the Group to obtain a comprehensive assessment of Program progress against objectives, an important indicator of value for money. The Group indicated that it would also be helpful to include a traffic light system that would make it clearly visible whether performance was good or poor. The Group expressed that it was mindful that the main driver of WIPO's revenue remained Intellectual Property filing activity through WIPO's services, and it found the PCT, Madrid and Hague actual filings, as set out in Table 3, impressive. The Group remained vigilant of the lag to filings figures that some of those services experienced in relation to real economic developments. The Group requested that the Secretariat provide an update on mid-year 2021 data and that it provide an indication as to the situation at that time. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic would undoubtedly continue to have a significant impact on the Organization, and the Group called on the Secretariat to continue its prudent, cautious and effective management approach to mitigate any negative impact in the 2020/21 biennium and those that follow.

41. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the WPR 2020. The Group noted with appreciation the hard work from all WIPO staff to ensure that the Organization continued to deliver on its mandate, serve various stakeholders, in particular Member States. The Group noted that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 presented unprecedented challenges in relation to the implementation of WIPO's Programs within the framework of the approved Program and Budget 2020/21. The Group indicated that the Secretariat had responded to those challenges by adapting work processes to ensure continued delivery of Intellectual Property services and the program of work. The Group commended WIPO for its agility to adapt its working methods in the face of the challenges brought about by the pandemic. The Group indicated that the WPR indicated in many cases that the new delivery methods allowed for a broader coverage of substantive areas and interactions with a wider range of existing or new stakeholders. It was further mentioned that the demand for activities that were already being delivered through digital means, such as the WIPO Academy distance learning courses, showed a marked increase in performance. The Group welcomed that development and appreciated the geographical breakdown of the participants in the distance learning courses. The Group took the opportunity to reiterate the need to address the digital divide, to ensure greater participation numbers from developing countries. The Group noted that in comparison to the first year of the last biennium, WIPO's performance in 2020 was slightly lower, 66 per cent of targets were assessed as on track as compared to 70 per cent in 2018. The Group expressed that whilst the overall picture was not one of gloom, there were some notable variations between Strategic Goals and Programs. The WPR also indicated that six per cent of indicators were not assessable as compared to one per cent in 2018; the Group was interested to hear why those indicators were not assessable and would appreciate an example of some of those indicators. Finally, the Group thanked the Secretariat again for the detailed report and expressed that it looked forward to the audited and final report for the 2020/21 biennium.

42. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS), thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the WPR 2020. The Group acknowledged the sufficient effort of the Secretariat for adapting processes to the new challenges presented by COVID-19, which showed continued delivery of its services. The Group also noted the role of the Crisis Management Team (CMT) in the move to fully remote working modalities, allowing the Organization to run at 90 per cent productivity in a matter of weeks. The Group also welcomed the Crisis Management Dashboard introduced in 2020 and acknowledged that the pandemic presented unprecedented challenges in relation to the implementation of WIPO Programs. The Group noted a slight reduction in the performance of 2020 and an increase in targets that were not on track or not assessable. However, despite all of the challenges, the Group noted that 66 per cent of targets were assessed as on track. The Group noted with great satisfaction that the vast majority of performance indicators of the

Expected Results under Program 10 had been achieved. The Group concluded by expressing its confidence in the fact that the Secretariat would continue its effective management to reduce any negative impacts in that biennium, and it would navigate with excellent processes in the years that followed.

43. The Delegation of Pakistan commended the efforts of the Secretariat to organize the meeting during such challenging times. The Delegation took note of the positive financial performance, Programs' progress, and the sound financial situation of the Organization. The Group commended the Director General and the Secretariat for adapting WIPO's work processes during the pandemic to ensure continued delivery of its Intellectual Property services. The Group looked forward to the resumption of traditional in-person capacity building and core services for national Intellectual Property Offices and Intellectual Property users during the following biennium.

44. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing the report despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19. Regarding Strategic Goal II, the Group noted that the number of international applications reached 102 per cent of the target; filings showed growth primarily from China, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America. The Delegation explained that the Republic of Korea had made an effort to encourage innovation and creativity, and as a result, it had experienced an increase in the number of patent filings by Korean applicants. The Delegation stated that the Republic of Korea ranked fourth in the world for the number of domestic patent filings and PCT filings in 2020. The Delegation appreciated particularly WIPO's efforts in the transition from PCT-SAFE to ePCT and indicated that no effort would be spared for its smooth transition in the Republic of Korea. Regarding Strategic Goal III, the Delegation noted that WIPO's Academy Distance Learning Program continued to show strong growth in 2020, and 221 participants had graduated from the Joint Master's Degree Programs in 2020. The Delegation appreciated the hard work of all of WIPO's Academy's staff for achieving these results. The Delegation then shared a few important achievements in the field of Intellectual Property education accomplished under Korea's Funds-In-Trust (FITs) during 2020. First, virtual education was successfully implemented, and in 2020, 202 students completed virtual summer school and advanced international certificate courses. There was a 248 per cent increase in students as compared to in-person education last year. Regarding the Master's Degree Program on Intellectual Property and Development with the Korean Development Institute School, and Intellectual Property-related education for 18 public officials from 16 developing countries in 2020 was carried out. The Delegation indicated that despite COVID-19, the Master's Degree Program would proceed normally as planned and the Delegation sought Member States' interest in recruiting new participants in that program for the following year. The Delegation explained that there were no limitations in region, nationality, or affiliated institution. Finally, the Delegation announced that the white paper on block-chain would be published with funding from Korea's FIT. The Republic of Korea had observed that block-chain technology was one of the destructive technologies of the fourth industrial revolution, which impacted every industry such as finance, supply chain, and government services, where the technology had been piloted by different countries and used in business areas, including emerging economies. The Delegation shared that in the Republic of Korea, a COVID-19 vaccination certification system based on block-chain technology was developed for the first time in the world, and that system was actively and widely used by Korean users. The Delegation noted that the technology was being used in the Intellectual Property community as well, in particular in the Intellectual Property private sector. However, that technology was still in the early stages. The Delegation believed that it was crucial to gather information and exchange experiences among Intellectual Property Offices and Intellectual Property industry stakeholders. Therefore, they had allocated the funds for the International Bureau to prepare the white paper on block-chain for the Intellectual Property ecosystem. The Delegation concluded by stating that it hoped that the International Bureau would publish the white paper shortly afterwards, so that stakeholders and

interested parties could see the potential of that destructive technology, that would be a good basis for discussions of its benefits and challenges for the Intellectual Property ecosystem.

45. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for preparing the WPR 2020. The Delegation noted with appreciation that last year even though WIPO faced unprecedented circumstances, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the change of high-level management, the Organization positively overcame all those difficulties and challenges, and made all efforts to push forward all of its work and made progress in various aspects. The Delegation took the opportunity to express opinions on various aspects of the document. First, the Delegation noted that page 10 listed the budget and the expenditure of WIPO in 2020. Primarily owing to the impact of the pandemic, the expenditure of the Organization decreased by 56.3 million Swiss francs in 2020 when compared to the previous budget. Most of that was due to the decrease of non-personnel expenditure. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would make better use of the resources saved during the pandemic and that it would consider investing more in the implementation of the Development Agenda and the provision of more convenient, more credible and high quality global Intellectual Property services to worldwide applicants in the future. Second, the Delegation noted that the performance indicators of Program 19 Communication mentioned that 75 per cent, which was six out of eight, of the executive summaries of WIPO flagship publications, and 80 per cent which was four out of five of WIPO's global publications on substantive Intellectual Property topics had been translated into all official UN languages. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for that achievement, and hoped that WIPO would keep the proactive momentum and utilize all the UN official languages in its global Intellectual Property services as soon as possible. Third, the Delegation noted that the performance indicators of Program 20, External Offices pointed out that traffic to the website of the WIPO Office in China had decreased by 12 per cent last year. However, the related footnote indicated that 110,000 unique page views of the article published on the WIPO Office in China WeChat public account was not computed. The Delegation took the opportunity to state that, in fact, the WIPO Office in China in previous years had positively organized or participated in various Intellectual Property promotions of awareness events and activities in China, these events were not only published on the WIPO website but promoted in English and Chinese in the WIPO Office in China WeChat public account. Those communications drew widespread attention and were shared widely among the Chinese population, thus increasing profoundly the visibility and popularity of WIPO among Chinese users. The Delegation suggested that statistics of social media should be included in the related performance indicators of External Offices in the future. Fourth, concerning the Language Service in Program 27, the Delegation was of the view that considerable work had been done by WIPO in providing language services, especially that the quality of the Chinese translated document was very good. That was a reflection of the excellent professionalism of the Chinese translators. However, the Delegation pointed out with regret that there was still some room for improvement for the quality of interpretation and the timeliness of translations. The Delegation explained, for example, that there was missing and misinterpretation in a few WIPO meetings, and all of the Chinese translations of the meeting documents of that year's PCT Working Group, and the PBC's session, were published online just before the meeting, which to some extent affected the Delegation's preparation for the meeting. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would improve the management and increase input in that regard and that it would also ensure the quality of Chinese interpretation and the timeliness of Chinese translations. Fifth, the Delegation took note that the operations of the three WIPO global Intellectual Property services had not been significantly affected despite the severe impact brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The majority of performance indicators for the Expected Results of the PCT, Madrid and the Hague Systems remained stable, whilst some were making additional progress. It was further noted that the average cost of processing published PCT applications and new or renewed international Madrid registrations had continued to decline and the Hague System had made progress in the timeliness of processing international applications. The Delegation congratulated WIPO for the sound results reached in operating the three WIPO Intellectual Property services. That also brought to light the fact that utilizing IT technologies, including,

inter alia, remote working modalities would ensure the stable operations of the global WIPO services during the pandemic and the period that followed. Therefore, the Delegation suggested that WIPO consider undertaking an evaluation of remote working of global Intellectual Property systems during the pandemic, which could serve as a reference for WIPO's future operations during extraordinary circumstances such as the pandemic. Finally, the Delegation expressed opinions on the cloud first strategy related contents of one of the project's progress reports, namely Capital Master Plan Project 9: PCT Resilient and Secure Platform Phase 1. The Delegation expressed its concern with the data security risks brought by the implementation of WIPO's conference strategy to applicants and users during the 31st session of the PBC in 2020. The Delegation reiterated that the duplication of emerging technology would help UN agencies such as WIPO enhance and increase the efficiency and the quality of its operations. However, the Delegation stated that data security should be given primary consideration in introducing cloud technology to WIPO. The Delegation expressed that the Organization should take all the appropriate and the necessary measures to ensure the security of sensitive data, like PCT unpublished applications. To that regard, the Delegation hoped that WIPO would implement its cloud first strategy in a proper manner and that it would ensure data security of WIPO clients to the maximum extent. That would effectively guarantee the interest of Intellectual Property users from all over the world to facilitate the wider use of WIPO global Intellectual Property services, and particularly to ensure the long-term development of WIPO itself.

46. The Delegation of Japan expressed its gratitude to the Chair of the PBC, the Director General, as well as the Secretariat for their dedication and efforts in organizing the meeting. The Delegation aligned itself with the Statement delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing the WPR 2020. The Delegation wished to comment on the results noted in the report. Regarding Program 18, Intellectual Property and Global Challenges, the Delegation recognized the fact that 80 per cent of the performance indicators were “on track,” with good performance data notably for WIPO GREEN. The Japan Patent Office had been supporting activities of the WIPO GREEN. The Japan Patent Office held an international symposium on WIPO GREEN with the supported by WIPO in June that year. The Delegation indicated that many documents and archived video were available on the Japan Patent Office website. Regarding Program 31, the Hague System, the Delegation had a question on “Indicators of the Hague System” in Annex VII. The chart entitled “Irregularities in Applications” on page 88 showed that the number of irregularities had rapidly increased in 2020. The Delegation assumed that that had a negative impact on the International Bureau and users. Therefore, the Delegation wished to know the reason for the increase. Regarding the Funds-in-Trust (FIT) Progress Report 2020, in Annex VIII, the Delegation was pleased to see that the FIT had contributed to many good results, and expressed that Japan wanted to continue its contribution through the FIT.

47. The Delegation of the Russian Federation welcomed the Chair since it was their first time taking the floor, and expressed that under the Chair's leadership the session would be constructive and successful. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for the WPR 2020, and for the fact that it had managed to continue with the majority of its work despite the difficult conditions. The Delegation understood the reasons for the indicators showing a slightly lower performance, and hoped that innovation of new methods would still enable the achievement of the foreseen biennium's outcomes. The Delegation was pleased with growth in patent activity and registrations in the area of Intellectual Property, despite the complicated conditions of the pandemic. Important Treaties had been signed; there had also been positive trends in the demand for WIPO services and collaboration, and the number of participants in the WIPO Academy courses, and there were translations of various manuals into WIPO official languages. The Delegation stated that the global infrastructure for Intellectual Property, the development of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automatic translation, and also the broadening of the network of Intellectual Property should help to broaden the scope. Concerning respect for Intellectual Property, the Delegation had seen that there were increased

resources for that. The Delegation expressed that work needed to continue with External Offices, as it was convinced that External Offices were an important tool for achieving WIPO's aims for global services in the various regions of the world, especially since there were so many limitations to travel at that time. With regards to the geographical representation of WIPO staff, the Delegation believed that work was still needed regarding an equitable geographical distribution, and it could be useful for the issue of diversification and also for the expertise that people could bring to the Organization. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the projects that were being implemented for users for Intellectual Property and the international registration system. In some of the projects and more generally, cloud technology was being used and some Member States in the previous session looked at the problem of potential confidentiality risks with the use of the cloud. Therefore, for the PCT a hybrid structure was proposed. The Delegation expressed that an improved system for the protection of data needed to be ensured for safeguards and for confidentiality. With regards to confidentiality of data and users, the Delegation indicated that it would address the issue again concerning WIPO's use of cloud technology at the 33rd session of the Committee. The Delegation closed by expressing its wish that work would continue with the same levels of results and effectiveness.

48. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Secretariat for the WPR 2020. The Delegation expressed that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO continued to have a very strong financial position, which was due to the volume of fees received. The Delegation encouraged and supported the continued good stewardship of resources. Notwithstanding the overall positive situation at the end of 2020, the Delegation welcomed clarifications regarding some transfers that were noticed in several programs throughout the report. Specifically, the Delegation saw that after the 2021 budget was approved, there were sizeable transfers to the budget for Expected Result II.9, which was, "Wider and more effective use of the Lisbon System, including by developing countries and LDCs", in Program 9, Program 10, and Program 20. The Delegation requested that the Secretariat provide a breakdown and the purpose of these rather significant transfers to indicator II.9, which was particularly notable because, during 2020, they had seen that budgets had decreased in most cases for Expected Results II.1, "Wider and more effective use of the PCT..."; II.3, "Wider and more effective use of the Hague System...", and II.5, "Wider and more effective use of the Madrid System...". The Delegation requested clarifications regarding the reduction of these budgets and most importantly, from where the money for those transfers to Expected Result II.9 was moved.

49. The Delegation of Canada thanked the Chair and expressed its support of the Statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation also commended the Secretariat on its ability to rapidly adapt to the changing circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. That was testament to the readiness and resilience of WIPO and to the efforts of its staff. Regarding the WPR 2020, the Delegation requested further information in reference to page 11 of that document, which it quoted, "Other expenditures directly related to the impact of COVID-19 on the Organization's operations included cleaning and disinfection products, furniture and equipment for a new layout requirements," Program 24, "Purchase of medical supplies and additional medical staff," and "Lunch allowances" Program 23. The Delegation requested that the Secretariat explain the reference made to "Lunch allowances", under Program 23.

50. The Delegation of Tunisia aligned itself with the Statement made by South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation had taken note of document WO/PBC/32/2, which was the WPR 2020. The Delegation congratulated the Secretariat for the efforts made and for the transparent and detailed information provided, in addition to the way it had been prepared. The Delegation was aware that the report had been published during exceptional circumstances owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had had an impact on the implementation of WIPO Programs and also on the budget approved for 2020/21. Given all of these elements, the Delegation believed that the performance of the Organization had been positive overall. The Delegation congratulated the Secretariat for having moved rapidly to a remote working

environment shortly after the beginning of the crisis, noting that it had managed to achieve over 90 per cent productivity. The Delegation noted that results had been achieved within the framework of certain Strategic Goals. Additionally, the Delegation indicated that an overview had been provided taking into consideration the implementation of recommendations for the Development Agenda. The Delegation noted with satisfaction that WIPO services had continued to function as optimally as possible in the various fields of its activity. The Delegation concluded by encouraging WIPO to continue with its efforts in order to adapt as well as possible to the new work methods, in that, in order to obtain a maximum and sustainable impact of its work.

51. The Secretariat thanked the delegations for their questions and comments and noted that answers to questions may be supplemented with additional input and would be provided broadly in the order that they were received. In response to the question from the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, the Secretariat stated that underspend from last year due to COVID-19 was certainly something that it was addressing. In response to the point raised by the Delegation of China regarding underperformance in 2020, the Secretariat explained that it had seen the potential for some catching up during 2021 in terms of projects. The indicators in question that resulted in a slight underperformance were so owing to the pandemic, and, since the Organization operates a biennial Program of Work and Budget, it looked to catch as much as it could in 2021. The Secretariat indicated that further information would be provided on forecasting. For registrations, the Secretariat acknowledged the delay between research and development, or creative activity and the start of the registration process, and then, a second delay, which was due to the revenue recognition policies in the accounting standards, and that was followed closely by the Secretariat. The Secretariat then indicated that the Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 had been drafted to take that delay into account as well as the economic uncertainty caused by the delay.

52. The Secretariat recalled that the Director General had spoken of a “K” shaped recovery that had already been seen in some industry sectors where research and development, and thus filings, were booming because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provided the example of online teleconferencing. Equally, the Secretariat indicated that there were some other industry sectors that struggled, caused by the fall in demand in the global economy. As a result, those industry sectors’ filings would decrease. It then noted that the COVID-19 crisis management dashboard published monthly updates, including the latest data on registrations. In terms of the missed targets, the Secretariat expressed that it was difficult to comment on that in general, and that it was available for further comment on any particular indicators. The Secretariat explained that indicators were being reviewed, noting, for instance, that in the Administration, Finance and Management Sector, it had become clear that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many indicators would no longer be relevant, as their relevance had been stretched. For example with regards official meetings, the Secretariat explained that the Organization had to move very quickly to a calendar of virtual meetings. That involved much consultation, including with all delegations. That circumstance then had a knock-on effect on a whole set of indicators, for example, around the timeliness of documents and so forth.

53. In response to the Delegation of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, on the importance of addressing the digital divide, including through technical assistance, the Secretariat explained that it had continued to reach out to as broad a group as it could, and that it had been an issue that was being taken into account by the Regional and National Development Sector as well as by all Sector Leads. The Secretariat sought to maximize the benefits of being able to offer capacity-building exercises through a virtual format and indicated that it needed to ensure that customers could access them and use them properly; further comments would be made on that matter. The Secretariat indicated that an example of a non-assessable indicator would be provided. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation of the Republic of Korea for its generous comments on the Joint Master’s Program, and work being done via the Korean FIT. Concerning block-chain technologies and the reference made to their

disruptive effect across many industrial sectors, the Secretariat explained that such developments were followed closely and an update on the precise timing of the block-chain white paper would be provided.

54. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation of China, for their generous comments on Program 19, in particular the translation of executive summaries of the flagship publications. The Secretariat took the topic seriously, notably though the new proposed strategy on multilingualism, which would be addressed in more detail. The Secretariat indicated that it had taken note of the suggestions for indicators for social media. Regarding the quality of interpretation and the timeliness of translation, the Secretariat thanked the Delegation for acknowledging the improvements. It was important to note that the Organization worked in a competitive market for interpreters and that there were many organizations that competed for talent in the area. Therefore, the Secretariat had to be mindful to ensure that it could bring in the best interpreters. One way to do that was to provide as much notice as possible for interpretation needs. The Secretariat had tried for the remainder of that year to expedite the calendar and get back to the Member States as soon as possible, which helped. In the following year, the Secretariat wished to proceed in the same manner, which was to get the calendar of meetings out as early as possible, which allowed interpretation colleagues to find the very best interpretation talent for all meetings. The Secretariat apologized for the timeliness of documents and explained that the English version had an effect on the translated versions for the PBC, and the two-month deadline for PBC documents. The delay was also a consequence of the new Sector Leads supporting the Director General starting work in January as a result, rather than three months earlier. The Secretariat concluded by apologizing to the Committee for the slight delay, which resulted in translated documents being published later than the ideal deadline.

55. In response to the question on data security from the Delegation of the Russian Federation, who had referred to the Capital Master Plan Project 9, the Secretariat explained that the WPR 2020 set out the performance of the project in 2020. The Secretariat also stated that while the implementation of the first phase of that program had started, during the PBC session in September 2020, it had been requested that the part of the project related to the cloud be put on hold, pending further discussions with Member States. The Secretariat assured the Committee that the implementation of the cloud components of Capital Master Plan Project 9, the PCT Resilient and Secure Platform, remained on hold. The Secretariat further explained that the new leadership team was examining the issue and it was in the process of engaging with Member States. The Secretariat assured Member States that it understood that it was a sensitive area and was fully committed to ensuring that confidential unpublished PCT data was protected in a manner that maintained the confidence of the users and Member States. The Secretariat also recalled that in line with the approach that had been taken since the new administration had taken office, it would continue to proceed with transparency. It was a complicated issue, and it required more time, months, not days. Therefore, the Secretariat said that some more time was needed and that it was a point that was taken seriously. The Secretariat was committed to ensuring that data were protected, and would proceed with consultations with Member States on the issue.

56. The Secretariat expressed its thanks to the Delegation of Japan, for its generous comments on WIPO GREEN, including the Symposium. The Secretariat continued by informing the Committee that it would receive a response to the question of the Hague System's irregularities referenced on page 88, and to the questions for the Delegation of the United States of America on transfers and from the Delegation of Canada on lunch allowances. The Secretariat responded to the question from the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, on how the Organization had performed after 2020. The Secretariat indicated that it was a pertinent question and it pertained to income from fees as that remained the lifeline of the Organization. The matter was an important priority, and the Organization monitored the income

streams very closely. The Secretariat explained that it liaised with the WIPO Chief Economist on his forecasts, which was relied on significantly for income forecasts. The Chief Economist provided quarterly forecast updates which were based on a historical model, and that had served the Organization well over the course of time. The Secretariat explained that beyond 2020, the Organization had actually been on a positive trajectory on all of the Systems. The latest report at that at the end of May 2021 showed that the number of international PCT applications reached 95 per cent of the target at the end of May, and that was an increase of six per cent as compared to April. Similarly, the number of applications under the Madrid System reached 97 per cent of the target at the end of May 2021, which was up six percentage points from the end of April 2021. The number of registrations and renewals were at 91 per cent and 95 per cent respectively. For the Hague System, 80 per cent of the target was reached by the end of May, up three percentage points again from April. The number of registrations was at 96 per cent of the target, and the number of renewals reached 136 per cent of the target. So overall, the income streams were on a positive trajectory. However, the Secretariat explained that, as the Director General had said clearly, there was no time to be complacent. The Secretariat explained that the results were being monitored through multiple methods, from a financial point of view, from the Controller's Office, and by the Director General, who presided over the Risk Management Group, where a review of economic and financial risks were an essential topic of the meetings. The Secretariat then indicated that WIPO's Crisis Management Dashboard would continue to be updated for the Member States' benefit and reference on a monthly basis. With regards to the suggestion to use a the traffic light system for performance data, the Secretariat indicated that it already existed; it was simply that different shades of blue were used in place of the traditional colors of green, amber and red.

57. With regards to the detailed questions from the Delegation of the United States of America on the budget after transfers and the breakdown of those transfers, the Secretariat indicated that it would provide the requested details to follow. The Secretariat also informed the delegations that an updated Questions and Answer document (Q&A) with more detailed information including tables would be published, and information on indicators that were not assessed would be provided. The Secretariat was pleased that delegations were engaged in the WPR 2020, as it had taken a great deal of time and effort to prepare, and that it represented an accountability tool that was greatly valued. Most importantly, it also provided the Organization with inputs for the following cycle, and the learnings from the WPR 2020 had fed into the planning and budgeting for the following planning cycle as well.

58. The Secretariat addressed the matter of the increase in performance indicators that were considered not assessable. There was a five per cent increase, and measurement methods had to be adapted because of COVID-19. For example, for conducting tests and surveys, some were done in-person before, and thus they had to be adapted to a remote working environment. That meant that in some cases, it had been difficult to do, and some of the performance data were not available at the beginning of the year. In other cases, meetings or activities had been cancelled or postponed, for example, with Standing Committees, there was a decision to postpone some of them, and therefore, the indicator relating to them could not be assessed. A third example of a non-assessable indicator was owing to travel restrictions: since there was very little travel during 2020, it had not become relevant to assess the time for processing tickets. Those were mainly the reasons for the slight increase in the number of indicators that had been non-assessable.

59. Concerning the question from the Delegation of Canada related to lunch allowances on COVID in the footnote, the Secretariat informed the Delegation that during the confinement when teleworking had begun, non-essential personnel were teleworking. However, essential personnel had to be at WIPO's premises, and since everything was closed, both the cafeteria and all the surrounding restaurants, there was very little possibility for actually getting any lunch

or the possibility for having lunch while working on the premises. Therefore, the Secretariat for a limited period paid a small lunch allowance to essential personnel at WIPO's premises.

60. Regarding the question from the Delegation of the United States of America, the Secretariat requested additional time to prepare a breakdown for transfers relating to Expected Result II.9.

61. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation of Japan for the question regarding page 88 of the WPR 2020, where it appeared that there had been a sharp increase in the number of irregularities found in applications processed in 2020, but as explained in the bullet immediately underneath the graph, that was due to the very unique situation in 2019 and 2020. The Secretariat recalled that in 2019, the Hague Registry had migrated to a new platform that had the effect of slowing down registration activities. With a view to catching up towards the latter part of 2019, there had been a deliberate focus on regular applications, which meant that the applications that would lead to an issuance of an irregularity were deferred to 2020. In 2020 on the contrary, the backlog was dealt with, and an extraordinary number of applications was processed, including the 2019 applications that had been left aside because of irregularities. As a result, that gave a distorted picture as to the relative number of irregularities found in 2020; it was a unique situation. The Secretariat took note of the fundamental point made by the Delegation and indicated that it would always strive to find new ways to prevent applicants from making irregularities, by building, for example, more intelligence into the electronic filing system and as more contracting parties joined, making more declarations that would bring new requirements into the system. That had been taken into consideration by the Organization for a number of years, and it would continue to do so, especially with the Hague Externalization Program, which was a Capital Master Plan project.

62. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its response. The Chair suggested that subsequent to the extensive clarifications provided by the Secretariat and particularly in light of the future clarifications that would follow during the week, the Committee could close the discussions on that Agenda Item with a proposed decision. He read a draft decision paragraph to close Agenda Item 4 "The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) having reviewed the WIPO Performance Report (WPR) for 2020 (document WO/PBC/32/2), and recognizing its nature as a self-assessment of the Secretariat, recommended to the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, to take note of the positive financial performance and Programs' progress towards achieving the expected results in 2020." The Chair said if Members agreed with that decision and as he had specified, all the questions on which Delegations asked for clarification will be answered in detail by the Secretariat in the course of the following two days.

63. The Delegation of the United States of America took the floor and requested that the Agenda Item 4 remain open until all answers to questions were received. The Chair agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

64. The Secretariat responded to the question from the Delegation of the United States of America related to details on the resources for Expected Result II.9. The Secretariat explained that the Program and Budget was prepared well in advance of the start of the new biennium, and it was based on a high-level planning of program activities and a set of assumptions. For Program 9, Program 10 and Program 20, the budgeted amounts for Expected Result II.9 were 71,000 Swiss francs, 10,000 Swiss francs, and 21,000 Swiss francs respectively. The approved Program and Budget was then operationalized through the annual work planning process, where more detailed estimations, in particular for personal resources allocated to an activity, was carried out. The Secretariat explained that for Program 9, Program 10 and Program 20, the budget after transfer amounted to 386,000 Swiss francs, 332,000 Swiss francs, and 282,000 Swiss francs respectively, and the actual expenditure reflected actual implementation. For the three Programs, the actual expenditure in 2020 for Expected Result II.9 was 89,000 Swiss

francs, 34,000 Swiss francs and 100,000 Swiss francs respectively, i.e. far lower than the budget after transfers. The Secretariat reassured the Delegation that there had been no transfers of resources into Programs 9, 10 and 20 to support the implementation of Expected Result II.9. The increase reflected in the budget after transfers reflected a reallocation of personal resources within those Programs to Expected Result II.9. The Secretariat indicated that that reallocation had no adverse impact on the promotion of the PCT, Madrid, and the Hague Systems, for which the budget after transfer for 2021 across the Organization had increased by 4.5 per cent.

65. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Secretariat for the explanation and requested the response in writing, since it had been difficult to capture all the numbers. The Delegation followed up by saying that it wanted to ensure that it had understood that what remained after the after-budget transfers was 297,000 Swiss francs, 298,000 Swiss francs and 182,000 Swiss francs respectively for the calendar year 2021, was what was still available after budget transfers, minus what had already been spent. The Delegation said that was considerably more than what had been agreed to in the 2020/21 Program and Budget, and the Delegation stated that it would have to digest the information. The Delegation concluded by requesting clarification on from where the money was transferred.

66. The Secretariat responded and explained that there was, in fact, no transfer. It was a question of operationalization. The Secretariat clarified by explaining that at the time of preparation of the Program and Budget document, there were high-level program activities and a set of assumptions and high-level resource envelopes associated with the activities. The following step was the annual work planning process and, at that time, Sector Leads and senior managers across the Organization plan their work in more detail. At that time of detailed workplanning both personnel resources and non-personnel resources would be allocated to each activity. Those increases in question arose from linking of additional personnel resources or staff time to activities that would contribute to Expected Result II.9. The Secretariat reiterated that there had been no transfers; it had been an allocation from within those Programs and in particular staff time.

67. The Chair thanked the Secretariat and suggested that clarifications be provided in writing for the Delegation for the United States of America. He also requested that additional time be given for the analysis of the documents and believed that there may be supplementary and complimentary elements that should be available concerning the questions raised the day before.

68. The following day, the Delegation of the United States of America took the floor and thanked the Secretariat again and suggested that Agenda Item 4 be closed since its Delegation did not have any objections.

69. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of the United States of America for its constructive proposal. He recalled that Agenda Item 4 on the WPR 2020 was still pending, and the item could then be concluded. The Vice-Chair asked if the Delegation of the United States of America had any further points to make on Agenda Item 4. There were none. The Vice-Chair indicated that then he would proceed with the proposed decision on the screen to conclude the Agenda Item which was adopted.

70. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC), having reviewed the WIPO Performance Report (WPR) for 2020 (document WO/PBC/32/2), and recognizing its nature as a self-assessment of the Secretariat, recommended to the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, to take note of the positive financial performance and Programs' progress towards achieving the expected results in 2020.

ITEM 5 FINANCIAL SITUATION AS OF END OF 2020: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

71. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/INF/1.

72. The Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to present the document.

73. The Secretariat mentioned that the document provided the preliminary financial figures for 2020. At the time of preparing the document, these were subject to audit. The audited financial statements for 2020 would be submitted formally to the September 2021 session of the Program and Budget Committee. However, the Secretariat was very pleased to share that WIPO had received an unqualified audit opinion from the External Auditors on the financial statements. The document was intended to provide Member States with the latest available financial updates as background information for the discussions on the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Organization's preliminary result for 2020 showed a surplus for the year of 135.9 million Swiss francs, with total revenue, excluding special accounts, of 463 million Swiss francs and total expenses of 352 million Swiss francs. This could be compared to a surplus of 97.7 million Swiss francs in 2019, with total revenue, excluding special accounts, of 447.2 million Swiss francs and total expenses of 386.3 million Swiss francs. Total revenue in 2020 was up by 15.8 million Swiss francs, or 3.5 per cent, on the 2019 figure. The COVID-19 pandemic affected some activities in 2020 which resulted in lower expenditure on travel, both missions and third-party travel, due to a shift to virtual delivery and or cancellation or postponement of meetings, delays in IT developments and enhancements of IT applications and lower personnel costs due to delays in recruitment and onboarding. On the other hand, the Secretariat had of course, incurred additional expenditures in certain areas of work, including cleaning, medical expenses as well as ICT equipment that was needed to perform all of the tasks virtually. The document also provided details of expenditure in 2020 by individual programs, the 2020 results by Union and a financial outlook for 2021. Linking back to the earlier discussion and the question on re-forecasting, the Secretariat was happy to share that it undertook a comprehensive review on a monthly basis across all Sectors and programs to identify changes in assumptions, any deviations from the plan and any new needs so that the Director General could then take suitable resourcing decisions.

74. The United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for providing the financial situation as of end of 2020: preliminary results contained in document WO/PBC/31/INF/1. The Group noted that the report was based on non-audited figures. While performance was lower – with only 66 per cent of targets assessed as on track – the Delegation was pleased that WIPO's Core and Strategic Cash investments recorded positive returns of 4.8 per cent and 5.8 per cent, respectively. Significant efforts had been made to strengthen WIPO's cash management and banking strategies, which largely safeguarded WIPO's Operating Cash assets from the impact of negative interest charges. The Group hoped that such positive trends coupled with these efforts would continue.

75. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for their financial report. The Group noted that the reports were preliminary and that the audited results would be presented at the following session of the PBC. The Group was pleased to see that the projected income for the biennium would most probably be achieved, as the results for the registration systems indicated that they were operating optimally. The Group welcomed this and recognized that the healthy financial standing of the Organization provided an opportunity to pursue sustainable programs. The Group noted that the expenditure had been cut within the limits and that there was an overall 43 per cent utilization rate of the budget by program. The Group looked forward to the final audited figures.

76. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for having provided the 2020 financial report, which was rich in content and with lots of precisions. The report had been prepared in strict accordance with IPSAS requirements. With regard to the long-term health of the financial

situation of WIPO and the continued increase in the surplus and net assets, the Delegation was pleased with this and believed that WIPO had mainly benefited from the continued growth of the applications as well as the development of the PCT system. The financial surplus of WIPO for 2020 had reached an unprecedented level of approximately 136 million Swiss francs. This was the result of the increased use of global intellectual property systems. The development expenditure had been impacted by COVID-19. The Delegation suggested that, moving forward, WIPO, in particular given the new norm and post COVID-19 situation, allocate greater resources to increase across-the-board the intellectual property service system worldwide, as well as to promote development through the intellectual property system.

77. As there were no further requests for the floor the following decision was adopted:

78. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) took note of the contents of the document (WO/PBC/32/INF/1).

ITEM 6 MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN (MTSP) 2022-2026

79. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/3.

80. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 6, Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026. The Chair stated that the document provided high level strategic guidance for the preparation of the corresponding program of work and budgets covered by the MTSP, outlined WIPO's strategic direction for the five-year period and served as a source of inspiration and guidance for the Organization. At the working lunches in Geneva with the Ambassadors prior to the 32nd PBC session, the Director General outlined the MTSP 2022-2026 and was receptive to the comments and suggestions received at those lunches. The Chair thanked the Director General for interacting directly with him at the lunches and invited the Director General to introduce the document.

81. The Director General introduced the MTSP 2022-2026 of the new Administration. He reiterated his deep appreciation to the Member States for the enthusiastic and constructive way they had engaged with him and his colleagues in putting together the MTSP 2022-2026. Their guidance, direction and feedback had inspired the MTSP 2022-2026. The MTSP 2022-2026 was as much their vision, as it was that of the Secretariat, and he looked forward to working together with all delegations to bring the MTSP 2022 – 2026 to life. The Director General stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had claimed lives and livelihoods, and set back the common aspirations for a better and fairer world by the end of the decade, as encapsulated in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, in the midst of the crisis, there had been glimpses of hope and opportunity. Innovation in health and medicine had allowed the prevention, treatment and vaccination of people, and innovation in communications had allowed the connection, engagement and collaboration of people whilst thousands of miles apart. More broadly, the COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated pre-existing trends towards the globalization of innovation, and increased the importance of Intellectual Property, innovation and creativity to all countries in the world. These opportunities, however, came with challenges. The knowledge and awareness of Intellectual Property, and its powerful role as a catalyst, remained low. The fruits of innovation and creativity had been unevenly distributed. Solving global challenges and achieving the SDGs required even more effective international co-operation. It was therefore not enough to be satisfied with business as usual and to want to merely stay the course when the world was entering into new and uncharted waters. The MTSP 2022-2026 shared with delegations was an MTSP that would lift up and broaden the work of WIPO, and support delegations in rising to the new challenges and opportunities that lay ahead. The MTSP 2022-2026 Vision is "A world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by intellectual property, for the good of everyone." WIPO aspired to have every Member State, especially developing countries and Least Developed Countries, use Intellectual Property as a powerful tool to create jobs, attract investments, support enterprise growth, lift up communities

and ultimately develop dynamic economies and vibrant societies. To do that, the organization would need to continue doing well in its traditional areas of strength as the global norm and standard setting agency for Intellectual Property, and in the provision of our global services. While WIPO must continue to do that well, the organization must also go beyond the technical and legal aspects of Intellectual Property, to bring alive its pragmatic and development aspects. WIPO must engage not just with Intellectual Property experts and specialists, but also with those on the ground, so that laypersons, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), women, youths and others who had not been fully served by the Intellectual Property ecosystem begin to understand how Intellectual Property is already part of their lives and begin to see how it is also a part of their dreams and aspirations. This was why the MTSP's Mission must be to build a balanced and effective global Intellectual Property ecosystem that supports everyone in using Intellectual Property to grow and develop. WIPO must also play its part in addressing inequities in development. The Development Agenda would continue to play a key role in WIPO's work, but WIPO must innovate its support to create real impact on the ground. That meant going beyond an activity based approach to finding projects and partnerships that could deliver tangible results at the grassroots level, and help member states build back better. WIPO would redouble its work with external stakeholders and partners across the United Nations family and beyond so that the organization could address global issues and achieve the aspirations of the 2030 SDGs. WIPO's Vision and Mission were underpinned by 4 Strategic Pillars and a Foundation. The Director General clarified that those Strategic Pillars and Foundation were not intended to describe Sector-specific work, but to describe priorities for WIPO that cut across the whole organization. They served the same function for WIPO, as the SDGs did for the United Nations family, signaling where common aspirations and energies would be channeled. The first Strategic Pillar is focused on outreach and engagement, but broadened it beyond Intellectual Property specialists and experts to everyone, everywhere. Intellectual Property is seen as highly technical, complex and enigmatic, with the result that not many understand its importance to their lives, and more importantly, it's potential to help them take their ideas to the world. Intellectual Property needed to be brought to the general public and other stakeholders at the grassroots level like SMEs, and share with them the value and usefulness of Intellectual Property in a way that they could understand and connect with. WIPO would continue to engage its fellow Intellectual Property experts in specialist forums and channels, but WIPO's reach needed to broaden beyond them, and WIPO's strategy would need to evolve to encompass content for a more general audience. The 2020 World Intellectual Property Day campaign, which centered on the theme of "SMEs – from Ideas to Market" was an example of that approach. Youth would be an area of focus for engagement. If WIPO were to reach the innovators and creators of the future, it must not only speak their language but be active on the platforms they used on a daily basis. WIPO had stepped-up its presence on social media and that would continue, alongside with the creation of original, longer-form content from our Media Studio. WIPO's website and publications would also see a shift in the way content would be presented, as well as greater emphasis on the broader use of languages, so as to reach out to new audiences, and in line with WIPO's ethos of multilingualism. Strategic Pillars 2 and 3 describe WIPO's traditional areas of strength. Those inner pillars remain the bedrock of WIPO's work and would continue to be at the core of WIPO's activities through the MTSP 2022 – 2026 five-year period and beyond. Pillar 2 centered on WIPO's role as a global convener for the Intellectual Property community and as the international setter of norms and standards that shape the global Intellectual Property ecosystem. The WIPO Secretariat has been committed to providing the best support to member states and facilitating the further development of WIPO's normative agenda. WIPO would work with member states to find creative and interesting ways to make even fuller use of time spent in Committee and Working Group meetings. Likewise, WIPO would continue to bring the international community together to address emerging policy issues pertaining to Intellectual Property. For instance, WIPO's series of Intellectual Property and AI conversations had stimulated broad debate on the future direction of the global Intellectual Property ecosystem. WIPO planned to address other emerging issues relating not just to AI, but to Frontier Technologies, in a similar manner. Under Pillar 2, WIPO would also

continue to work across the international community to build respect for Intellectual Property at the national, regional and global level, as an integral part of any Intellectual Property ecosystem. WIPO would also play a more active role in supporting the delivery of the SDGs and addressing the most pressing global challenges faced. WIPO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic showed this approach in action. Over the course of the previous 16 months, WIPO had harnessed its expertise to help create an enabling environment for technology transfer and licensing, as well as providing legislative and policy advice on balancing Intellectual Property and health issues. WIPO had been committed to continuing its tripartite cooperation with the WHO and WTO on a range of initiatives from capacity-building workshops to providing technical assistance to member states relating to their need for COVID-19 medical technologies. While WIPO recognized that more should be done to support the global response and deliver vaccine equity, WIPO had been committed to playing an active part in this shared endeavor. WIPO would also support member states to build back better. The Director General recalled his remarks in the opening that morning, and stated that day WIPO would be publishing a package of support measures which would further leverage WIPO's expertise and assist member states to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild. Pillar 3 concerned the provision of high quality Global Intellectual Property Protection services, which had been one of the unique and longstanding aspects of WIPO's work. This included the international registry systems, as well as the work of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. As global Intellectual Property filings continued to rise, WIPO recognized that it needed to continue to support wider use of WIPO's Intellectual Property systems and registries, as well as taking steps to continue to improve its customer service and digitalization, for example, through projects like the Global Intellectual Property Portal – a one-stop shop for customers. Emphasis would be placed on strengthening the customer experience of WIPO's services, reaching out to current and new customers to improve services, and ensuring a customer-centric approach to the development of new services. Over the course of the MTSP five-year period, WIPO would strive to build the reputation of key publications and data releases such as the Global Innovation Index and the World Intellectual Property Report. These had become critical sources of reliable information, data and knowledge for many users around the world, both public and private. In addition, platforms such as WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search would continue to be strengthened and developed, in collaboration with external partners, so that WIPO could address global challenges such as climate change and public health. Pillar 4 centered on how Intellectual Property could be a powerful tool for growth and sustainable development. The rise of the intangible economy combined with the importance of innovation and creativity led growth had led to growing interest in the development of Intellectual Property ecosystems and Intellectual Property commercialization around the world. To support WIPO's activities in that area, WIPO had established a new Innovation and Intellectual Property Ecosystems Sector which would harness the organization's expertise and enable WIPO to further develop its capabilities to the benefit of member states. WIPO's ambition is to enable all countries to use Intellectual Property more effectively as a tool for growth, and this would be especially important for developing countries and LDCs. WIPO would not do this through a one-size-fits-all approach, but by developing tailored approaches that would be sensitive to national and regional needs and circumstances, as well as member states' specific development aspirations. WIPO would also work to strengthen horizontal cooperation among member states, including greater North-South and South-South cooperation. Expanding the number of innovators and creators who use Intellectual Property effectively would be a key challenge that WIPO intended to address. Through projects like WIPO for Creators, which is a public-private partnership for creators to talk to fellow creators about Intellectual Property in a down to earth manner, or initiatives like Technology Innovation Support Centers, where WIPO supports researchers and research institutions to use Intellectual Property to translate R&D into impact and to be effective at tech transfer, WIPO would find new ways to deliver impactful results. However, this required WIPO to work closely with Members and, with their guidance, with the right partners within their countries. For example, rather than engaging with SMEs and start-ups directly, WIPO would work with Member States and Intellectual Property Offices to identify appropriate partners for

WIPO to collaborate with, so as to create real impact on the ground. These efforts would be characterized by a shift towards a more project-based approach. Not only would this help us deliver practical outcomes, but it would increase both accountability and ownership. This was vital if WIPO were to engage meaningfully with SMEs, youth and indigenous communities, all of whom need support to use Intellectual Property to grow and develop. WIPO would also expand the use of Intellectual Property by communities, many of whom are rich in traditional culture and heritage, and should avail themselves of Intellectual Property as a means of not just protecting their traditional heritage but also of bringing it to the world. A key enabler in helping these new stakeholders use Intellectual Property to grow and develop is WIPO's work in training Intellectual Property expertise and building Intellectual Property skills. The WIPO Academy would therefore broaden its offerings to include courses that would be relevant to entrepreneurs, SMEs, and others who want to develop practical Intellectual Property skills, so that they can use it to take their ideas to the market. The Director General then spoke about WIPO's management functions and organizational values – the foundation upon which the MTSP 2022 – 2026 was built. WIPO had already started the journey of transforming the way the organization works, and to empower its workforce by fostering an open, collaborative and dynamic culture – one that nurtures talent, builds trust and supports initiative. WIPO would champion greater diversity and inclusiveness by continuing to progress gender equality across the organization and *via* our commitment to multilingual stakeholders. WIPO would maintain a zero tolerance approach to all forms of unacceptable behavior such as bullying and harassment. At the macro level, WIPO remained committed to high standards of governance and prudent financial management. Prevailing uncertainties meant that revenues could not be taken for granted and the organization would continue to manage its resources efficiently, to provide the member states with 'value for money' for every dollar that WIPO spends. At the same time, WIPO would continue to invest in the digital transformation of WIPO, to continue improving its internal processes and external services, and ultimately better serve its Members. In conclusion, the MTSP 2022 – 2026 is a Vision to lift up the work of WIPO in a time of great crisis and opportunity, in line with the organization's collective aspiration for IP to serve the world. The Director General hoped member states would join WIPO in building a World where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by Intellectual Property for the good of everyone, and he looked forward to working with all member states to make this Vision a reality.

82. The Chair thanked the Director General for his extremely comprehensive description of the MTSP 2022-2026. The Chair stated that his presentation showed how well-founded the Vision was and delegations were extremely interested to see how WIPO would be unfolding through this new Vision. This new stimulus was an extraordinary tool of Intellectual Property at the service of youth, SMEs and the enormous community of creators the world over. That futuristic Vision was also very open and enthusiastic. The MTSP 2022-2026 had been prepared keeping in mind good governance and caution, and the Director General's commitment to ensure every single dollar of resources would go straight to the achievement in a spirit of good business management, qualitative and quantitatively speaking. The Chair opened the floor for comments.

83. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Director General and the WIPO Secretariat for preparing the MTSP 2022-2026 and stated that it is a clear and well-structured document setting out the strategic direction for the organization for the five-year period. Having strategic guidance for the organization would be invaluable as the world made its way out of the Covid-19 pandemic having learned helpful lessons. As the document recognizes, as did Group B, crisis brought about opportunities which could be capitalized if there is clarity on our shared values and how those should be applied going forward. The Group was heartened to see WIPO recognize Intellectual Property as a policy tool to meet the global challenges that had been faced. As this plan recognizes, Intellectual Property is not a technical area that is the preserve of academics, specialist or legal practitioners: it cuts across so many aspects of everyday lives. Intellectual Property is and should be recognized as a force for the good of everyone. A balanced and effective Intellectual

Property system enriches everyone. The Group supported WIPO's focus on all the relevant stakeholders including SMEs, start-ups, individuals and youth, and agreed that ensuring Intellectual Property supported their capacity for innovation and creativity would drive social, economic and cultural growth. The Strategy House is a clear way of setting out WIPO's Vision and Mission and how the strategic pillars underpinned this. The Group supported WIPO's strategic pillars and that the organization saw an empowered workforce as the foundation for delivering on those pillars in a balanced and inclusive manner. Understanding how innovation benefited everyone and had a role to play in a sustainable future were positive messages that ran clearly through the strategic plan. Under Pillar 2, there were a number of practical suggestions to support concluding negotiations on the normative agenda in a timely manner. While the Group appreciated this aim, it was for member states to decide whether any processes such as setting a date to finish negotiations were appropriate. Arguably, there was no one size fits all when developing normative frameworks. The Group was pleased to see the AI and Intellectual Property Conversations would continue but noted they would continue in a broadened format to incorporate frontier technologies including mind-machine interfaces and quantum computing. The Group pointed out that no technology existed in a vacuum and there were a number of interdependencies between AI and those other technological areas. The Group felt it might be premature to expand this conversation before there had been any concrete progress from the examination of AI and Intellectual Property. The Group encouraged WIPO to allocate adequate resources and focus to the AI and Intellectual Property file and work towards concrete impactful initiatives. Under Pillar 3, the Group supported WIPO continuing its role of being a source of reliable, high quality Intellectual Property data to contribute to policy debates. It should be noted that WIPO had recently published a good evidence guide outlining steps that should be undertaken when providing evidence to policy-making. This document was a joint effort by WIPO together with a number of Group B national Intellectual Property Offices, and was based largely on the co-drafters' existing work. The Group very much agreed with WIPO that efforts were required to ensure that good evidence-based policy initiatives would be formed throughout Member States. The Group looked forward to continuing support of WIPO as it pursues this future direction. In terms of the foundation underpinning these pillars, it was essential that staff are empowered to work effectively. The Group took note that this strategic plan recognized that previous models had resulted in a formal, hierarchical and risk averse culture. The Group looked forward to seeing more substantial details of how this would be addressed. The Group welcomed the references to supporting diversity and looked forward to seeing specific measures in practice. The Group concluded by thanking the Director General and the WIPO Secretariat for the MTSP 2022-2026 and looked forward to working to support an organization that is dynamic, forward looking and innovative, and contributed worldwide to robust, balanced and understood innovation and creativity ecosystems.

84. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, expressed its gratitude towards the Director General and the WIPO Secretariat for preparing the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026. The document allowed insights into the Vision, Mission and strategy of the organization. The Group supported the priorities of the organization such as youths, SMEs, development of IT infrastructure and of course people. The Group supported the aim to reach stakeholders beyond the circle of Intellectual Property experts, and believed that was of paramount importance for the future of Intellectual Property globally. The Group stated that technological innovation and creativity would play an essential role in the post-pandemic economic recovery. The Group also supported WIPO's efforts to develop a balanced and effective global Intellectual Property ecosystem. The Group supported the efforts to develop Intellectual Property ecosystems to promote innovation and creativity for a better and more sustainable future. The Group recalled the Mission, "A world where innovation and creativity, from anywhere, is supported by Intellectual Property for the good of everyone." The Group appreciated all 4 Strategic Pillars of WIPO. Bearing in mind that innovation and creativity had been seen more for economic growth and social development, the Group appreciated WIPO supporting governments, enterprises, communities and individuals to use Intellectual Property as a tool for growth and sustainable development. The Group also supported the endeavor to

provide high-quality Intellectual Property service and data and welcomed the efforts to increase Intellectual Property knowledge and skills in all member states, as envisioned under Strategic Pillars 3 and 4. It was crucial to strengthen the engagement with key strategic partners for a successful outcome, starting from Intellectual Property offices, relevant government agencies, professional and business associations, followed by technology transfer centers, incubators, universities and others. The Group especially welcomed the efforts dedicated to developing initiatives that responded to the different needs of communities, enterprises and individuals. Supporting stakeholders in Intellectual Property commercialization and Intellectual Property management could result in the countries' economic growth and development of respective regions. The Group thanked the Director General and the WIPO Secretariat for the MTSP 2022-2026.

85. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Director General for the presentation of the MTSP 2022-2026. The plan detailed the general lines that would guide the activities of the organization for the five-year period in order to achieve the plan's Vision and Mission. The Group welcomed the document because it recognized that states and stakeholders must all work together in order to achieve that Vision. The Group recognized the potential of the 4 Strategic Pillars that had been suggested as engines for development and creativity to achieve a better future and a future that is more sustainable. Finally, the Group reaffirmed, as the document stated, that WIPO must take advantage of its neutral status, and assured the Director General that the Group would support the plan.

86. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the MTSP 2022-2026 and thanked the Director General for his comprehensive presentation and appreciated his vision in that regard. The MTSP 2022-2026 succinctly captured the global landscape and identified some of the key challenges facing humanity and the opportunities to overcome those challenges. The Group agreed that the need to foster broad-based post-pandemic recovery and to keep the world on an environmentally sustainable footing should be a priority. Technology, innovation, and creativity would be crucial in that regard. The Group noted the 4 Strategic Pillars that would guide WIPO's work for the five-year period and welcomed the commitment to reach out worldwide to explain the potential of Intellectual Property to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere, as reflected in Pillar 1. It would also be important to reach out to local and marginalized communities, and to focus on the development aspect of Intellectual Property when undertaking this outreach. Furthermore, member states should remain central stakeholders with connecting WIPO with local economies, and other stakeholders. The Group recognized the value of bringing people together and partnering with stakeholders to shape the future of the global Intellectual Property ecosystem, as captured in Pillar 2. Partnership with other UN agencies and IGOs and NGOs is vital and should be strengthened, as it could enrich the work of WIPO including in contributing to the SDGs. The Group believed there should be transparency and consultation with member states when entering into any strategic partnerships. The Group stated the importance of facilitating meetings among member states and stakeholders to discuss emerging issues and challenges. The Group believed it was necessary for WIPO to convene a conversation on Intellectual Property and COVID-19. Providing high quality Intellectual Property services, knowledge and data delivered to users around the world as reflected in Pillar 3 was also important and WIPO should continue to improve and provide the services in an effective and efficient manner. Cooperation with national Intellectual Property offices should be strengthened, and necessary assistance should be provided to Intellectual Property offices in developing countries to help with digitization efforts. Pillar 4 was extremely important as it talked about the development aspect of Intellectual Property and how it could be a tool for growth and sustainable development. The promotion of the use of a balanced and inclusive Intellectual Property system for the developing countries is crucial, but this should be done with the Development Agenda and its recommendations at the heart of this work. The greater use of the Intellectual Property system should not lead to negative effects on other public goals, including those of access to public health and education. The legislative and other support that WIPO provided to

developing countries should highlight the appropriate flexibilities in the Intellectual Property system. Furthermore, WIPO should support development goals by facilitating technology transfer and dissemination through access and benefit sharing between providers and users of technical know-how. In the same vein, WIPO had been called upon to promote an Intellectual Property system that is sensitive to developing countries' realities and expectations, for it is clear that there is no one size fits all approach when dealing with member states having different levels of development. The COVID-19 pandemic had outlined a need for a balanced Intellectual Property system that delivers for all member states, including the most vulnerable. In that regard, WIPO should step up its technical assistance efforts in areas where it could help address the effects of the pandemic and support economic and social recovery. The Group reiterated its thanks to the Director General for the presentation and hoped it would inform impact driven programs in the following biennium.

87. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the Director General for his very comprehensive presentation of the MTSP 2022-2026. The Group was pleased to see that development is central to the plan. The Group also took note that focus had been given to SMEs and youth, which are important issues for them as a group of developing countries. The Group believed that a tangible reflection of the linkages of the 4 Strategic Pillars to the corresponding goals of the SDGs would give a clearer picture of how the MTSP 2022-2026 aimed to achieve the development goals. In addition, there should be some focus on grassroots innovation in an appropriate manner in the MTSP 2022 - 2026. Since the MTSP is a medium-term plan presented once every five years, the Group would like to see a reflection of the organization's future plans about grassroots innovation in the document. Grassroots innovation is one of the significant aspects of innovation in the developing countries. This had played a very vital role in addressing many ongoing challenges at the local level in the developing countries. From that consideration, the organization may extend its focus on this very important issue.

88. The Delegation of China thanked the Director General for his introduction of the MTSP 2022-2026 and was extremely pleased to see that WIPO had developed this strategic plan. The MTSP 2022-2026 was crucial for WIPO for the five-year period, as led by the Director General. The Delegation believed that this was key to combat the COVID-19 pandemic to protect Intellectual Property rights which would foster competitiveness and the entire world had to face the health crisis and internal growth difficulties. The very important role of Intellectual Property should be used more to promote innovation but also economic development so that it could contribute very strongly to human health, and to the recovery worldwide. The Delegation generally supported the views of the MTSP 2022 - 2026 to transform Intellectual Property rights, which up until then had been a technical and legal activity, and turn that into an essential tool to face down the world challenge in order to promote economic growth, social justice and improve the situation for humankind. The Delegation then made specific points on the MTSP 2022-2026. Firstly, the Delegation welcomed the new Vision and Mission, which had been seen clearly in the MTSP 2022 - 2026. The Delegation stated that for the well-being of humankind as a whole, WIPO should make better use of Intellectual Property rights to promote innovation and creativity. It should make its contribution to the achievement of the SDGs in the few remaining years before 2030. Secondly, the Delegation supported the idea of improving communication means on a global level as detailed under Pillar 1. The United Nations six official languages should be more broadly utilize to make it possible for the public to better understand the advantages of Intellectual Property rights and to ensure a good result in this area of communication in order to make it possible for people around the world to become more familiar with what WIPO wished to communicate. The Delegation noted that WIPO introduced new elements in its communication campaign on World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, 2021. The Delegation was pleased that the United Nations six official languages were widely used in the promotional film to promote the work of the international property and organization. The language policy is essential to obtain the objectives of Pillar 1. The Delegation stated that it would make a special statement in the discussion on that point. The Delegation was also

pleased to note the commitment mentioned in paragraph 74 of the document, in favor of the increase in the number of languages for the Madrid and Hague systems. The Delegation would like to work with the WIPO Secretariat and other countries to disseminate the knowledge, services and data of WIPO to everyone. On Pillar 2, the Delegation would await with interest the progress of consultations on a number of important international rules, which WIPO was discussing. The Delegation believed that continuing to hold meetings in a virtual and hybrid way in the future, as proposed in the plan, might be possible which would allow the experts in the capitals to better participate in the relevant discussions including the informal consultations. This would contribute to promoting the consultation process in Geneva. The Delegation welcomed the idea of WIPO introducing non-obligatory dynamic adjustments and short-term results in the negotiations of the rules but stressed that given that international treaties negotiated at WIPO are multilateral universally legal binding documents, stability and durability of the results should be obtained. Thirdly, on Pillar 3, the Delegation believed that the world system of intellectual property services of WIPO, which would be effective, efficient and practical of a high quality, had been the main characteristic of the organization which made it different from other organizations, and was the main source of income of WIPO and the key to ensuring that there was constant perennial development in the organization. The Delegation would endeavor to strengthen the confidence and willingness to use world Intellectual Property services from WIPO among Chinese users. The Delegation hoped that it would be possible in the future to continue to take measures that would be efficient and that met the new demands and the new needs of operators all over the world to improve functionality and the legitimacy of the rights and the interest of users. Moreover, the Delegation appreciated the strengthening of the WIPO GREEN platform and believed that this platform could be used as leverage for the achievement of the SDGs of the United Nations. WIPO GREEN would be useful as a model for WIPO to build a world ecosystem of Intellectual Property. The Delegation was pleased to note that the Director General had been personally directing the evaluation of the assessment for the WIPO GREEN strategy. The Delegation hoped that the future work of WIPO GREEN would be focused on the implementation of products and the production of durable results and outcomes. Fourthly, on Pillar 4, the Delegation believed that Intellectual Property is a very important lever to promote durable lasting development and the marketing of Intellectual Property and the financing of the evaluation could play a more important role. The Delegation supported the increase of investments by WIPO in the area of cooperation and development and approved the idea that WIPO should use more specific projects to implement the plan for development. The Delegation would continue to assist other member states that required assistance to put in place and set up Intellectual Property systems and capacity-building through conversations with WIPO and funds over the course of the previous few years. The Delegation had done a lot of work in this field of financing and support for the development of SMEs. The Delegation stated that it would continue its cooperation with WIPO and with other countries. Finally, as regards to the foundation, the Delegation supported the strengthening of WIPO's business culture based on teams, the independence of employees and the improvement of communication among employees so that they could achieve the objectives of the strategic plan. The Delegation suggested that WIPO should concentrate on the development of the exchange of staff in the different departments.

89. The Delegation of Tunisia endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation appreciated the Director General's presentation of the MTSP 2022-2026 and thanked him for his exhaustive detailed presentation and the information provided and welcomed this initiative and approach. The Delegation felt that the period the world was going through at that point in time characterized by a very serious health crisis had been a challenge and an opportunity at the same time. The vision towards the future, so as to promote a post-pandemic period, particularly retained the Delegation's attention. To deal with complex world challenges, a fact which should be promoted by the COVID-19 pandemic recovery at a large-scale and place the world on an economical, sustainable basis, the Delegation shared the Director General's approach and felt that intellectual property should be envisaged in a more widespread manner as a very powerful tool to have the will to this

challenge. It should also be seen as a factor of growth and development. The Delegation took note of the 4 Strategic Pillars of the plans envisaged for the five-year period which were all about key points and representing the very basis of the fields of activity of the organization and of all sectors which should enable WIPO to support creativity for a better and more sustainable future. Finally, the Delegation welcomed the commitment of the Development Agenda and of WIPO to make the organization dynamic and to ensure intellectual property service of high quality, responding to the expectations of the member states.

90. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked WIPO and the Director General for the presentation of the MTSP 2022-2026 and for organizing a series of engagements prior to the 32nd PBC session. The Delegation supported the vector for the development of WIPO included in the plan which proposed more active work on the development of the Intellectual Property ecosystem and increased understanding of the various categories of users of Intellectual Property as a tool of growth. The Delegation shared the view that it is vital to promote the work with youth and SMEs in order to increase their skills and competencies, particularly with regard to the economic aspects of Intellectual Property and its commercialization. The Delegation was interested in developing a broad expert dialogue and skills development and teaching on issues of Intellectual Property management, Intellectual Property assessment, transfer of technology, use of patents analytics and the creation of a framework of recommendations on those issues. The Delegation supported the inclusion in the plan and the direction of work, the transformation of the Intellectual Property sphere into the digital sphere including dialogue on AI and other cutting-edge technologies in use in the digitalization of WIPO services. The Delegation considered it particularly important that in the MTSP 2022-2026 there should be a reflection of the principles of supporting multilingualism which was important both for increasing access of member states in different regions to WIPO data and broadening geographical coverage of users of the international registration systems. The Delegation had attached exceptional significance to the plan including support for a dialogue on broadening the language regime of the Madrid and Hague systems.

91. The Delegation of Canada thanked WIPO and the Director General for hosting the engagements in June regarding the MTSP 2022-2026, the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/2023 and key issues affecting the future of the global Intellectual Property ecosystem. The Delegation greatly valued transparency in all matters at WIPO, and appreciated the continued constructive engagement to advance WIPO's Mission of a balanced and effective global Intellectual Property system. While the Delegation appreciated that the MTSP 2022-2026 is for information purposes only, as well as the Director General's commitment to gender equality, the Delegation met with some concern the lack of reference to gender in the context of creating a diverse and inclusive work culture at WIPO. In the questionnaire for the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/2023, the Delegation proposed the following two priorities: an enhanced implementation of the UN system-wide action plan UN-SWAP on gender equality and the empowerment of women across all 16 applicable indicators with a particular focus on strategic planning and reporting on gender-related SDG results and financial resource allocation; and continued efforts towards achieving gender parity among WIPO staff at all levels. On the Annual Report on Human Resources for 2019, WO/PBC/31/INF/1, while women represented 54.4 per cent of WIPO staff, their representation varied significantly across categories with women being the least represented in managerial positions. The Delegation would value the addition of objectives to achieving gender parity among WIPO staff in planning documents moving forward and welcomed information on why this issue had not been identified in the MTSP 2022-2026.

92. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his presentation and commended the WIPO Secretariat for their hard work for preparing the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation stated that there were three critical points in the process of formulating the next medium-term strategic plan. The first point was to lead international

initiatives to properly reform and modernize the Intellectual Property system in response to rapid and sweeping innovation. The second point was to play a more active role in paving the way to establish a better international system that ensured proper protection and the utilization of Intellectual Property so that all people in all member states could enjoy the fruits of innovation. The third point was to ensure that WIPO's global Intellectual Property services for stakeholders would be continually improved. From this point of view, the Delegation would support the suggested MTSP. The Delegation agreed that the support for SMEs was required for the further development of the Intellectual Property ecosystem. The Delegation stated that support for SMEs and start-ups did not work well without taking business strategies into account. The Delegation hoped to continue working with WIPO and other member states in order to improve systems for acquiring and utilizing intellectual property rights.

93. The Delegation of Algeria thanked the Chair of the PBC and stated that under his leadership the PBC's work would be crowned a success. The Delegation congratulated the Director General for his very wise strategic vision centered on innovation, service delivery and sustainable development. The Delegation thanked the WIPO Secretariat for its arduous work in the sound preparation for having organized consultations with the member states before the 32nd PBC session. The Delegation endorsed the recommendation made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation welcomed the MTSP 2022-2026 which provided strategic guidance for WIPO for the forthcoming years. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the desire for WIPO to extend the scope of its activities to a greater number of stakeholders within innovation and creation ecosystems. This very welcome procedure that would enable WIPO to include a great range of stakeholders, both national and regional, in a transparent, balanced and equitable manner. It would also take into account the specificity and capacity of member states, particularly regarding technical and organizational difficulties, and the challenge of the digital divide. In that regard, it would be timely to give priority to capacity-building of national Intellectual Property institutions and the users to foster innovation in developing countries and to proceed to review an annual evaluation of the activities undertaken by WIPO focused on development. The Delegation appreciated the reaffirmation by the strategic plan of the importance of the establishment of international normative frameworks for Intellectual Property which would be balanced and effective. The Delegation felt that WIPO should play an essential role to promote an intellectual property system, which included the development considerations in the design and implementation of its activities, and the establishment also of technical systems and capacity-building. The Delegation welcomed the reiterated commitment of WIPO in the MTSP 2022-2026 to help member states use the intellectual property systems to promote economic growth and sustainable development. This objective goes through the promotion of technological innovation and the transfer and dissemination of technologies, to assist and facilitate the establishment of development challenges in the SDGs for clean energy and climate change. In that regard, the reinforcement of international cooperation with a framework of the United Nations system, would be the best trump card that WIPO had to further the sustainable development agenda for 2030. The Delegation concluded by asking what were the appropriate frameworks used by the WIPO Secretariat to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the MTSP 2022-2026.

94. The Delegation of Pakistan welcomed the MTSP 2022-2026 and thanked the Director General for his presentation. The use of Intellectual Property as a tool to create jobs, attract investment, and develop economies in societies for a better and more sustainable future was welcomed. The Delegation commended the Director General for his attention to results-based and impact drives activities and the special emphasis on SMEs and youth. Strategic Pillars 1 and 4, and the emphasis on SMEs, youth and young entrepreneurs inter alia would redefine the way Intellectual Property would be understood and implemented in developing countries. In addition to the use of Intellectual Property, it was essential to take into account all key innovation enablers in order to have a balanced and inclusive Intellectual Property ecosystem. While the Delegation saw value in the role of Intellectual Property as a tool for innovation and creativity and acknowledged it would help tap into the untapped potential of the developing

world, appropriate focus should also be given to other important enablers such as bridging the technological and digital divide through technology transfer, capacity- building and resource constraints in the developing world while implementing the MTSP. The Delegation deeply appreciated the Director General's approach to work with national partners and stood ready to work with the WIPO Secretariat and the bureau for Asia and the Pacific Group to identify activities and relevant national partners for future collaboration.

95. The Delegation of the United States of America welcomed the Director General's MTSP 2022-2026 which outlined the organization's strategic direction for the five-year period. The Delegation agreed that Intellectual Property must be seen more broadly as a powerful tool for meeting the global challenges collectively faced for growth and development, and as a matter of everyday interest to everyone everywhere. Broadening communications beyond the traditional profile of Intellectual Property specialists had the potential of not only changing perspectives about Intellectual Property but releasing a surge of innovation and creativity to improve and enrich societies around the world. The Delegation looked forward to engaging with the WIPO Secretariat and member states on the application of MTSP 2022-2026 and the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23.

96. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea appreciated the Director General and WIPO Secretariat's hard work in preparing the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation was fully aligned with WIPO's plan of using Intellectual Property for economic growth and development. The Delegation noted that WIPO welcomed member states to continue using the Funds-in-Trust mechanism to support the advancement of WIPO's work. The Delegation would actively cooperate with WIPO to ensure that the proposed MTSP 2022-2026 would be successfully implemented through various means. For example, developing relevant projects through the Korea Funds-in-Trust. In line with this effort, the Korean Intellectual Property Office would continue to discuss with Republic of Korea budget-related government ministries to increase the funds of Korea Funds-in-Trust. The Delegation believed that competent human resources and close communication with member states would be crucial for the successful implementation of the proposed MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation looked forward to the continued role of the WIPO Academy in capacity-building, and by the regional divisions including Asia and the Pacific Division as a focal point of communication with the Member States as it had done so far. Last but not least, the Delegation saw the emergence of technologies and recognized the importance of data in the era of digital transformation. Accordingly, it had been time for the international community to discuss how to develop the current Intellectual Property system. In this context, the Delegation supported WIPO's plan to broaden the Intellectual Property and AI conversation to include other frontier technologies and foster the exchange of information. The Delegation would actively participate in the WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies that would be held in September 2021.

97. The Delegation of the Iran (Islamic Republic of) thanked the Chair and assured him of the Delegation's full support and cooperation in the course of the PBC deliberations. The Delegation associated itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation commended the WIPO Secretariat and the Director General for preparing the MTSP 2022-2026 as a source of inspiration and strategic guidance for WIPO. Taking into account the key role of partnership with relevant stakeholders to shape the future of the global Intellectual Property ecosystem, in particular amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delegation believed that transparency and prior consultation with member states was crucial prior to any partnership and cooperation. The Delegation welcomed the cooperation and partnership of WIPO with WHO and WTO, and the joint declaration for developing a coherent global solution to global complex challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his announcement on the package of support measures for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the MTSP 2022-2026 was silent on the measures for improving access to medical technologies. Those measures needed to be reflected and elaborated, therefore the Delegation expected WIPO

would play a greater role in tackling the pandemic consequences and finding solutions, in particular in the area of the COVID-19 treatment, vaccines and post-pandemic economic recovery. The Delegation believed that workshops and information sessions with member states was key for elaborating the potential measures that WIPO would take. The Delegation appreciated the WIPO Secretariat's efforts in achieving equitable geographical representation. There had been gaps in the geographical distribution of staff, therefore efforts for the improvement of the geographical diversity in particular with respect to developing countries needed to be considerably expanded.

98. The Delegation of Egypt commended the Director General's excellent leadership and thanked the WIPO Secretariat for preparing for the PBC in these exceptional circumstances. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement given by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his presentation of the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation noted that the plan contained an inclusive and comprehensive vision that would guide the work of WIPO for the five-year period. The Delegation attached great importance to the plan and looked forward to its implementation in close coordination and consultation with member states with the aim to ensure a balanced and inclusive Intellectual Property ecosystem that promotes innovation and creativity and assists member states in achieving sustainable development.

99. The Delegation of The Gambia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation specifically aligned itself with the Group on the importance of the specificities of development and development levels which had been very well treated in the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation welcomed the approach and structure in which the MTSP 2022 – 2026 would take, anchored on the 4 Strategic Pillars. Pillar 1, for a small country like The Gambia and the way Intellectual Property should go given the technological advancement of the world, required some form of public communication from WIPO and the Intellectual Property experts to ensure that people who did not understand the technical aspects of IP could understand it and would be included in making sure that everyone could be part of a new global Intellectual Property culture. The Delegation highly recommended the MTSP 2022 - 2026. The Delegation would like to ensure that it participates very effectively within the terms of this MTSP 2022 – 2026. The Delegation stated that it had engaged with WIPO at the highest level to indicate its interests in terms of resetting the Intellectual Property ecosystem in the Gambia, and within the context of the sub-region and region to ensure that marginalized people and the youth, the country's greatest human asset at the moment, would be reached. The human capital in Africa is reliant on the youth, people under 30, which represented 60 per cent of the population. Reaching the youth was key to the Delegation. The Delegation welcomed the innovative approach through the strategic pillar system that had been established to engage and bring on board innovation, entrepreneurship and to ensure that those who were not previously involved in Intellectual Property would be involved. The Delegation thanked the Director General for this bold step and encouraged many countries, particularly the Group B countries, to recognize that for them to advance ahead they could not leave the rest of the world behind. It was important to recognize those who had been marginalized and needed a helping hand, in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation, to carry each other along, especially given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The spirit to carry each other along was important. The Delegation concluded by thanking the Director General for taking a very bold step forward and looked forward to working with him very closely in the future.

100. The Delegation of Indonesia supported the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation extended its gratitude to the Director General and his team for the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation stated that the MTSP 2022 - 2026 provided a clear mapping on where the organization was headed for the five-year period. The Delegation strongly supported the Vision and Mission stipulated in the MTSP 2022 - 2026 with an emphasis on the balance of an effective global Intellectual Property ecosystem. Without working for the good of everyone, there would not be a sustainable future.

The Delegation acknowledged the importance of Intellectual Property to foster innovation and creativity. The Delegation emphasized the role that Intellectual Property should play in fulfilling the cultural, social and economic needs in developing and least developed countries. In that regard, the Delegation highlighted the need to address historical imbalances in the development of international rules to include issues of key importance to developing countries such as the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and the need for flexibility for countries in applying international rules by promoting the conservation of existing policies in critical areas such as public health. The Delegation noted that COVID-19 had been mentioned in the MTSP 2022-2026, although those references mostly addressed how WIPO responded to the pandemic. It was for that reason the Delegation gladly welcomed the Director General's message that morning on a package of COVID-19 support measures to assist Member States in addressing the pandemic. The Delegation highlighted some elements of the MTSP 2022 - 2026, first, the commitment to continue to foster multilateral cooperation by continuing to act as a neutral, inclusive and transparent facilitator and to work more closely with other partners in the international system, including fellow UN agencies, Inter-Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in order to contribute in finding holistic solutions to these global challenges. Second, the commitment to broaden support focused beyond laws and regulations addressing other elements like countries' sources of innovation and creativity, its levels of awareness, skills and capabilities around Intellectual Property, and the capacity of its enterprises to create and commercialize Intellectual Property for business growth as well as the use of Intellectual Property as an asset class. On Strategic Pillar 2, the Delegation welcomed WIPO's role as a convener, bringing together stakeholders guided by partnership and multi-stakeholder approach to address complex global challenges for which Intellectual Property has a part to play. The Delegation saw value added in holding various conversations and conferences. The Delegation would like to see more initiatives connected to the issue of development such as any international and/or global initiatives related to the achievement of the SDG's or any topics regarding Intellectual Property development. On Strategic Pillar 3, the Delegation welcomed the focus on a wider and more effective use of WIPO's Intellectual Property services, knowledge and data as well as a commitment to support knowledge transfer and technology adaptation needed to address global challenges through WIPO's Intellectual Property-based platforms and tools. Lastly on Strategic Pillar 4, the Delegation welcomed the focus to engage more innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities to leverage Intellectual Property successfully. Those areas were in line with the Delegation's focus on the creative economy which it felt it needed to point out that the creative industry sectors were not only utilizing copyright but they were also utilizing other Intellectual Property assets such as industrial designs, brands and marks, and patents. The Delegation supported the WIPO for Creators initiative and hoped that it would also include creators that were not limited to creators of copyright projects. The Delegation also welcomed WIPO's focus on university-industry linkages on technology transfer, discussion on Intellectual Property valuation and the WIPO Creative Heritage Project. The Delegation concluded by stating that they would make more detailed comments with regard to each strategic pillar and their associated expected results during the discussion of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23.

101. The Delegation of Spain echoed the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation thanked the Director General and commended the WIPO Secretariat for the MTSP 2022-2026 designed to establish the strategic guidelines of the organization for the five-year period in order to have a global Intellectual Property ecosystem which is balanced and effective for international property to promote innovation and creativity for a better and sustainable future. The challenges must be faced jointly in order to arrive at a clear and more effective Intellectual Property. The Delegation acknowledged the efforts made by WIPO to strengthen the acknowledgement that Intellectual Property is an important and political tool in order to face down global challenges which gave a balanced response to the economic and social models. The Delegation believed that the MTSP 2022-2026 gave a proper horizon and it must be taken into account that WIPO had become involved

in a number of services. The Delegation stated that joint work in subscribing alliances in many other social areas were needed in order to act in this field of Intellectual Property approaching both large companies, SMEs, individuals and other stakeholders. This would be based on a cautious approach but unswervingly looking forward to involve all members of the international offices. The Delegation happily shared that the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office in April 2021 had launched its 2021-2024 strategic plan. This was a collective effort to position itself in the world, in its proper place in terms of what would be required from an industrial organization to change the model of the Spanish economy and to be able to face the challenges with very specific pillars, many of them shared with the MTSP 2022-2026.

102. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking in its national capacity, thanked the Director General and the WIPO Secretariat for the high quality preparation of the MTSP 2022-2026. The personal implication that the Director General had in the MTSP 2022 – 2026 showed the importance of the intentions of WIPO in terms of implementing the plan. The Delegation supported the MTSP because the 4 Strategic Pillars with regard to the strategy for the development of Belarus' Intellectual Property system had been along the same lines and hoped to work together with WIPO to implement projects within Belarus' own strategic plan.

103. The Chair thanked the delegations for their statements and stated that it was clear that the MTSP 2022-2026 had certainly not led to any indifference in the delegations and there had been many comments enriching it. The Chair then passed the floor to the Director General to respond to the delegations.

104. The Director General thanked the delegations and the Chair for their extensive comments and support for the MTSP 2022-2026. He was grateful for the richness of comments and suggestions, and was very appreciative that there had been support and alignment from many delegations on the MTSP 2022 - 2026. The Director General stated that there had been tremendous support for the broadened view of Intellectual Property going beyond its technical, legal aspects to its powerful roles as a tool for development and growth. There had been positive support on the focus on SMEs, youths and those who had not been serviced as well by the global and national Intellectual Property systems. The Director General appreciated the support for the desire to work together to find partners to reach out and engage with more people around the world to deliver results on the ground. The Director General recalled his earlier remarks at the start of the session when he stated that a lot of these ideas, guidance and recommendations came from the delegations from the time he engaged with the Intellectual Property offices, being the first Director General from an Intellectual Property Office?, and many months after those engagements. The Director General thanked the delegations for their support, alignment and resonance with the MTSP 2022 - 2026. The Director General asked the delegations to reach out to WIPO if there was anything that was missed because this would not be the only time there would be engagement between WIPO and the delegations on the future strategy of the organization. The Director General stated that this would be the beginning of a conversation that started with the Ambassador lunches and engagement of the Intellectual Property offices and of course, the conversations had over many months. The Director General acknowledged the suggestions from Group B related to the move away from AI and stated that he did not disagree with that statement but thought that frontier technologies and even AI, could be deployed in a variety of contexts. When looking at how technological developments impacting WIPO, the organization was of the view that it would be limiting to focus only on AI, which while important, the organization would be broadening its area of focus to blockchain and other technological developments. For the September 2021 WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies, the focus would be on data, which was absolutely critical to AI and other forms of technologies such as Industry 4.0. The Director General assured the delegations that this was not a shift of focus, but a broadening of perspective so that the organization could deal with these matters more holistically. Addressing the African Group's remarks on WIPO's role in Intellectual Property and COVID-19, the Director General stated that in the previous weeks and even from that morning's conversations, this had been an area of

focus for this organization. The Director General recalled his earlier remarks and emphasized that WIPO had been committed to making sure the work of WIPO would address the COVID-19 pandemic and overcome the pandemic and the people impacted, which were all interlinked. How Intellectual Property could address the greatest global challenge faced at that moment and take advantage of the opportunities that arose as a result of these challenges were important. The Director General stated that he would not delve deeply into the details since the MTSP 2022 – 2026 by definition is a very high strategic level document. The length of the MTSP 2022-2026 was reduced from the previous versions and was aimed at connecting with delegations at the strategic level. The Director General directed the delegations to Mr. Saadallah, WIPO's focal point for Intellectual Property and COVID-19 and encouraged delegations to engage with him as he could provide more details on the packages of services and support for COVID-19. WIPO was fully committed to support delegations in the COVID-19 recovery and would work trilaterally with other UN agencies. COVID-19 was not just about Intellectual Property, it was also about trade, regulatory mechanisms and the health ecosystem. All aspects needed to be combined together to deliver results on the ground. The Director General reassured the delegations that this would continue to be an important part of the organization's work. On the remarks from the Delegation of Canada on WIPO's focus on gender equality, the Director General reiterated that gender equality remained an important part of WIPO's work, both internally and externally. The previous week, the Director General had had lunch with the Director General for Intellectual Property Offices in the GRULAC region (Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, and Peru) on an Intellectual Property and gender network in Latin America. The Director General hoped to inspire other Regional Groups to take this initiative. This was one example of some of the work the organization had been doing to support Intellectual Property and gender. Three out of the four WIPO Deputy Directors General were women. Gender equality was an important area of the organization's work which had been encapsulated in an elegant way by talking about diversity and inclusion in the MTSP 2022 - 2026. The organization was undergoing an internal review of its gender and inclusivity policy which would be ready in a few months time. More details would be shared with delegations and interested countries could engage with WIPO on this issue. The Director General stated that there were performance indicators on the percentage of women at the P-4 to D-2 level, and the organization continued to pay attention to this and would ensure that it would be externally and internally supported this work toward achieving gender equality. Grassroots innovation and delivering support and impact at the grassroots level was a core part of what was to be delivered because Intellectual Property needed to become concretized to the people at the ground level so that they could understand how Intellectual Property could be part of their aspirations and their journey. Innovation and creativity were the common heritage of humankind and could come from anywhere in the world in any form. WIPO had been committed to helping those innovations not just the industrialized technology level but even at the ground level. The Director General shared the story of young female entrepreneur from Kenya, Navalayo Osembo-Ombati, the founder of a very famous brand called Enda, an up-and-coming athletic wear shoe company in Kenya. The company had registered trademarks and design patents. It had begun to create jobs in the Kenyan economy and beyond, and would use Intellectual Property to bring its products to the world. Another example was the Indonesian company, Javara, who's founder Mrs. Helianti Hilman brought local Indonesian products to a wider market. The founder works with 50,000 indigenous farmers in Indonesia to make sure those products are packaged and designed properly to go out to the world. That was exactly the kind of work WIPO wanted to do, and help from the delegations was needed to find good partners the organization could work with. The organization needed to understand the delegations' local circumstances and there had been a lot of resonance with the approach of WIPO to not use a one size fits all approach but something that could be customized and tailor-made to particular social, cultural and economic circumstances. The Director General requested the help of delegations who could advise the Organization or should it rather be Secretariat on who it could partner with to deliver this support to grassroots innovation on the ground. That was what was meant by impact driven development. On the comments from the

Delegation of China on the importance of multilingualism, the Director General stated that he hoped that there would be a good discussion on the Revised WIPO Policy on Language. Coming from a national Intellectual Property office where he had run the registries, the Director General assured the delegations that multilingualism remained an important part of WIPO's work. As mentioned in the MTSP 2022-2026, multilingualism remained the foundation and bedrock of WIPO, which was not a shift of focus away from WIPO's services and away from normative work, but would be broadening WIPO's work. WIPO needed to go beyond the foundation and reach out to these new activities. A big focus would be on improving the customer experience and engaging more closely with customers, because those services were not simply a transaction at the end of the person using WIPO's services, it is a company, an entrepreneur, start-up, SME, innovator and creator. These were WIPO's customers. That customer-centric perspective and experience would be a very important part of WIPO reaching out to stakeholders and improving WIPO's services. Using technology, digitalization and the virtual way of working, which Intellectual Property Offices had begun getting used to during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided an opportunity for WIPO to further digitalize and support all of the Intellectual Property Offices in their endeavors. The Director General pointed out that WIPO was now supporting over 90 developing country Intellectual Property Offices in their digitalization efforts and would continue doing so. The Director General encouraged the delegations to reach out to WIPO if there were Intellectual Property Offices in their countries that needed support as part of their strategy and customer service transformation to reach out through virtual means, as WIPO had the tools and means to support those offices. Intellectual Property commercialization, Intellectual Property valuation and Intellectual Property financing from different countries were fairly new areas of work around the world. Much of that work had been going on in the background in fairly quiet ways over the previous few years. WIPO would soon bring forward the conversation on those issues because Intellectual Property financing, Intellectual Property valuation and Intellectual Property commercialization were absolutely critical to supporting SMEs as they grow their businesses and become bigger businesses. If SMEs were not supported by the financing ecosystem, those companies could not grow. If those companies were based on Intellectual Property intangible assets, it would be much harder for them to get financing from the traditional financiers and financial institutions because those financiers and financial institutions were more used to traditional business models based on resources or commodities and more traditional ways of working. WIPO needed to work to support them because that created the ecosystem where training, financing and supporting them could lift them up in different ways and so they would have all of the different bits and pieces in place to use Intellectual Property to grow their businesses. The Director General agreed with the statement from the Delegation of The Gambia on youth being the greatest asset. Young people are the future innovators and creators and technology could be used to reach out to everyone. It was important to reach out and engage with them and tell them stories about Intellectual Property. It was also important to reach them through universities and other institutions of learning. WIPO needed to work towards finding ways to reach out to them even before they enter university. The Director General stated that supporting them to build up skills and capabilities was essential and mentioned the Young Expert Program (YEP) where WIPO had set a number of places for young experts from different countries to be with WIPO for a period of time. The details of this program were still in development but it was expected that these young experts would work at WIPO for some time to build up skills, expertise, experience and exposure. After their stint with WIPO, they would go back to their countries as Intellectual Property experts, not just looking at Intellectual Property from a technical angle but from a development, holistic and growth angle. The Director General concluded that he was very grateful for the support that Member States had expressed for the MTSP 2022-2026 and for the resonance that they had found for their own aspirations and for their own journeys ahead. The Director General welcomed the member states to engage with WIPO. The MTSP 2022-2026 was an internal and external collective vision for the organization and he looked forward to working with all delegations to make it a reality over the five-year period.

105. The Chair thanked the Director General for his remarks and stated that the forthcoming months or weeks ahead would enable delegations to delve further into the MTSP 2022-2026 to create this ownership of the strategic plan which would be implemented over five years. The Chair welcomed the new vision and interaction and had no doubt that he took in the comments and the proposals of the member states. The Chair welcomed the Director General's commitment that there always would be an open discussion of the Member States to enrich this vision and move ahead.

106. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Director General for responding to some of the points the Group made and appreciated that this would be an ongoing dialogue. The Group appreciated that the Director General addressed its point on AI and Intellectual Property and made clear that they were approaching this from the same perspective. The Group noted that no technology exists in a vacuum. The Group clarified that it was not opposed to frontier technologies or looking beyond AI and exploring interlinkages, but was cautioning not to spread too thin, especially having in mind the desire for impactful activities and initiatives. The Group concluded that they were on the same page with the Director General with regards to the MTSP 2022-2026 and its view on that particular aspect.

107. As there were no further comments, the Chair read out the decision paragraph which was adopted:

108. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) recommended to the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, to take note of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026 (document WO/PBC/32/3).

ITEM 7 DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 2022/23

109. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/4.

110. The Chair introduced the item, reminding Delegations that document WO/PBC/32/4 was submitted to the session for discussion, comments and recommendations, including possible amendments, in accordance with financial regulation 2.6 of WIPO Financial Regulations and Rules. He stated that he counted on Delegations' constructive engagement and diligence to work efficiently and effectively so that the Committee could complete its first systematic reading of the budget, agree on as many aspects as possible where there was consensus, and that it could narrow the list down to the key issues that it could focus on in its next session. This would ensure that any duplication of work would be eliminated. The Chair then gave the floor to the Secretariat to introduce the document.

111. The Secretariat indicated that the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 Biennium was the first budget proposal under the new WIPO administration. The Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 was submitted to that session of the Program and Budget Committee in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.6 for "discussion, comments and recommendations, including possible amendments" and pursuant to the Mechanism to further involve Member States in the preparation and follow up on the Program and Budget of the Organization. The Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 intended to set out how the Secretariat proposed to deliver WIPO's strategy explained in the Medium Term Strategic Plan that Delegations had earlier discussed. The Secretariat had prepared it, guided by inputs from Member States, including through the questionnaire issued at the beginning of that year, and with reference to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The proposal was anchored in four Strategic Pillars, the Foundation and the 16 associated Expected Results in the MTSP 2022-2026. It was underpinned by clear results-based management, with an increased focus on impact, greater transparency and clearer accountability for results. Continued economic uncertainty and the on-going COVID-19 pandemic meant that the economic landscape remained uncertain. In preparing the proposed

Program of Work and Budget, the Secretariat had taken a prudent approach when preparing the Organization's income forecasts. Broadly speaking, income and expenditure were estimated to increase by eight per cent and by three per cent respectively, as compared to the agreed Program and Budget for the previous biennium. The proposed personnel expenditure increased very slightly and the proposed increase in non-personnel costs of approximately eight per cent was driven to a large extent by the need to continue to invest in the digital transformation of WIPO and to adequately resource improvements in services, including development activities. Overall income in 2022/23 was projected to reach 951.8 million Swiss francs. The proposed expenditure budget for the biennium amounted to 790.8 million Swiss francs, including a personnel budget of 476.5 million Swiss francs and a non-personnel budget of 314.3 million Swiss francs. After estimated IPSAS adjustments on expenditure of negative 58.3 million Swiss francs, a surplus of approximately 102.7 million Swiss francs was forecasted at the end of the biennium. The Secretariat said that some of the priorities in that budget proposal included: Bringing IP to people on the ground; the Secretariat would engage much more widely to connect everyone, everywhere with IP. The Secretariat would also step up its work on IP commercialization and support innovators, creators, enterprises, research institutes and communities to use IP to take their ideas to the world. SMEs and Youth would be new areas of focus for the Organization. Development remained an important focus across the Organization, with clear linkages between its work and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Secretariat would step up its efforts to deliver impact on the ground, including through expanding its training courses to include practical IP-related skills, as well as the theoretical underpinnings. The Secretariat said that the Organization would continue in the 2022/23 biennium to strengthen further the implementation of WIPO's development-oriented activities guided by the WIPO Development Agenda Recommendations and the principles enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An outline of the SDGs to which the Organization contributes was included in Annex IX. SDGs to which sectors contribute had been indicated in the narratives. Development expenditure was estimated at 146.3 million Swiss francs, i.e. 18.5 per cent of the 2022/23 budget. The development expenditure had been calculated based on the definition approved by Member States. A total of 2.4 million Swiss francs had been specifically earmarked within the budget in 2022/23 for the implementation of Development Agenda Projects, representing a doubling of expenditure of Development Agenda projects as compared to 2020/21. The Secretariat said that it would also seek to continue and build on WIPO's areas of traditional strength, for example, the Global IP Protection Services and support to WIPO's Committees and Working Groups. The Secretariat would identify key partners and work with stakeholders to address global challenges. WIPO's engagement with and support to Member States to combat the COVID-19 pandemic would be a critical part of that work, including as the Director General expressed in his opening remarks that morning. Ultimately, WIPO would seek to support all of its Member States use IP as a tool for job creation, investment, enterprise growth, economic development and social vibrancy. The Secretariat thanked the Committee for its kind attention and assured them that his team, and the teams from the other Sectors stood ready to assist Delegations in their consideration of that proposal.

112. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the introduction, and opened the floor for comments.

113. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the Program of Work and Budget 2022/2023, which as the first proposal of the new administration. They congratulated the Director General's team, for incorporating the many considerations of different stakeholders. The Group welcomed the coherence of the work program, and also the Medium Term Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026. The different elements on which they were based were the same, they also included some of the specific initiatives, results-based management, the impact of Organization's activities and transparency and accountability for results. For GRULAC, it was of key interest to have priorities, development activities and resources for the Development Agenda of WIPO consistent and interlinked with

the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. In that regard, the Group welcomed the increase in development expenditure to 18.5 per cent of the total expenditure of the Organization, with 146.3 million Swiss francs. The Group considered the adoption of strategies focused on development extremely important and said that GRULAC considered that the capacity-building activities must be a central part of the activities of WIPO. As to the economic forecast of the Organization, the Group acknowledged that the Secretariat must proceed cautiously. An important part of the document for GRULAC was that WIPO focused on cross-cutting initiatives for youth, as well as mainstreaming gender equality into all activities. The Group counted on the fact that WIPO would be able to be successful and it concluded by saying that, GRULAC also extended its trust and support to all the civil servants of WIPO, particularly the Director General, and the Sector Leads entrusted to implement the program of work. The Group hoped that the program of work would put WIPO in the position to achieve everything it set out to do, where creativity was sustained by Intellectual Property and the ability of people to achieve results.

114. The Delegation of Bangladesh speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, also thanked the Secretariat for the Draft Program and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium. The Group's appreciation was expressed to the Director General and the Secretariat for their utmost efforts in providing a simple framework of Program and Budget. The Group believed that the new format would help ensure more accountability and transparency in the overall activities of the Organization. That said, the Group wanted to take a positive note of the Draft Proposed Program and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium. However, since the new format had taken a Sector-wide approach, the Group expressed the need to be very careful that the cross-sectoral collaboration was not compromised in any way.

115. The Delegation of South Africa speaking on behalf of the African Group thanked the Secretariat for their hard work in preparing the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/2023, and thanked the Secretariat for presenting it. Even though the volume of the Program and Budget was less compared to that of the 2020/2021 biennium, the Group acknowledged that the exercise could not have been easy given that a new methodology was being used for the first time. The Group noted and welcomed the eight per cent projected increase in the revenue of the Organization, and the three per cent increase in expenditure. The Group had confidence that WIPO would continue to display the proven sound financial management, which had served the Organization well for so many years. The Group was well aware of the many areas that require continued investment by WIPO, including the capital and technological infrastructure investments. The Group also knew that development should be a key aspect of the work of the Organization, and with higher revenues the Group expected higher increases in the development budget. In that regard, the Group noted the modest increase in the developed expenditure for the 2022/23 biennium. The Group also appreciated the emphasis on impact driven projects. The Group welcomed the explanation and rationale that had already been provided for the new methodology of the Program and Budget. The Group was not averse to change and therefore welcomed the new methodology. However as the Group indicated in its opening statement, it hoped that transparency and accountability would not be negatively affected by the new methodology. The Group noted the move to present the budget with the focus on Sectors that would carry out the work. To be clear, the Group saw great value in the previous method of presenting the budget in a program-focused manner, but it also saw many positives in the new method. The Group deemed it important to have as much information as possible, and therefore the Group hoped that it would always be able to obtain any information it needed, even if it did not appear in the document itself. The Group would be interested in receiving the details about the link of the work of the different Sectors to the SDGs as well as the measurement of the impact of that work. The Group continued to attach great importance to a results-based approach. Finally, the Group would work constructively with all to make sure that progress was made in that session of the PBC.

116. The Delegation of Georgia delivered a statement on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Group thanked the Secretariat and every WIPO Sector and their teams for preparing the Draft Proposed Program and Budget for 2022/23, contained in the document WO/PBC/32/4 that had been prepared considering replies from Member States to the questionnaire on the Draft Program and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium. The Group thanked all the Member States for their inputs. As the Group emphasized in the previous statements that it made, it welcomed the Draft Program of Work and Budget, which reflected the vision, mission and Strategic Pillars set out in the MTSP for 2022-26. The Group noted a projection of a surplus for the 2022/23 biennium, and the 7.8 per cent increase in income compared to the previous biennium's Program and Budget. The Group also believed that the prudent increase of the proposed expenditure for the following biennium, which amounted to three per cent, reflected good governance. The Group agreed with the idea of bringing in young talent, at the same time, it attached great importance to the geographical diversity of staff and adequate gender balance. The Group also acknowledged the important role of the Brands and Designs Sector and its potential to grow. Therefore, the Group fully supported the initiatives towards the promotion and marketing of different systems, the development and modernization of the Intellectual Property infrastructure and activities to provide legal and technical assistance. The Group also believed that Copyright and Creative Industries may be one of the Sectors impacted by artificial intelligence. Thus, the Group supported efforts in addressing these new challenges in the future. The Regional and National Development (Regional and National Development) Sector was responsible for several aspects of WIPO's work. The Regional and National Development Sector leveraged its unique knowledge of engagement with the Member States and reinforced the more effective use of Intellectual Property for growth and development. At the same time, that Sector served as the coordinator for the Development Agenda recommendations across the Organization, and reinforced the development of balanced and effective Intellectual Property, innovation and creative ecosystems. Furthermore, the Regional and National Development Sector increased the Intellectual Property knowledge and skills in the Member States through cutting-edge programs designed and implemented by the WIPO Academy. The Group encouraged further efforts to increase equitable geographical distribution among WIPO staff, and noted an increase in fellowship programs targeted for young professionals. The Group further welcomed the creation of the new Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, which supported WIPO's work in several aspects. The Group also supported the goals of that Sector, such as supporting start-ups, enterprises and SMEs to leverage Intellectual Property effectively for business growth, dissemination of high quality knowledge and data such as the global innovation index and engagement in the development of an Intellectual Property and innovation strategy, through the further development of in-house expertise of national Intellectual Property strategies. The Group also supported further efforts towards closer cooperation of WIPO with other organizations, such as European Patent Office and European Union Intellectual Property Office, developing new initiatives for SMEs.

117. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B expressed thanks to the Secretariat for preparing document WO/PBC/32/4 and to all contributing WIPO Sector Leads, and their teams for their work on the preparation of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group knew that the document had been prepared taking into account inputs from Member States in their responses to the questionnaire on the Draft Program and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium and it was grateful to all Member States for their contributions. Group B welcomed the first Program of Work and Budget under the new administration, and the Group read that document through the prism of the vision, mission and Strategic Pillars set out in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. The Group considered that the move to looking at financials and results by sector streamlined the document and allowed it to identify more easily where the Organization could have the most tangible impact while keeping transparency, ownership and accountability at the forefront. The Group noted that personnel costs for 2022/23 increased by 0.6 million Swiss francs as compared to the 2020/21 biennium approved budget. The Group saw the benefit of bringing in young talent as a long-term planning initiative. However, the Group suggested that the

Organization should aim for a good mix including bringing in experienced people with developed skillsets. In terms of considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Organization, the Group was pleased to see the return to the 'new normal', had been judiciously baselined into the budget including changes in business models, digitalization of previously paper-based processes, increased use of virtual and hybrid meeting tools and the resulting savings. The Group noted, however, that contractual services were budgeted to be 23.3 million Swiss francs higher than the 2020/21 budget, driven by additional estimated costs for translation services, development, deployment and maintenance of WIPO Connect, UNICC services, operational support for the WIPO IP portal and other IT projects. The Group requested more details to understand the in-house skills and contractual services needed to build and maintain IT platforms and further digitalization of the Organization and its services. The Group would raise points under each of the sectors as the Committee considered them one by one. Group B also committed to send more detailed questions to the Secretariat in writing that morning, and the Group was happy for the Secretariat to address those questions in whatever form suitable.

118. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the document. The Delegation was pleased to note that its feedback and suggestions had been taken on board. The Delegation believed that the budget was an important document for WIPO's new administration. Therefore, China had carefully studied the full text and annexes of the document, and the Delegation wished to make the following comments: First, China noted that the budget for the 2022/23 biennium was different from the previous one, it had undergone significant adjustments, in particular the work program structure had been streamlined from the current 31 programs to eight sectors. The Expected Results, performance indicators and the risks had also been reduced by 50 to 70 per cent. The Delegation understood that WIPO management was committed to making the Program of Work and Budget document more readable and to improve efficiency. However, the Delegation wished to point out that as a UN specialized agency with 193 Member States, more than 1500 employees and a budget of nearly 800 million Swiss francs, it was totally normal that the budget was complex. Full disclosure of Expected Results, performance indicators and risks of relevant departments would help Member States better participate in WIPO's governance and enhance transparency of the work of the Organization. The Delegation hoped that WIPO could balance efficiency with openness and transparency in future budget preparations. China understood that WIPO's development expenditure had increased by six million Swiss francs over the previous biennium. China highly appreciated that fact and hoped that WIPO would make good use of that new development budget so that Intellectual Property could benefit every developing country and least developed countries. The Delegation committed to give further comments when the agenda items were discussed.

119. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for the preparation of the Program and Budget for 2022/23. Regarding the Patents and Technology Sector the Delegation noted that the contribution of other Intellectual Property rights such as utility models and the protection of confidential information would be further explored. In that regard due to the rapid rate of digital transformation and the active cross-border movement of data, the Republic of Korea believed that the possibility of many stakeholders, such as companies' confidential information being misappropriated was higher than ever. Thus, the protection of trade secrets was becoming more important. Under those circumstances, the Deputy Commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office had a virtual meeting with the WIPO Deputy Director General of Patents and Technology Sector in April 2021 and both organizations recognized the importance of trade secret protection. It was the Republic of Korea's hope that the WIPO symposium on trade secrets and innovation would be held in the near future as it was held in 2019, so that Member States' awareness on the importance of trade secret protection would be raised, and the laws and policies of each Member State would be actively shared. Regarding the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, the Republic of Korea supported the proposal in the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation strongly supported that WIPO would assist enterprises and other stakeholders to use Intellectual Property as a tool for economic growth, and focus on Intellectual Property

management and commercialization. Since the Korean Intellectual Property Office had a great deal of experience and know-how in Intellectual Property commercialization and Intellectual Property finance, and had implemented various policies for small and medium-sized enterprises, the Delegation was committed to build strong cooperation with the Sector, in order to share its experience with Member States. The Republic of Korea looked forward to active cooperation with WIPO to build an ecosystem where Intellectual Property promoted innovation that led to economic growth.

120. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the statement given by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation wished to commend the Secretariat for the hard work in preparing the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium. Japan greatly appreciated the fact that priority had been given to budgets for global Intellectual Property services such as the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems based on the fact that more than 95 per cent of WIPO's income was generated from fees paid by applicants for those services. On the other hand, by reviewing the table 'overall scenario by Union' in Annex IV, which showed the overall allocation of income and expenditure by Union, the Delegation assumed that the Hague Union and Lisbon Union would have deficits. The Delegation hoped that all Member States and the Secretariat would consider ways to correct the imbalance of income and expenditure between Unions so that all of them would achieve sound financial success. The Working Group on the legal development of the Hague System continued to review the financial situation and to consider possible revisions in order to enhance the schedule of fees for ensuring the financial sustainability of the Hague System. The Working Group for development of the Lisbon System, decided to further discuss appropriate measures to ensure the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union in the future, including reviewing a schedule of fees on a regular basis. The Delegation encouraged further discussion in both Working Groups and strongly supported swift implementation of measures for financial sustainability.

121. The Delegation of the Russian Federation started by thanking WIPO for the presentation and for the preparation of the biennial budget. With regard to the eight per cent forecast increase in income, the Delegation understood that all of the foreseeable effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the growth of registrations and filings had been considered. The Delegation also believed that with regard to the Program of Work it had already given its comments through completing the questionnaire. Thirty-one programs were consolidated to eight sectors and 16 Expected Results. The Delegation thanked the Director General for the simplification of the way that the Program of Work and Budget was expressed. The Delegation believed that with regard to the concrete Expected Results and the transparency of the results, the way that it was set out, should not affect that. With regard to working with Small and Medium Enterprises and with youth, the Delegation believed that they all should be reflected in the plan of work as they were a significant force in the development of the IT ecosystem. The Delegation supported the plan to include young professionals and the fellowship program. The Delegation committed to provide detailed comments with regard to each of the sectors during the detailed review.

122. The Delegation of Pakistan aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group. The Delegation of Pakistan welcomed the new format of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23; it appreciated the emphasis on results-based management with an increased focus on impact supported by greater transparency and clearer accountability for results. The Delegation of Pakistan wished to take the opportunity to stress the need for the provision of coherent legislative and technical advice for Member States. The cumbersome and scattered nature of these services across the Secretariat made it difficult for Member States to obtain coherent advice on important legislative matters. The Delegation therefore proposed to realign the Organizational structure for that key function of WIPO. The Delegation also believed that its proposal was in line with the vision and

mission of the MTSP document, and all four Strategic Pillars, in particular Strategic Pillars 1 and 3.

123. The Delegation of Singapore thanked the Secretariat for organizing the 32nd session of the PBC and for preparing the relevant documents and briefings. The Delegation of Singapore also wished to thank the Director General, the Sector Leads and the Secretariat for taking Member States through WIPO's Medium-Term Strategic Plan earlier, and the corresponding Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. In that regard, Singapore wished to make the following three points. First, it appreciated the new streamlined approach to the budget, based on the allocation of financial resources by Sectors, rather than by programs, which represented significant progress from previous budgets and the new approach offered greater clarity and accountability by the individual Sectors, each responsible for delivering specific programs and results. Second, the Delegation felt it was good to see that development continued to be a focus of WIPO. The Delegation of Singapore understood that close to one fifth of WIPO's total expenditure would be dedicated to development, and that the allocations were targeted and clearly tagged to Expected Results, which were tangible and impact driven. Most notably, there was an increase in resources allocated to internships and WIPO fellowships which would contribute to overall capacity building in Intellectual Property human capital and knowledge. Third, the budget was forward-looking. It reflected a concerted effort across the Organization to prepare itself for the future. There would be key investments in people, technology and digital transformation. SMEs, women and youth could look forward to benefiting from various programs and initiatives involving training and mentoring. Those were critical elements of the future, for the sustainability of WIPO, and the Intellectual Property and innovation ecosystem.

124. The Delegation of Algeria wished to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, contained in the document WO/PBC/32/4. The Delegation was pleased to note that that document was the result of a number of different sessions, involving benchmarking and a wide-range of stakeholders within and outside the Organization. The Delegation took note of the change that had been introduced in the methodology for preparing the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, especially in terms of Sectors of activities, Strategic Pillars and Expected Results. Those changes showed the new vision of the Director General which aimed at putting the promotion of innovation at the core of the action by WIPO and to stress the impact of Intellectual Property on economic growth and sustainable development. The Delegation hoped that those changes would improve the governance of the Organization and at the same time would strengthen its capacity to respond to the requests of Member States by offering better quality services to them. The development expenditure was 18.5 per cent of the total expenditure, which the Delegation noted had increased slightly compared to the previous biennium. Moreover, the Delegation wished to stress the strengthening of the regional bureau for Arab countries to better serve the countries of the Arab area, where there was very strong potential for the development of Intellectual Property and innovation. The Delegation also wished to commend WIPO for integrating External Offices in the strategies, and it stressed that WIPO had to align the newly created offices in Africa, and integrate them in the network of offices, in terms of human resources, especially. The Delegation would be presenting more specific comments when the Committee looked at the individual sectors of the Program and Budget.

125. The Delegation of Indonesia wished to ask a question for clarification. First, could comments be taken at that time, with regard to the first part of the financial end results overview of the document, or would that be done later? Second, the Delegation wished to thank Group B for their questions to the Secretariat. The Delegation said it would be helpful if other members could also see the list of questions, to avoid duplication of questions with regard to the discussion on the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23.

126. The Delegation of Mexico began by expressing its thanks to the Director General for being present and for his presentation that day and also to the Secretariat for the presentation of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 document. The Delegation wished to offer some general comments; it was grateful for the preparation of the draft budget in its new format that was different compared with earlier biennia. Any efforts that make Delegations' work easier were welcome. The Delegation took into account the fact that the document was based on the guidance provided by Member States as well as with the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026. The Proposed Program and Budget used a results-based management approach and it also supported Member States in terms of having better improved transparency. The Delegation wished to stress that the topic of development, as so well put and stressed by the Director General, continued to be extremely important as a part what the Organization does and the budget gives us clear links between the programs and the achievement of the SDGs. The Delegation also welcomed the fact that it saw an increase in development expenditure, especially in the areas of overall Intellectual Property protection and support services. Significant resources were earmarked for projects, to be carried out in the field. The Delegation would have some additional specific comments, to be made during the Sector-by-Sector review.

127. The Chair said that the end of the day's session was being reached. He noted a specific question from the Delegation of Indonesia, which was welcomed. He reminded the Committee that a number of colleagues were connecting remotely from different time zones, where it may be the middle of the night. In the morning, the Committee would start with a review of the financial data and results, followed by a Sector-by-Sector review. The Chair gave the floor to the Delegation of the United States of America.

128. The Delegation of the United States of America apologized in advance for the lengthy intervention that was to come. The Delegation welcomed the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, and appreciated the efforts that went into its preparation. The Delegation strongly supported the important work that the WIPO did and valued the contribution that the Program and Budget Committee made to the governance and to the Organization by providing an opportunity for members of the Organization to agree upon priorities for work for future years and performance metrics for the proposed work. The Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 was a document prepared by the Secretariat that could aid members in that process, while also serving as guidance for the Organization. As the Delegation had noted many times, the United States placed the utmost importance of the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance in United Nations Organizations including WIPO. While the Delegation appreciated aspects of the streamlined version of the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 compared to prior biennia, approximately 120 pages compared to 240 pages, fewer key performance indicators and budget allocations by sectors instead of 31 'programs', the Delegation would require more time to thoroughly review it to ensure it sufficiently addressed all aspects of the Organization's operation. Nevertheless, the Delegation had the following preliminary observations. The Delegation noted that PCT fee income was 77.4 per cent of the Organization's total revenue and was forecasted to increase 10.7 per cent compared to the 2020/2021 program and budget income estimates. However, Madrid and Hague, the income, was projected to decrease 1.3 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively. In some respects, elimination of the program view made it more difficult to find certain information. For example under the previous presentation each of the registration systems had its own program. Again, the United States liked the new format but believed more detail was needed. For example, the Delegation was previously able to see in each registration system, how much money was allocated for certain activities such as promotion and the staff size for each program. Similarly, members were able to see how much other programs such as Program 9, Program 10, Program 20 and others were contributing towards promotion of the registration systems. Under the proposed presentation, everything related to promotion of the registration systems was 'lumped' into Expected Result 3.1. It was not clear to the Delegation whether the promotion and operations of the various systems was delineated. The Delegation requested that the Secretariat provide a table in the revised version to be considered in PBC 33, that broke

down the promotion cost by System, for Expected Result 3.1. There were Systems that the Delegation believed had the potential to succeed, such as the Hague system, but may lack adequate resources for promotion. Moreover, in the proposed format, Annex IV had increased in importance because it enabled the most transparent and complete representation of the Union budgets. Additionally, on page 20 of the Draft Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 it stated “that an eight per cent provision for the After Service Healthcare Insurance (ASHI) has been applied to fixed posts.” The 2020/21 biennial budget raised that percentage from six per cent to eight per cent, the preliminary financial bar graph indicated that the general employee benefits liability amounts were roughly 495 million Swiss francs, which included ASHI. The Delegation requested information to show if the two per cent increase from six per cent to eight per cent had helped to fund the ASHI liability and if it was enough to be on path towards reducing the unfunded liability. On page 10 there was a Sector category entitled ‘unallocated’ which Member States were asked to approve in an amount of roughly 12 million Swiss francs. The explanation on page 20 was that that category pertains to overtime of two million Swiss francs and four million Swiss francs for “the results of Reclassification Committee decisions”. The Delegation asked for what the remainder would be used. In Annex I on page 68, the 2020/21 unallocated category received transfers in approximately two million Swiss francs and transferred out approximately eight million Swiss francs. The Delegation asked the Secretariat to provide more information on how that unallocated category was being used and the Delegation could discuss that off-line with the Secretariat as needed. The Delegation noted a slight increase in personnel costs, owing in part to then new posts for the Young Experts Program. The Delegation was interested to learn more about the new initiative, recognizing that the Director General highlighted that initially in his opening presentation, however more details were welcome. Another new initiative, the WIPO Global Awards Program appeared to be similar to the US PTO Patents for Humanity awards program. The Delegation said it would be happy to share its experience in developing it and running it for almost 10 years. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the Director General's focus on connecting everyone everywhere with Intellectual Property, which it understood included expanding efforts for gender equality and diversity in the use of the Intellectual Property system. To that end, the Delegation believed it was the right time for WIPO to create a section with devoted staff to champion the cause of women in Intellectual Property around the world. On page 74, Annex IV, the Delegation was curious why the table in Annex IV, had IPSAS adjustments to income on cash basis with each Union getting 24 thousand Swiss francs given the IPSAS numbers on page 73 were very different. The Delegation said that it made no sense to make the cash basis adjustment equal. Finally, the Delegation noted Annex IV included the so-called allocation methodology, the Delegation realized that the Committee would discuss that later in the week. The allocation methodology was said to be based on the same methodology that had been used since 2008, however the Delegation noted that in 2008 the tables in the annex including reserve working capital fund (RWCF), balanced at the end of the prior biennium. The Delegation understood that any surplus in the RWCF of the Unions was one of the factors in determining whether the union had the capacity to pay. According to how it was represented, only the surplus for the biennium was represented and not the balance from the prior biennium. That does not allow comparison to the RWCF target and could result in a misunderstanding with regard to whether the target was met. The Delegation requested that, as in 2008, the Secretariat include at least an estimate of the RWCF balance at the end of 2021 in the table at the bottom of page 73. The Delegation had been discussing alternative budget allocation methodologies since 2015, including a proposal by the United States in 2017 with a proportional allocation of both direct and indirect expenses among the Unions. The Delegation continued to question the distribution of miscellaneous income and the IPSAS adjustment to income equally to each grouping, especially given the contribution of Unions to producing the revenue or adjustment was far from equal. The Delegation hoped that when the Committee could resume in-person meetings, these discussions could continue with greater zeal and renewed interested to do what was right for the health of the Organization. The United States would not waver in its insistence that each of the fee-funded Unions must abide by its treaty obligations and collect

income sufficient to cover that Union's expenses including its fair share of the Organization's common expenses.

129. The Chair thanked the Committee for its good cooperation. The Delegation adjourned the meeting and said that the following day the Committee would begin as planned the following morning.

130. When returning to Agenda item 7, the Chair requested that the Secretariat provide some clarifications on the questions raised.

131. The Secretariat stated that they wanted to respond to some of the cross-cutting questions and comments that were raised before the Committee moved to its more detailed reading. In response to a question raised in particular from the Asia and the Pacific Group, as well as some Delegations, "Can we collaborate within the framework of a Sector-by-Sector organization?" the Secretariat said that collaboration was something that was very much on the mind of the Director General, and of all the Sector Leads. The Organization was catalyzing cross-sector collaboration through at least two different paths. Firstly, it was the culture. Collaboration was first and foremost about the safe, inclusive, open culture that was being created, and the Director General had spoken extensively about that. The sort of culture where colleagues felt empowered to engage with each other, to share ideas, to work together towards the Organization's shared goals. When the Director General came into the Organization and the Sector Leads started thinking with him on the strategy for the Organization in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan, one of the first things he did was to open the conversation up to all of the leaders and managers across the Organization, which was a very deliberate decision: if the new leadership wanted to deliver on the Organization's vision and mission as was set out under the MTSP, a shared endeavor across the Organization was very much needed. Thus the Director General and Sector Leads had a very open, inclusive conversation with quite literally hundreds of managers across the Organization who were encouraged to go and discuss within their own teams what the Organization's vision, mission and goal should be and how the Secretariat could work to deliver on those. The Director General and Sector Leads were very much trying to set the tone at the top, and so they met as a whole at least weekly and often several more times to share ideas, talk about what was going on: to collaborate. The leadership had also tried to ensure good information was shared across Sectors. In 2021, when addressing the draft work plan for that year, rather than Sector Leads and teams merely presenting them to senior management or their own teams, the approach was opened up across the Organization: Every Sector presented to every manager, every leader across the Organization. Over one day was dedicated to that, but it was a worthwhile exercise because it was very much around understanding across Sectors what each Sector was doing, what their objectives were, and therefore creating the space and opportunities for them to discuss and work out how they could collaborate together. The second major way in which the Director General and Sector Leads tried to encourage, to build the sort of culture where colleagues collaborate effectively, was through the Expected Results. And rather than pooling financial resources, there were shared Expected Results. Table 5 on page 10 of the English and French versions, sets out the proposed budget by Sector for each Expected Result. But also, by definition, it showed where, cross-sectoral collaboration was firmly expected, because there was more than one Sector contributing towards the same Expected Results. And that table was quite striking because on that table it could be seen that of the 16 Expected Results, 12 of those Expected Results required collaboration across Sectors. And actually, that was purely in terms of the financial resources that were allocated. More generally it could be found that the Expected Results under the Foundation pillar, building the sort of culture envisaged, were very cross-cutting by nature anyway. Thus, almost all of the Expected Results require cross-sector collaboration. Beneath the Expected Results were the indicators and often therefore there were particular indicators by the Sector so that the teams delivering under each could be measured and held accountable. The idea behind those shared Expected Results was very much to encourage Sectors across the Organization to work together to deliver them. Concerning

transparency and accountability under the new approach, and to a question on reassurance, including from the African Group, on obtaining information. First of all, absolutely, the Secretariat were there that week more generally to provide whatever information Delegations need in order to consider the Program and Budget proposal. So, the idea behind the proposal was also very much to improve accountability, and transparency. By way of reminder, going back many years, the Organization, had a program view, and then it turned to results-based management, to really drive impact, a focus on results was required, rather than on inputs. However, the program view remained. So, as an Organization, WIPO ended up with at least three different ways of seeing the same information, and actually there was also an internal cost allocation approach to seeing the same data. That may have even made the Secretariat less accountable and less transparent because there were lots of overlaps between the different frames, since they did not align exactly, it was sometimes not clear who was the sponsor of a particular deliverable. And so, the new leadership wanted to tidy that up, to streamline it. In doing so WIPO could benchmark itself against other United Nations Organizations. The leadership looked at what other U.N. organizations were doing, and what was best practice. Taking KPIs as an example, WIPO had 277 KPIs in the 2020/21 Program and Budget, and that was far more than any other UN specialized agency. Most had between 50 and 100. That was a number where the management, Member States and stakeholders could get a firm grip, understand it, and hold the Secretariat to account. The point of accountability was also very important and as the Committee worked Sector-by-Sector through the budget the idea was very much that Delegations could map between the budget of those teams within the Organization that were responsible for delivery. Finally, the transparency point, it was appreciated that the document was shorter than the previous biennium; the Secretariat hoped it was clearer. The Secretariat was very much committed to providing whatever information Delegations required to help make the transition to the new format and there were a number of ways that could be done. The Secretariat was also in the process of finalizing the first draft of the question and answer document, that was a formal document, a document that the Secretariat put to Member States with the explanations and with some of the additional data that Delegations asked for. The document was very much designed to avoid undermining the structural integrity of the Program and Budget document. It was designed to offer documentation that co-existed with the Program and Budget document, if there were members who had a particular interest in particular areas, the Secretariat provided the information and explanations, using that Q&A document to capture that in that manner. With regards a few of the comments that came out of the opening statements. The Secretariat thanked Delegations very much for the suggestion for a section to champion the causes of women around the world, it linked to a number of other comments about diversity and inclusion, more generally. The Secretariat wished to put on record the Secretariat's absolute commitment to those broader objectives and certainly on the gender point, the statistic that was fewer than one in five patent applicants were female, under current trends it would take 40 years to reach gender parity on international patent filing, so there was some way to go. The agenda of objectives had been designed around trying to accelerate that work and effort towards gender balance. WIPO's activities were designed first, to encourage women and girls' involvement in the Intellectual Property ecosystem. Second, to collect and analyze data, both quantitative and qualitative data in that area, so the Secretariat could understand exactly what was going on. Third, to further the gender analysis of Intellectual Property policies and strategies together with the necessary capacity building. There were a number of initiatives that were ongoing in that area, the Director General referred the day before to his work with GRULAC, to take forward work in that region. The Secretariat had worked in a number of areas and would continue those into the 2022/23 biennium, including online sessions, looking to disseminate research and good practice with women in Intellectual Property. There were over 450 participants including strong representation from developing countries. There was also a training, mentoring, and matchmaking program for indigenous women and entrepreneurs that was supporting 24 participants, but perhaps as importantly, eight of those participants were in the process of using that experience to register trademarks or collective marks. Third, there was a Development Agenda project, which was focused on

increasing the role of women in innovation and entrepreneurship, was being implemented in Mexico, Iran, Pakistan and Uganda. While no more further details were offered at that point in time, as the Committee went through the Sector-by-Sector review, Delegations may have wished to ask for further elaboration. On internal diversity, following reference by a number of Delegations, the Secretariat's reiterated its strong commitment to geographical and gender balance. The Director General also recorded in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 there were very clear indicators on each of those issues and the Young Experts Program, which was referenced by a number of Delegations, was one of the initiatives which WIPO could use to strengthen the diversity across the Organization, diversity from geographic, gender, age, and socio-economic perspectives. The aim of the Young Experts Program was very much to do that by building capacity in young, talented individuals from across the world, but especially from developing countries and LDCs, who in turn could come to WIPO and help energize the Organization with fresh thinking of new ideas. As envisaged, the Young Experts Program would contribute to at least three of the Strategic Pillars of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan, of course as well as the Foundation. But also it was also hoped that it would contribute to economic growth more widely because the idea behind it was that experts come to WIPO, they spend some time working, but then they take that learning back to their home governments, home systems, companies, SMEs, their Organizations and universities, and really share that and use that to drive economic growth more broadly. The Secretariat had taken good note of a number of more detailed questions, and those would be covered as the Committee reviewed the proposal Sector-by-Sector. In certain cases, the questions linked very specifically to particular Sectors, and thus it would be more efficient for the Sector Leads to cover them as the Committee reviewed each Sector. The Secretariat indicated that some of the more technical questions, would be answered through the question and answer document, particularly where there were some detailed numbers required. As an example, the Secretariat indicated that the Delegation of the Republic of Korea had a question on trade secret protection and WIPO's thinking on trade secrets. The Secretariat took good note of that question and would address it during the Sector-by-Sector review. Regarding the CEBS Group's questions on the impact of artificial intelligence and the creative industries, the Secretariat would respond to those questions. In the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector there was a kind offer from the Delegation of the United States of America, regarding their own Intellectual Property awards program, the Secretariat took note and was grateful for that. The questions on SDGs and the mapping of SDGs and also concerning some of the regional offices, would also be covered by the Secretariat. CEBS Group raised a point on working across organizations and working with other organizations on the shared endeavor of bringing small and medium-size enterprises more into the Intellectual Property system. The Secretariat would address that during the Sector-by-Sector review. There were some questions from Group B members on the contractual skills for digitalization – the 23.3 million Swiss francs increase. The Secretariat had analyzed that and since it was quite a detailed analysis with a lot of numbers it would be included in the question and answer document and the Secretariat would be very happy to come back to that detail if Delegations had further questions. Finally, there was a question on the ASHI provision, the increase of six to eight per cent on the ASHI charge, which would be included in the discussion later on the AFM Sector. The Secretariat reiterated the availability of the team to answer questions or explore further on any of those points.

132. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the clarifications and the information shared on the questions. He said that colleagues both physically present and those connected remotely were taking due note of that, some of them would be most pleased to have those extra details and afterwards the Committee would have the possibility to look at the document in greater depth, and to ask relevant questions. The Chair suggested that the Committee begin the first reading of the document, by applying a certain methodology so that the Committee could review slowly but surely the sections in the document. The Chair said that first the Committee would look at the part entitled "Financial Data and Results Overview", that went from page 4 to page 21, which was a key section because it described the new vision of the whole team. The Chair opened the floor for questions on that section.

133. The Delegation of Indonesia said that the previous day, it had not been able to deliver the opening statement to the PBC, so it would start with making some short general remarks. The Delegation wished to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which was reflected in document WO/PBC/32/4. As the Delegation had mentioned in its previous interventions, in general, Indonesia welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget that was guided not only by the input from Member States, but also the MTSP, as well as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Delegation welcomed the streamlined results framework of the four Strategic Pillars, the Foundation and the 16 Expected Results, as articulated in the MTSP. The Delegation believed that the streamlining from 31 Programs to eight Sectors would strengthen delivery and monitoring processes of results. Indonesia also took note of the financial health of the Organization and WIPO's continued prudent fiscal management. With regard to Part 1 of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, of the financial and results overview, the Delegation had a number of questions. First, the reference document of the definition of 'development expenditure'. Second, some clarifications on key priorities as set out on pages 11 to 17 of Part 1 of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget, and third, some clarifications relating to development activities and Development Agenda resources. To begin with first, the Delegation noted that the reference document for the definition development expenditure in one of the footnotes on page 8, was different from the reference document in the footnote 13, page 20. The Delegation took note that, during a briefing session, both documents refer to the same definition. However, the Delegation asked if it would be possible, for consistency purposes, to reference same the document on both page 8 and 20. It should refer to the document A/55/4. Secondly, on key priorities, since the breakdown and budget on the key priorities as was outlined on pages 11 to 17 were not reflected in the Sector-by-Sector part later on, the Delegation wanted to convey some comments and questions for further clarification as follows: First, in general, the Delegation would have liked to see how the priorities in each Strategic Pillar corresponded to the Expected Result under each Strategic Pillar. Some priorities had the same exact amount of budget with table 5 on page 10, but there were many priorities in combination of the amount, or partial amount so the Delegation could not see how the priorities were linked to the Expected Results. Specifically, on Strategic Pillar 1, still on the key priorities pages 11 to 17, Strategic Pillar 1 was easy because there was only one Expected Result, so it was clear that the budget allocation for the priorities in Pillar 1 corresponded to ER 1.1. However, the Delegation still had questions. First, on the second bullet point in priorities, which was "efficient and effective interface with stakeholders globally and proactive engagement and representation of HQ at various events and fora", two million Swiss francs was allocated for Regional and National Development Sector (specifically External Offices). The Delegation's questions were: why was that particular priority and the corresponding Expected Results only for External Offices? What about countries or regions that were not covered by any WIPO External Office? The Delegation noted on table 5 on page 10, the Regional and National Development Sector budget for ER 1.1 was 3.1 million Swiss francs, on page 11, the priorities for Regional and National Development Sector that correspond to 1.1 was 2.1 million Swiss francs, did that mean that the one million Swiss francs difference would be allocated for regional divisions' activities in conjunction with the ER 1.1? On Strategic Pillar 2, the Delegation noted that Copyright and Creative Industries Sector was allocated 1.5 million Swiss francs to hold a conference on the digital content marketplace infrastructure, support to WIPO for creators, as well as the organization of conferences and seminars and studies on the SCCR agenda topics. The Delegation's questions regarding that Expected Results were: first, since the budget was exactly the same at 1.577 million Swiss francs, it could be seen from table 5 on page 10, that these priorities corresponded to ER 2.2. Why then, on page 12, the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector was not mentioned in the performance indicator for ER 2.2? The Delegation understood that the Secretariat had mentioned how the collaboration between sectors was partly done through shared Expected Results but that would also be good if the shared Expected Result would also amount to shared performance indicators, because performance indicators for Expected Result 2.2 could only be seen for IP and Office of Director General, not

for a Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. The Delegation understood that any studies, conferences, and seminars connected to committees in WIPO were based on the agreement within the Committee. However, the Delegation would like to seek clarification on how actually Sectors, not Committees, Sectors in WIPO decided to organize conferences, conversations or seminars outside of the framework of the Committee's agenda. In that respect, the Delegation would like to ask why the Regional and National Development Sector did not have any contribution towards the Expected Result 2.2. As Indonesia had mentioned in its intervention regarding the MTSP, it supported WIPO's focus as a convener, but would have also liked to see WIPO bring the international community together in conferences and initiatives relating to topics of IP and development. On Strategic Pillar 3, the Delegation noted with interest the footnote on page 12 related to WIPO Proof, the Delegation would appreciate it if the Secretariat could further elaborate on that matter. On Strategic Pillar 4, it could be seen on the second bullet point for priorities, that Copyright and Creative Industries Sector was allocated 1.191 million Swiss francs, and since that was the exact same number in table 5 on page 10, it could be seen that that budget corresponded to Expected Result 4.1 which referred to the exact same 1.191 million Swiss francs for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. However, why then on page 14, there was no performance indicator for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector? The same applied to the 3.824 million Swiss francs allocated under Patents and Technology Sector that corresponded to Expected Result 4.1 based on table 5 on page 10, however there was no performance indicator for Patents and Technology Sector on Expected Result 4.1 on page 14. If that was because the performance indicators for Expected Result 4.1, both for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector and Patents and Technology Sector, were counted all within Regional and National Development Sector, using the same logic, why then the budget in Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, that corresponded to Expected Results 4.2 and 4.3, had shared performance indicators with Regional and National Development but there was no shared performance indicator for Expected Results 4.1? And third, on development activities and Development Agenda resources, the Delegation would like to draw attention to table 7, development expenditure in 2022/23. The Delegation wished to see the breakdown each corresponding Expected Result of the budget allocated per Sector for development expenditure. That would aid the Delegation in making further analysis and comments. The Delegation understood that that had never been done before, but since now there was a shift from program-based to Sector-based, the breakdown of the development expenditure per Expected Result was important. For example, the Delegation would have liked to see how the 19 million Swiss francs for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector for development expenditure, which was more than half of the Sector's budget, corresponded to Expected Results. Finally, the Delegation requested that the Secretariat showed a comparison of the development expenditure per Sector with the 2022/21 biennium. The Delegation understood that there was a shift from 31 Programs to eight Sectors, but it would really help in comparisons between proposed 2022/23 budget and the 2020/21 budget on development expenditure which was a standard practice in the PBC document before that one. For example, the Delegation would like to see if the 61 million Swiss francs for Regional and National Development Sector could be compared to the total of Programs 8, 9, 10, 11 and 20 in the 2020/21 biennium. The Delegation would engage in more details during the Sector-by-Sector discussion. The Delegation was also ready to submit those questions in writing to the Secretariat should it be deemed necessary.

134. The Delegation of Israel made its opening statement as it missed making it the day before. The Delegation thanked the Director General and his team for preparing the first budget under his leadership. The Delegation supported the new and transparent approach for WIPO, and new direction for the Organization. The Delegation also wished to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documents for the session. The Delegation supported the statements made by Delegation of the UK on behalf of Group B, and believed the impact of frontier technologies, such as AI and blockchain, on the Intellectual Property ecosystem was sure to be a game changer in the near future. Therefore, the Delegation saw great importance in the allocation of resources dedicated to the study and development of that field. Israel was also in support of the new focus to be given to non-specialist audiences, with special attention to include women,

youth, and SMEs, in order to create future opportunities and training for these groups. To identify Intellectual Property valuable assets and tools it was important for not only building respect for IP but also encouraging economic growth and development. The Delegation stood ready to cooperate with WIPO as well as Member States to share best practices and to work together to build capacities globally, to leave no one behind with the aim to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

135. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates expressed its gratitude for the presentation by the WIPO Secretariat for the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's willingness to connect Intellectual Property stakeholders and strengthen its work on commercialization, supporting innovation, creators, and research academies by strengthening and focusing on SMEs and youth. The Delegation noted that the projected budget was increased by 3 per cent. The Delegation wished to make a number of questions on Part 1, the financial and results overview. The first question related to the breakdown of the estimated IPSAS adjustment to expenditure, which it noted had an increase of over one hundred per cent, and the Delegation wished to have clarification from the Secretariat on that. Second, the Delegation had a question regarding page 8, 'Strategy House', on including development expenditure by Strategic Pillar. The Delegation requested that the Secretariat include SDGs for each Strategic Pillar in order to emphasize the breakdown of the SDGs and the concentration of the SDGs within these Strategic Pillars. The Delegation also noted the addition of the SDG 13 which it appreciated. In terms of table 5 and Expected Results, the Delegation noted the importance of the collaboration as had been presented by the Secretariat. The Delegation would also have more comments as the Committee went through the proposal Sector-by-Sector. The Delegation brought attention to Expected Result 4.1 as the Brands and Designs Sector had no allocated budget for more effective use of Intellectual Property to support growth and development for all Member States. The Delegation wished to have clarification on how the Brands and Designs Sector would participate under that Expected Result. In terms of page 18: budget by cost category, the Delegation had two comments. First, for non-personnel resources, the Delegation noted that internships had an overall increase of 101 per cent however the Delegation understood that there was some lack of numbering or assigning for internships when it came to page 25 for, example, for Patents and Technology Sector, as there was no internship assigned for that program. That point could be addressed when the Committee reviews that Sector. The Delegation also had a question about operating expenses, it sought clarification on the term 'communication'. The Delegation asked the Secretariat to elaborate on what 'communication' meant in table 6. The Delegation supported the request by the Delegation of Indonesia on having the breakdown on the development expenditure, that it would help members to understand how the development budget was allocated for each Sector.

136. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) had a question regarding WIPO's COVID-19 activities. In his opening remarks, the Director General had elaborated and reflected on WIPO's activities regarding COVID-19, and also during the item on the strategy and the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget. The Delegation thanked the Director General for his comprehensive explanation of that area. However, on page 15 of the Draft Program and Budget, the COVID-19 activities of WIPO had been described, but the Delegation requested clarification as the activity had been explained, but no specific activities were proposed. Despite the fact that the Director General announced a package of major COVID-19 support measures, it would be needed to be reflected on page 15.

137. The Delegation of Spain was grateful to the Secretariat for preparing the document, WO/PBC/32/4, which had been drafted bearing in mind the contributions of Member States and their replies to the questionnaire of Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 biennium in connection with the aim to increase the participation of Member States. While the aim was to have a surplus for 2022/23, WIPO basically received its income from fees. There was a certain amount of uncertainty in view of possibilities for global economic growth, the

Delegation shared the concerns of the Organization and Member States in this regard. For the continuing issues with COVID-19 that the world continues to endure, there may have been a need for prudent forecasting. As to the expenditure of the Organization, without detriment to the activities provided, that was an exercise that needed support from all who participate in the global intellectual property community. The Delegation counted on everyone's goodwill, such as for the Development Agenda, the need to include capacity building, digital training for those processes, and the continued need for appropriate resources for improving global services to protect intellectual property, and for those to be of good quality. The Delegation of Spain had several questions in connection with some budgetary issues. First, in the estimated budget for income from the Madrid Union for 2022/23, page 5, the Delegation noted an increase of 3.6 per cent compared to the 2020/2021 budget, once the estimated income was considered. Income from the Hague system, for 2022/23, was also expected to increase compared to 2020/21, an update of those estimated incomes was provided. There were factors which justified that increase in the Madrid System and also the Hague System. Bearing in mind, that as could be found on page 7, paragraph 1 of the document, it was provided that the number of registrations would be increasing by 5.3 per cent, but renewals were forecast to have a 3.2 per cent decrease in 2022/23 compared with the 2020/21 budget. As to income from the Hague System, also on page 7, paragraph 3, the number of registrations and renewals from the Hague System were expected to increase by 19.2 per cent and 12.7 per cent respectively in 2022/23, as compared to the 2020/21 program estimates. The Delegation had some misgivings about the request for an increase, since both systems suffered a decline in their income in 2020/21, probably caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation of Spain welcomed the fact that WIPO was proposing a global ecosystem for Intellectual Property which was effective and balanced, which promoted creativity for a more sustainable and better future. However, it was surprising that one of the fundamental pillars, that was Strategic Pillar 1, which explained the potential of intellectual property for increasing the well-being and lives of people throughout the world and every part of the world, was only 16.967 million Swiss francs out of the total biennial budget – only 2.1 per cent of the budget. There was a need for greater communication to improve awareness-raising about the ways in which Intellectual Property could improve the life of humanity as a whole, everywhere in the world, and that was an essential view for that Delegation. The Delegation of Spain decisively supports that Pillar, but it needed more information about the resources for that Pillar, since the Delegation believed the resources may have been insufficient for the huge task before WIPO. The Delegation wished to mention what it considered a priority. In connection with the standard-setting activities and the drafting of WIPO's policies, including negotiating international legal instruments and support for members in implementing treaties, and substantive work in various Committees and Working Groups. WIPO should become a more agile, flexible, efficient Organization, in terms of its decision-making, and should continue to act as a forum for international dialogue, making it possible for Member States to identify standard-setting and regulatory activities at the worldwide level and to adapt their own Intellectual Property standards for greater innovation and creativity. Consequently, WIPO should focus on giving priority to activities relating to compliance with rules, and also strengthening systems for protecting Intellectual Property, to revive confidence in WIPO as a key Organization for protecting Intellectual Property rights and also promoting new accessions to WIPO treaties, particularly in the Latin American region. The Delegation recalled the convening of a diplomatic conference and the need to analyze issues related to industrial and intellectual property as also new technologies, such as artificial intelligence.

138. The Chair suspended the meeting for 10 minutes in order to enable the Secretariat to coordinate its answers.

139. The Secretariat thanked all Delegations for their engagement and the questions that they had raised. The Secretariat first addressed some high-level points, related to the income forecast. The income estimates in the proposed biennial plan for 2022/23, were based on the Chief Economist's forecast for demand. On the income side, the Chief Economist had provided a base case demand scenario, as well as a high case and a low case. The Secretariat had

taken a prudent approach, and that prudent approach implied that it took the base case of demand. However, in terms of translating that into income, a five per cent reduction on the base case was applied on the estimation of income with respect to all the three registration systems, Madrid, Hague and the PCT. However, the other side of the coin was expenditure and appropriately resourcing the Intellectual Property services and registration systems was of paramount importance. The fees from those registration systems were the financial lifeline of the Organization, and the basis of its financial sustainability. Thus, the Secretariat was very careful to ensure it worked with the respective Sectors to ensure that they were adequately resourced for the demand expected, based on the base case scenario of the Chief Economist, thus that should have been taken into consideration when reading the demand and income tables. In response to a question or comment from the Delegation of Spain related to the Hague estimates, the Secretariat said that the second column that the Delegation referred to include the estimates from China, while the first column did not include it. Thus, the difference between 2022/23 and 2020/21 was related to the estimates of renewals and registrations from China being included. Having said that, there was a request for information on the IPSAS adjustments. As that was primarily related to the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liabilities, the Secretariat requested to answer that question along with other questions related to the ASHI liabilities that were also raised earlier in that conversation when undertaking the Sector review of the Administration, Finance and Management Sector.

140. The Secretariat asked for some more time for certain questions, in particular for the very detailed questions. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation of Indonesia for sending its intervention and committed to study it carefully and provide a more detailed answer later. However in terms of an initial response, one of the questions concerned the reference to 'development expenditure', in the footnote, on pages 8 and page 20. As per the request of the Delegation of Indonesia, the Secretariat would change the footnote on page 8, which was the Strategy House to the same reference which was on page 20 of the document, which was A/55/4. As regards the outline of the priorities section of the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, the Secretariat wished to explain the intention of that section: From a results-based management point of view, at the highest level, there were the four Strategic Pillars and the Foundation. Underneath that, there was a set of 16 Expected Results, to which the eight Sectors contributed. The contributions from the Sectors to the Expected Results could be seen through each Sector's performance indicators, baselines and targets. However, since that remained at a relatively high level, i.e. the Expected Results level, in the key priorities section, the document went a level deeper, to show the contribution at the Sector level, and also to highlight the most important priorities that were under each of the Expected Results from an Organizational point of view, which may have been useful to have that level of detail when the Committee reviewed each of the implementation strategies for the Sectors. That meant that picking out the priority, which was at a lower level than the Expected Results from a planning perspective, meant that the amounts associated with the Expected Result and the priorities did not necessarily correspond one to one, since it was at a lower level. Unless everything was taken at the lower level under an Expected Result, it would not, by definition, add up to the amount for that Expected Result. That was why in certain cases it was a one-to-one relationship, but in other cases it would not necessarily be possible to make that crosswalk from the Expected Result level and down to the priority level. That said, of course, the Secretariat would study the questions from the Delegation of Indonesia in more detail and provide the answers to the Delegation's questions. There was also reference to the footnote on page 12, regarding WIPO Proof. The Secretariat would provide additional information in the Q&A, which it would try to publish as soon as possible, so that Delegations would have more detail in addition to the footnote, which was already there in the document on page 12. The development expenditure by Expected Result, again the Delegation of Indonesia. The Secretariat referred the Committee to page 8 in the document which was the Strategy House. In addition to the tables for the development expenditure by Sector that could be found in table 7 of page 21 of the document, it could also be found by Expected Result, on page 8, development expenditure by result were the amounts which were indicated in parentheses. For

example, the estimated budget for the Expected Result 4.1, which was shown in black font, amounted to 18.5 million Swiss francs, and the development expenditure was the amount indicated in the brackets, which was 17.6 million Swiss francs. The Secretariat said that that information was already there, although not on the same page as the other table on page 21. With regards to the comparison of the development expenditure by Sector, with the 2020/21 biennium, the Secretariat would be happy to provide that comparison in the Q&A, it just needed some time to produce a suitable table, however, it committed to provide members with that information. From the Delegation of United Arab Emirates, there was a request to add the SDGs in the Strategy House, on page 8, by Strategic Pillar. The Secretariat would include that in the revised version of the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, if Member States agreed. There was a very specific question which was related to table 5, for Expected Result 4.1. While there was no budget associated with the Expected Result 4.1 for the Brands and Design Sector, where there was for the Patents and Technology Sector. The reason was that in the Patents and Technology Sector, there was the PCT International Cooperation Division, which was particularly dealing with helping Intellectual Property offices in Member States, in developing countries and LDCs. WIPO did not have the equivalent type of division and service in the Brands and Designs Sector, which explained why there was a difference. The table by cost category, again a question from the Delegation of the UAE, who noted that there was an increase in internship costs by 100 per cent, however no provision for interns in the Patents and Technology Sector could be seen. The Secretariat said that the Patents and Technology Sector traditionally ran extensive fellowships, rather than internship programs. In the Patents and Technology Sector, young talent would continue to be attracted through the fellowship programs already in place, in the PCT Information Systems Division, in PCT Translation Division and in the PCT Operations Division. In the 2022/23 biennium, a new fellowship program would be introduced in the Patent and Technology Law Division, to provide assistance with SCP-related work and to support the provision of legislative advice to Member States, so the fellow was planned to be involved in that type of work. The answer to that question would also published in the Q&A so that members could have a full answer to that to facilitate their review. Operating expenses, regarding the costs category 'communication' in operating expenses. Referring to page 108 in the English version, which was in Appendix B, provided a definition of the cost categories. Under operating expenses, the second category that could be seen under that category was communication. Communication expenses, such as, telephone, internet, fax, mail and postage, and carriage of documents. And while a decrease could be seen for communication expenses in 2022/23, compared with the 2020/21 biennium, it was because of the transition to e-notifications owing to COVID-19 in 2020, for the PCT and Madrid and the Hague, although the Hague was thought to be already on e-notifications, but for PCT and Madrid, there was a transition to e-notifications and therefore postage had gone drastically down already in the 2020/21 biennium, that was actually then baselined into the 2022/23 Program and Budget. Regarding the question from the Delegation of Iran, about the COVID-19 activities, the Secretariat referred to the Director General's intervention in his opening statement, the Secretariat committed to provide more details in the Q&A regarding specific activities.

141. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Secretariat for the preliminary answers in regards to their questions on the Part 1 of the PBC document. The Delegation wished to express that it understood that some of the questions would need more time for the Secretariat to prepare and may be reflected in the Q&A document. However, the Delegation wished to ensure that the clarification to be provided in the Q&A document would be in line with its questions, it therefore wanted to further clarify the questions. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the explanation of the development expenditure and the relationship between page 8 and table 7. However, the Delegation said that there was still no answer to one question, it would like to see the breakdown of development expenditure for each Sector – for example, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector had 18 million Swiss francs for development expenditure, the Delegation asked to which Expected Results these funds correspond. In the past, members could make an educated guess, but with the new approach per Sector, the

amount of development expenditure corresponded to each Expected Result was challenging to ascertain. The Delegation understood that there was already the information of development expenditure per Expected Result, but that was the accumulation, so the Secretariat was using the example of Expected Result 4.1, which was 17 million Swiss francs in parentheses out of a total of 18 million Swiss francs, that was development expenditure, but was that the calculation for all Sectors? In that example, the Delegation could not see how the 17 million Swiss francs for Expected Result 4.1 were allocated per Sector. That was where the Delegation Indonesia was requesting clarification. The Delegation had one further clarification concerning its questions regarding key priorities. The Delegation understood that the budget reflected in key priorities section of Part 1 was either partial or accumulation, because as the Secretariat had mentioned, it went a level deeper with regard to the work activities or the programs that were to be implemented. The main part of the Delegation's question was, for example, on page 13, on Copyright and Creative Industries, Strategic Pillar 4, there was 1.191 million Swiss francs for 'special programs and projects at the national, regional and sub-regional level, including LDCs on strategic topics etc'. On table 5, the exact same number could be seen. Thus, there was some link to the Expected Result, in the example, 1.191 million Swiss francs for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector corresponded to Expected Result 4.1. Referring to the Secretariat's remarks that this was an example of cross collaboration between Sectors which was a shared Expected Result. However, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector does not share the KPI, for Expected Result 4.1, it was only for Regional and National Development Sector. Why was the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector not mentioned also in the performance indicators from Expected Result 4.1 on page 14 if they actually had a budget and program that corresponded to the Expected Result 4.1? Therefore, that was the clarification the Delegation was seeking.

142. The Delegation of United Arab Emirates thanked the Secretariat for providing the information, which was well noted, and the Delegation looked forward to seeing the answers in the Questions & Answers document. The Delegation requested to have one more point added to the Questions & Answers regarding page 12, footnote 9 – on the reasons and explanation on WIPO Proof discontinuation. The Delegation requested to be shown how much investment for WIPO Proof was agreed in the 2020/21 biennium.

143. The Secretariat committed to include the information requested in the Questions & Answers document.

144. The Chair stated that, subject to receiving the additional information relating to all the questions on that section of the document, the Committee would continue the review of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the Chair opened the floor for discussions on Part II – Financial and Results – By Sector. The Chair proposed that the Sectors be considered two at a time starting with the Patents and Technology and the Brands and Designs Sectors so that the secretariat would be able to answer the delegations' questions together.

145. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, stated that they saw the Patents and Technology Sector as crucial to WIPO deliverables. While it delivers a great value to established filing entities, the Group would like to see good cooperation with other sectors, namely the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems and Regional and National Development Sectors to target entities that are innovation-rich and have the potential to recognize and value these intangible assets. The Group noted that for some of the expected results, the baseline is determined by a handful of responses. The Group suggested a more robust indicator and called for a more concerted effort to engage more Member States in surveys of legislative and policy advice. An example is Expected Result 4.2, based on 7 responses to a 2020 survey. The Group stated that the Brands and Designs Sector has a great potential to grow, and such growth needed to be well managed. The Group requested an update on the envisaged growth of the Systems overseen by the Brands and Designs Sector

and how that growth had been reflected in expected results and resourcing. The Group appreciated that there had been a drive towards digital transformation and that some of the tools were in pilot or implementation phases. The Group was keen for WIPO to offer a unified user interface and user-friendly experience. The Group suggested that the Brands and Designs Sector and the Systems it oversees should collaborate further with the Administration, Finance and Management and the Infrastructure and Platforms Sectors, to offer such a unified access point, in particular via the WIPO Intellectual Property (IP) Portal.

146. The Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the results of the Patents and Technology Sector and the improvement of services through the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). The Delegation also supported events for experts and users of the System. The Delegation was interested in broadening the number of manuals, particularly with regard to national legislation of Member States, and also on specific requirements of expertise, which might be needed for the applicants. The Delegation asked why there were no performance indicators for Expected Results 2.2 and 4.1 in the Patents and Technology Sector. The Delegation supported the way that the Brands and Designs Sector had proposed results and improvements and looked forward to a new platform for the Madrid System and to the modernization of the System.

147. The Delegation of Indonesia noted the importance of the Patents and Technology and the Brands and Designs Sectors for WIPO and supported the works of both Sectors including cross-sectoral collaborations with the Regional and National Development Sector. The Delegation asked why some budgets corresponded to some expected results but there was no performance indicator reflected within that. Regarding the Patents and Technology Sector, for Expected Result 2.2, 3.4 million CHF had been budgeted and for Expected Result 4.1, 3.8 million had been budgeted. However, there were no performance indicators in the baseline or targets columns in the tables. The Delegation took note that the Brands and Designs Sector did not contribute to Expected Results 2.2 and 4.1 as there was no budget allocated to these expected results for the Sector. The Delegation stated that they were not in a position to ask for the Brands and Designs Sector to have an Expected Result but asked why the Brands and Designs Sector thought that they did not need to contribute to Expected Results 2.2 and 4.1. The Delegation took note that the Implementation Strategies section of the Brands and Designs Sector mentioned the WIPO Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications, but, when the Copyright and Creative Industries and Global Challenges and Partnerships Sectors decided to have conversations, conferences or worldwide discussions, they aptly included those under Expected Result 2.2. The Delegation asked why the same had not been done in the Brands and Designs Sector for the WIPO Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications. The Delegation stated that it would not request the Sector to contribute to Expected Result 4.1, but highlighted this point because Indonesia placed strong emphasis on creative industries, which was not just about copyright products, but also copyright cultural products that include brands and designs, and noted that brands and designs represented a big part of Indonesia's industrial economy. The Delegation asked whether, if Indonesia were to collaborate with the Regional and National Development Sector or the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, it could also have support on Indonesian brands and designs from the Brands and Designs Sector even though they did not have any budget allocated to Expected Result 4.1.

148. The Delegation of Spain applauded the exhaustive and detailed analysis by Sector, which helped formulate opinions on the priorities and results to be achieved in the 2022/23 biennium in the various different spheres in the Patents and Technology Sector. The Delegation supported the comments and suggestions made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B. Concerning the Global Registries for Intellectual Property, the Delegation felt it was a priority to ensure that the administration of those services are efficient, punctual and effective. Particularly with regards to the PCT, Madrid and the Hague systems. Strategic savings within the Madrid System were a way of ensuring the availability to all users around the world. However, the PCT needed to adapt to the development of

economies around the world. Information could be exchanged with receiving offices and the provision of IT tools for the PCT System. Linguistic coverage for the Madrid and the Hague Systems was required. It was also important that the Singapore Treaty had a broader geographic coverage so the procedures could benefit users of the Trademark System. With regard to the role of technologies, training and related travel grant costs had increased by 400 per cent in the Patents and Technology Sector whereas they had reduced by 17 per cent in the Brands and Designs Sector. There had also been 28.8 per cent growth for fellowships in the Patents and Technologies Sector and the Delegation hoped this would enable WIPO to reach youth and interest them in Intellectual Property. The Delegation hoped that with the new normal, WIPO would be able to grow in terms of conferences and publications. With regards to marks and designs, the Delegation would like to collaborate with contracting parties of the Madrid and the Hague System. The Delegation hoped that the budgetary and management efforts would enable the achievement of the expected outcomes in line with the expectations of Member States for the 2022/23 biennium. It was absolutely essential that WIPO progressed in quality of service and with respect to the provision of a breadth of services, to ensure that no areas of registration were neglected.

149. The Delegation of China stated that on page 27 of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, the Brands and Designs Sector mentioned making the Madrid System more accessible and more coherent, and the Delegation supported this idea. As an international Intellectual Property service system with a long history of more than 100 years, the Madrid System had a lot of room for improvement in terms of languages. This improvement would help trademark applicants make better use of the System's services, and could also help WIPO promote the use of the System globally. At the same time, in order to have a customer-centric approach that would improve WIPO's service level and quality, WIPO should increase input in the Intellectual Property service system worldwide. WIPO should also have sufficient staffing, especially in the Madrid and the Hague Systems.

150. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the explanations that were provided that day. Regarding the measurement of capacity-building performance indicators that the Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, had raised earlier that day, the Group stated that most of the indicators referred to surveys and level of satisfaction from the beneficiaries regarding the capacity development they had received. The Group requested more a substantive drafting of performance indicators that would refer to the actual impact of the results that would be derived from the capacity-building work that is carried out. It is recurrent across all the Sectors in terms of how capacity-building is measured. The Group asked if there could be performance indicators that would be stronger, so to speak. The Group asked if there was a specific percentage target level for unallocated resources, or if there are any other considerations that were taken into account when allocating for the unallocated parts of the budget.

151. The Chair thanked the delegations for their statements and proposed that the Secretariat reviews and responds to the Delegations.

152. The Secretariat thanked the Chair and delegations for their patience and explained that they would first respond to a couple of overall points because there had been recurring types of questions which might be useful to address from an overall perspective. On the question of missing key performance indicators (KPIs), the Secretariat explained that was the result of an attempt to make the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 a far more streamlined product and a streamlined proposal. There were over 250 performance indicators in the 2020/21 budget. When a benchmark was done on the performance indicators, and confirmed by the WIPO Internal Oversight Division, WIPO, which is not a large organization, had the highest numbers of performance indicators in the whole UN system. Only one organization had more indicators than WIPO. One of the focuses in preparing the Draft Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 was to streamline and reduce the length of the

document to help readers see the forest instead of the trees. The reduction of the performance indicators was carried out in that spirit. Performance indicators were reduced from over 250 to 77. This was the first time the Organization had applied this revised strategic framework and it was a learning process for everyone. As a result of this exercise, the Organization was fairly confident that the 77 performance indicators gave a good view of what WIPO needed to achieve and where the needle needed be moved. The Secretariat noted the comments and observations on the number of KPIs and why some budgets did not have performance indicators that delegations had been looking for based on their prior knowledge of how the Program and Budget used to work. There was also a comment on impact related performance indicators, and how those performance indicators needed to be stronger. Discussions on this matter were held in the regional group briefings with experts, and indeed this whole journey of moving from inputs to activities, and then to results and impact, was a constant endeavor to keep focusing on how WIPO could move up the value chain. This had been an ongoing exercise and there were quite a few impact indicators, but there were some that were not impact indicators in the list of 77 KPIs. The Secretariat stated that they would be able to refine some of the indicators and make them stronger in future proposals.

153. On the performance indicator for legislative advice and the need for more responses, the Secretariat commitment had been made to endeavor to reach more responses for legislative advice, particularly as services to Member States grew in this area. Cross-sector collaboration had grown significantly in just the six months since the Sector Lead had begun her term. As an example, there had been coordination meetings with the Patents and Technology Sector and the Regional and National Development (Regional and National Development) Sector. Coordination between the two Sectors continued to increase and the Patents and Technology Sector could obtain more information from the Regional and National Development Sector on what services Member States needed from the Patents and Technology Sector. In the reverse, the Patents and Technology Sector had been educating the Regional and National Development Sector on what capacity-building the PCT could provide to both Sectors in the policy and legislative areas. There were many other examples where the Patents and Technology Sector was working cross-sector and each Sector had been collaborating with the Patents and Technology Sector in a number of different areas. Cross-sector collaboration would continue to increase significantly. The Patents and Technology Sector was adequately staffed, but it was a very complex background to get to a very simple answer on that question. The Sector was in the process of hiring critical senior management positions and hoped to have those positions filled fairly soon. In parallel, the Sector was working, primarily in the PCT, in making sure that the right staff were in the right jobs. As the Secretariat had said many times already, the lifeline of WIPO is its staff, but absolutely the lifeline of the Patents and Technology Sector, and especially the PCT, is its staff. The Sector was looking at ways to help the staff be more efficient through better IT and we are working with AI in translations and examinations to help staff be more efficient so they could do higher-level work. The Sector also made sure that trends, such as translations in Asian countries, were properly managed. For example, 10 years prior, 20 posts for examination had been moved from non-Asian work to Asian work. In 2020, two posts were moved from non-Asian translation posts to translation posts for the Asian languages. The Sector would continue to make necessary moves going forward so that the examination and translation trends would be managed with the posts in this Sector.

154. The Secretariat stated that the contribution of the Brands and Design Sector to development cooperation expenditure had been there ever since the Sector was established. As the Secretariat correctly pointed out, this is a learning process and the Organization would certainly have all the points taken and reflected in the right way. The Secretariat would provide additional information on the most recent developments in the Sector's operations to assure the Member States that the Sector was on the right track. The Sector would make its best efforts to improve customer service and enhance its cooperation and coordination within WIPO to ensure that cross-sector points are well taken in its plan to mainstream the related activities in the Sector.

155. Concerning questions on the growth prospects for the Madrid Registry, the Secretariat referred to Annex V and other tables in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which outlined what was expected to happen over the following years. The table on Madrid applications showed an estimated growth in the Madrid income of 6.8 per cent in 2021, 3.5 per cent in 2022 and 3.9 per cent in 2023. Those projections were quite positive given the recent COVID-19 pandemic. There had been a rebound in Madrid applications received by the International Bureau Registry in the first part of the year, starting in March 2021, that had been sustained throughout June 2021. Those numbers were in line with the 6.8 per cent projection for 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic was quite unpredictable so it was to be seen whether those projections would be maintained throughout the year. The situation had been much more positive than what was thought a year prior. On the question from the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B on a unified interface for Madrid customers to transact Madrid business in a digital format, the Secretariat stated that this was a very important goal that the Sector had set for itself. There were three aspects to this interface that the Sector was building. The first part was the construction and development of a series of electronic forms where people could transact business such as limitations, change of holder and representative details, *et cetera*. These online forms were meant to take away as much complexity from the procedure as possible and a number of those e-forms had already been put into production. The second part was the ID and portfolio management component which would allow users to manage their registrations in a collective manner. This component was in the specification stage and the Sector was working very closely with the Administration, Finance and Management Sector to come up with a solution that would be applicable throughout the Organization, which was an example of cross-sectoral collaboration. The third component, e-Madrid, was a redesign of the Madrid website to make it more intuitive and easy to navigate. Those three components continued to be worked on and were expected to progress the following year. The design of those components would be closely coupled to the WIPO IP Portal look and feel and the Sector would be working closely with the colleagues working on the WIPO IP Portal so that the user experience would be as unified as possible. On the relationship between the Madrid work and Expected Result 4.1, the Sector wished to reassure the delegates that a great deal of work of the Madrid Registry was with developing countries. It would go into too much detail to list all the activities that the Sector had done in the last year with developing countries but a few illustrative examples were provided. For instance, there were activities with Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Cape Verde, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago and several Arab and African countries in the previous year.

156. The Secretariat further followed up on the comments from his colleagues in the Brands and Designs Sector on the development work carried out in the Sector. Although it was not entirely transparent in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, the Hague Registry had been fully engaged in development work. In response to the intervention made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B regarding the forecast for the Hague Registry, those figures could be found in Annex V of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. In 2021, thus far, the growth in applications had very nicely rebounded to 10 per cent, above the forecast in Annex V, which estimated a 9 per cent growth based on the anticipated accession of China. All other figures had rebounded generally speaking. Renewals were up more than 40 per cent, ahead of the predictions in Annex V. Designs being filed were up 16.5 per cent. This showed that figures had rebounded very strongly in 2021 thus far. The Director confirmed that in 2020, the Hague Registry transitioned fully to electronic notifications which contributed to some of the savings in mailing costs.

157. The Secretariat stated that the development related activities of the Brands and Designs Sector had been reported under different strategic pillars and expected results in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The proposed Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications, raised by the Delegation of Indonesia, concerned the holding of a future edition of this important and very popular WIPO activity. As was said earlier by the Secretariat, this was the first time that the reporting framework was changed and there were a

number of expected results that lend themselves to reporting this activity under Strategic Pillar 4. The Sector supported governments, enterprises, communities and individuals to use Intellectual Property as a tool for growth and sustainable development. The proposed holding of the Worldwide Symposium on Geographic Indications was reported under Expected Result 4.3, *i.e.*, Increased Intellectual Property knowledge and skills in all Member States. The Sector had taken good note of the delegations' comments and concerns as regards to this approach to reporting. As this was the first of two PBC sessions in 2021, there would be an opportunity to revisit this question and present it in a manner that met the approval of all delegations at the 33rd PBC session in September 2021.

158. The Delegation of Japan reiterated that productivity and quality of PCT services should be further enhanced especially due to the fact that more than 77 per cent of WIPO's income is generated from PCT fees paid by applicants. In this regard, the Delegation welcomed the fact that the budget allocated for "Enhanced efficiency and service quality of WIPO's Global Intellectual Property services" had been prioritized as written in page 12 of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation stated that they would continue working with WIPO and other Member States in order to improve systems for acquiring and utilizing intellectual property rights.

159. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Secretariat for their comments and asked for more information on its earlier request on the transformation of the IT system for the Madrid and the Hague Systems. The Delegation acknowledged the comments received on the IT updates on the Madrid System, but did not receive a response on the IT update for the Hague system.

160. The Chair closed plenary that morning and stated that the PBC Vice-Chair Mr. José Antonio Gil Celedonio, would Chair the afternoon session. The Chair informed the delegations that the Secretariat would respond to the outstanding question from the Delegation of the Russian Federation at the afternoon session.

161. The Vice-Chair opened the afternoon session and thanked the Chair for his work and the WIPO Secretariat for preparing the documents for the session. He thanked the interpreters. The Vice-Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to respond to the outstanding question from the Delegation of the Russian Federation.

162. The Secretariat apologized for not having answered the question from the Delegation of the Russian Federation in the earlier response to the delegations that morning. The Secretariat explained that everything that had been carried out in terms of IT development for the Hague system had been done under the Hague Externalization Project (HEP), which was a Capital Master Plan project. The Secretariat referred to page 155 of the WIPO Performance Report (WPR) 2020, which detailed that the HEP is a user focused project that aims at delivering sustainable user driven services and to enhance standardize integrations with Offices. This project started in 2020 and what had been delivered thus far was reported in the WPR 2020. It would be more interesting to focus on what had been planned to be delivered in the forthcoming months of the project that would stretch until 2022. More precisely, the project intended to increase the range of self-service options for external users through increased direct access to and management of their own data. The Secretariat underscored that this would be carried out with a view to ensuring full integration with the WIPO IP Portal. Another very important element of the HEP in the coming months would be new services for real-time and direct synchronous data exchanges with Offices, referred to as web services. More details on those services could be found on pages 155 and 157 of the WPR2020. The Secretariat welcomed any requests for follow-up explanations if needed.

163. The Vice-Chair continued the review of Part II – Financial and Results – By Sector and opened the floor for discussion on the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector and the Regional and National Development Sector.

164. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed the view that the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector could be impacted by artificial intelligence and was keen to learn more about the implementation strategies and collaborative efforts across WIPO to manage such a scenario. The Group appreciated that one of the implementation strategies would be information and digital outreach, given that younger generations as well as micro, small, and medium-sized creative enterprises were often unaware or even averse towards copyright protection. Such initiatives that were aimed at showing the potential of copyright as a tool for growth and sustainable development for enterprises, and also for recognition and fair remuneration for all creators, was very much welcomed. The Group encouraged the “distribution of inspirational content” and looked forward to seeing of some examples of such content. Regarding the Regional and National Development Sector, which oversaw and coordinated the WIPO External Office network, the Group appreciated that the area featured in the Sector’s implementation strategies, and recognized that WIPO’s External Offices were best placed to connect with the United Nations System activities at regional and national levels. Noting that the Regional and National Development Sector saw WIPO fellowships increased by 1,168 per cent, the Group questioned where those fellowships would subsequently be dedicated as, for such significant increases, there was no clear alignment between Expected Results and fellowships performance indicators. It would, therefore, be helpful to clarify the situation.

165. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that it was favorable to the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector implementation strategy, particularly the development of copyright infrastructure and reinforcing the services in the area. The Delegation noted that in the past, the Program covered cultural and research establishments, and asked what would be WIPO’s future intentions in this respect. The Delegation looked forward to seeing the progress of Expected Results 2.2 and 4.1. Regarding the Regional and National Development Sector, the Delegation appreciated the description contained in the document and noted there were numerous and important elements associated to it, which was of particular concern *vis-à-vis* the development strategy. The Delegation supported the proposed activities and stressed the importance of the work of the WIPO Academy, and the coordination of knowledge and of all activities, which were protected by Intellectual Property. The Delegation valued the work of the External Offices, and the execution of certain activities undertaken in the regions by the Organization. External Offices had an important role to play, particularly in the provision of services. The Delegation hoped that the resources would be further increased in order to continue that work.

166. The Delegation of Indonesia reiterated its commitment of support to the importance of the work program under the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, since copyright and creative industries were a particular focus of its government. Regarding copyright and related rights, Indonesia had updated its national laws and regulations to keep up with the current developments, including acceding to the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties in 2020. Indonesia had worked substantially with the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector in 2020 on Collective Management Organizations in Indonesia, and was actively participating in the sessions of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. Concerning creative industries, Indonesia was at the forefront both at a national and global level, of mainstreaming the importance of the creative economy that mostly involved individual creators, SMEs and grassroots innovators, which was also one of WIPO’s new focuses in the MTSP 2022-2026. The creative economy was a source of grassroots innovation and creativity that provided jobs, value addition, and contributed to the socio-economic development. The year 2021 was being celebrated as the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development within the United Nations System, and Indonesia contributed considerably to the implementation of the

effort. The Delegation stated that its comments and requests for clarification from the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector were divided: first, into the program of work related to creative industries; second, the program of work related information and digital outreach; and third, the program of work related to copyright development, as well as those that corresponded to Expected Result 2.2. Regarding creative industries, the narratives in the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23 of the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector mentioned some activities related to training and capacity building on creative industries. The Delegation asked whether those activities were related only to copyright and related rights, or were they in collaboration with other Sectors, such as the Regional and National Development Sector and the Brands and Designs (BD) Sector, especially given that the SME and individual creators within the creative industries did not only leverage copyright assets, but also utilized brands, industrial designs and, to some extent, patents, in developing their businesses. The Delegation also noted that there was a new initiative “WIPO for Creators” under the heading Copyright Management, and that WIPO for Creators was intended to contribute to increasing the number of innovators, creators and SMEs, leveraging Intellectual Property successfully. The Delegation asked whether that initiative would deal with all relevant Intellectual Property or only with copyright-related products. With regards to the program of work related to information and digital outreach, the Delegation welcomed those activities and sought additional clarification: The narrative mentioned building skills in Member States concerning the methodology for gathering and analysing data on creative industries, including highlighting economic data about creative industries; the Delegation asked whether that applied only to copyright-related products and services or also to Brands and Designs. The Delegation further sought clarification as to which Expected Result and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector the activity corresponded. The Delegation noted the existence of the Publishers Circle program in the narratives and requested the Secretariat to provide more information on that program, and to identify to which Expected Result and KPI it corresponded. If the programs on data and Publishers Circle program were linked to Expected Result 1.1, additional questions would follow at a later stage. However, if it did not, the Delegation asked if the 8 million Swiss francs allocated under Expected Result 1.1 was only for digital outreach, which included content for websites, published work, virtual exhibitions, and World Intellectual Property Day campaigns. Regarding the program of work related to copyright development, as well as those that were related to Expected Result 2.2, the Delegation sought clarifications on the following: the previous remarks made by the Secretariat suggested that cross-sector collaboration did exist. Nonetheless, the Delegation raised the question on the existence of a shared Expected Result, but without shared KPIs, as noted in the case of Expected Results 2.2 and 4.1 under the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. One and a half million Swiss francs was budgeted under Expected Result 2.2, and 1.2 million Swiss francs under Expected Result 4.1. Similarly to the case of the key priorities and the Patents and Technology (PT) Sector, it appeared that the KPIs, baselines and targets had not been indicated. Referring to the Secretariat’s earlier comments on the 77 KPIs, the Delegation reiterated that it was not calling for any additional KPIs, but rather questioning why there were no shared KPIs in those cases, yet there were for Expected Results 4.3 and 4.4, where both Regional and National Development Sector and Copyright and Creative Industries Sector had shared Expected Results and corresponding shared KPIs, e.g. “the level of satisfaction of participants in WIPO training and skills development program” applied to both the Regional and National Development Sector and Copyright and Creative Industries Sector for Expected Result 4.3. The Delegation reiterated why Expected Results 4.3 and 4.4 had shared KPIs, but not Expected Results 2.2 and 4.1. That matter further underscored the Delegation’s question on missing KPIs on the key priority section and under PTS. Furthermore, under Expected Result 4.3, the Delegation asked why there were no baselines for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, while Regional and National Development Sector had a baseline on the KPI, despite the fact that both Sectors have the same Expected Result and KPI. Regarding Expected Result 4.4, WIPO Connect and the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) were included in the KPIs, the Delegation, therefore, asked why was there no KPI relating to WIPO for Creators. As a

developing country with a strong interest in the Regional and National Development Sector, the Delegation welcomed the Secretariat's emphasis on effective use of IP for growth and development in the work of the Regional and National Development Sector, as well as emphasis on programs of projects over time as opposed to stand-alone and one-off activities. The Sector focus to increase WIPO's reach through partnerships with a broader range of stakeholders in the Intellectual Property ecosystem, was welcomed by the Delegation. Nevertheless, the Delegation requested clarifications regarding the Regional and National Development Sector. The Delegation's comments and requests were divided: first, with regard to KPI clarifications related to work program under Expected Result 3.3 and KPI under Expected Result 4.1; second, clarifications related to work program under Expected Result 1.1; and third, clarifications on the cross-sector collaboration, particularly between the Regional and National Development Sector and Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. Regarding the clarifications of Expected Result 3.3 and the KPI under Expected Result 4.1, there appeared to be an allocation of 1 million Swiss francs for Expected Result 3.3, the corresponding Expected Result was not shown on the table for performance indicators, baselines and targets. The Delegation asked what the program's priorities and performance indicators of the Regional and National Development Sector were for Expected Result 3.3. Under Expected Result 4.1, with regards to the KPI on "implementation of topics on IP and development that discussed in the CDIP", the Delegation asked if that KPI referred to the topic of the CDIP Agenda Item on Intellectual Property and Development. If it did, the Delegation asked what the implementation of those topics were, other than being discussed in the CDIP sessions. With regards the clarifications related to Expected Result 1.1, as the Delegation had previously queried, it was noted that 3.1 million Swiss Francs had been allocated, the Delegation asked if that amount was for all External Offices. If that was so, the Delegation questioned why the Regional Divisions were not obliged to contribute to the achievement of the Expected Result, and how countries that were not covered by an External Office would be addressed. As to the clarifications relating to cross-sector collaboration, particularly between the Regional and National Development Sector and Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, the narrative emphasized that Regional Divisions were the gateway for Member States and stakeholders, and that they acted as focal points for cooperation in all its aspects. The delegation questioned if it could therefore be concluded that such would be the case for cooperation relating to copyright and creative industries as well, or whether it would remain the same as before.

167. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, emphasized the important role played by the Regional and National Development Sector, as it understood the specificities of each country and region, which was vital to ensure the delivery of the assistance required. The Group appreciated the work and outstanding cooperation of the Division of Transition and Developed Countries, as well as its assistance in numerous initiatives and projects delivered to the CEBS countries, which contributed to the promotion of Intellectual Property rights in the Region. The Group greatly valued the work of the WIPO Academy and its rich portfolio of education, training and skills development programs, which enabled building human capacity in Intellectual Property. The Group hoped that the progress in those directions would continue and looked forward to more active engagement and cooperation in the future, as it believed that all the activities carried out, and to be carried out, contributed to the enhancement of Intellectual Property in the CEBS countries.

168. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates reiterated the importance of having the performance indicators for Expected Results for the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector for Expected Result 4.1. Regarding the Regional and National Development Sector, the Delegation noted the KPI "No. of national, sub-regional and regional projects, including those implemented through partnership frameworks, that have achieved their expected benefits or completed important milestones", nevertheless, and asked why the KPI was not included within the work of the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. The Delegation also pointed out that some baselines appeared to have been omitted, citing Expected Result 4.3 for the "Level of satisfaction of participants in WIPO training and skills development programs" within the

Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, where a target of 85 per cent satisfaction of participants, it sought clarification as to why some baselines were missing. In terms of the Regional and National Development Sector, it was noted that for Expected Result 1.1 “No. of unique visitors to the WIPO website and the websites of the External Offices”, there was a targeted increase of 20 per cent, however there was no baseline provided for the target. Regarding Expected Result 2.4, it was also noted that the target was “Progress on all WIPO deliverables”, the Delegation wished to know how the target was measured and asked if it could be considered a performance indicator. Furthermore, the Delegation questioned why it only included the progress of WIPO deliverables for LDCs, and whether the KPI could be extended to cover other developing countries. As for Expected Result 4.1, for the Regional and National Development Sector, it was observed that there was a target of 16 national, sub-regional and regional projects. The Delegation requested a breakdown of which regions those projects were going to take place, and wished to know if the budget allocated for the projects was sufficient. In regard to the cooperation between the Regional and National Development Sector and the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector in terms of development, it had been stated earlier that the cultural change on cross collaboration was being established within the Organization. The Delegation queried the Sector that would be the focal point on matters for development, as it had been noticed that the existing practice was that the focal point for industrial property was within the Regional and National Development Sector, while the copyright focal point was within the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. Finally, concerning the WIPO Academy, the work and the targets that had been focused upon were acknowledged and appreciated. Nonetheless, the Delegation noted that for the number of sustainable Intellectual Property Training Institutions (IPTIs) under the Expected Result 4.3, the baseline was set at seven and the target was to have 12, cumulative. The Delegation sought clarification from the Secretariat as to which region the targeted expansion for the training institutions was aimed.

169. The Delegation of South Africa stated that some of its questions had already been covered by other delegations, and referred to the opening remarks of the Director General regarding the South-South Cooperation, and the sharing of information and experiences of Member States of the southern hemisphere. The Delegation believed that South-South Cooperation fitted into this area, but that it did not appear to have been reflected in the performance indicators.

170. The Delegation of Algeria thanked the Secretariat for integrating the 2022/23 budget around the national development strategy of WIPO. The External Offices played a very important role and it was clear that the network of External Offices contributed substantially to the global results of WIPO, to the extent that they were a powerful tool that ensured better visibility for the Organization, while making it possible for it to deploy its activities geographically in a broad sense. The Delegation encouraged the Secretariat to continue those efforts that were aimed at integrating the newly created offices in Africa, and took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of strengthening the WIPO Office in Algeria, in terms of personnel, so that it could carry out its development activities of Intellectual Property and for the promotion of innovation.

171. The Vice-Chair noted that a series of statements had been made by various Regional Groups, who had referred to a number of issues, and that they needed to be covered appropriately by the Secretariat who were responsible for producing the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23. As some of the issues raised were very specific and needed to be studied before a response was given, the Vice-Chair invited the Secretariat to address the matters. The Vice-Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to respond to some of the more substantive issues raised by the delegations regarding the Sectors under review.

172. Regarding the question raised by the Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group and echoed by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, concerning the issue of artificial intelligence, the Secretariat noted that artificial

intelligence interacted with creative industries in a number of ways. It had a role to play in the way that certain creative content was produced and distributed to citizens of the interconnected digital world. Artificial intelligence techniques were used in areas that previously were exclusive to human art and creativity, such as music, art and writing. In that context, from a public policy perspective, it was necessary to ensure that the copyright system remained adapted to its fundamental purpose, which was to encourage human creativity, to stimulate culture, and to support the economy. Turning to the question of how to apply copyright to works created by artificial intelligence and those created with the assistance of artificial intelligence, the Secretariat stated that the debate continued as to whether and how this issue could be dealt with, and whether there was public policy interest in protecting works generated by machines. Debate was also still open regarding the matter of whether machines should be trained through artificial intelligence to be capable to generate new works, and during that machine learning process, if learning methods were used that incorporated existing creative works, whether that machine learning process would require prior approval of the creators, or whether that would be considered a legitimate use of those works under copyright law. From a legal perspective, one had to recognize that artificial intelligence was already a part of the operations of creative industries, including the provision of personalized works, suggestions for content, and the management of data. Those applications might have an impact on the development of rights in the area of creative industries, whether or not they were not directly linked to copyright issues. That was a matter of concern to the Organization, and the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, in collaboration with the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, which was committed to continue following the trend, and would avail itself to provide the full support of the Secretariat to Member States and all stakeholders, not only to share information, but also to meet new challenges, and understand the new possibilities offered by artificial intelligence, for the benefit of creativity around the world. As for the question raised by the Delegation of Indonesia regarding WIPO for Creators, the Secretariat referred to the Organization's website: <https://www.wipo.int/wipoforcreators> and stated that it was a public-private partnership established a few months ago, which sought to assist creators through innovative tools. WIPO for Creators was an ambitious global platform whose aim was to sensitize worldwide creators on their rights and related processes required to manage those rights. Additionally, its goal was to seek out creators in the farthest reaches of the world, in areas where perhaps information did not easily reach them, and to allow them to connect through that innovative instrument to access knowledge and tools essential for them to be recognized and fairly rewarded. More information would be provided to the Member States upon request. On the matter of the Publishers Circle project, it was a public-private partnership that had been developed only two years before. A pilot phase had been launched, and the reach of the program was being extended to three principal regions: Africa, Asia and Latin America. The partnership would involve not only local partners but also the International Publishers Association, as the organization wished to mobilize publishers across the world to encourage them to share their knowledge and know-how as an example of professional cooperation, not through academic studies or workshops, but through a transfer of knowledge directly from one publisher to another. The network was being organized to include projects that would continue after the mentoring phase and would then be followed up by continuing contact between the more senior publishers and the junior publishers, in order to determine what results had been achieved. The project also included two other elements that sought to provide information and tools for stakeholders. The Secretariat had contributed to a study on identifiers in the publishing industry, reviewing the various identifiers required to trace, commercialize and manage text and image based works. A second project aimed to develop a toolkit on publishing industry contracts for both authors and publishers. This practical work sought to reinforce the creative industries and to give them greater capacity to function at the national level as well as across borders. On the matter of method, which had been raised by the Delegations of Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates, the Secretariat stated that the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector worked and would continue to work closely with the Regional and National Development Sector, fostering the development of creative industries and copyright and related rights. As the

KPI for 4.3 is newly introduced in the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector in the biennium, the missing baseline would be established towards the end of the first year. Regarding the question of digitalization and outreach, those were dealt with by the newly-created Information and Digital Outreach Division.

173. The Secretariat agreed with the opening observations of the Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, that young people and the leaders of SMEs were often unaware of the benefits of copyright. The Secretariat clarified that although the Information and Digital Outreach Division was located in the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, it served the entire Organization in its digital outreach activities. The aforementioned youth and SMEs were important target audiences for such activities, as had been previously underscored by the Director General. The Secretariat was developing a number of new digital assets: a virtual exhibition that achieved digital reach by attracting some 5,000 visitors in the first two weeks, was one example. SMEs and youth were also themes of the World Intellectual Property Day that year, achieving six million impressions for the various online content offerings, clear evidence of the increased level of activity and energy going into digital outreach. Turning to the question from the Delegation of Indonesia as to whether the Organization was focusing only on copyright or also Brands and Designs, the Secretariat offered a two-faceted response: when trying to build skills particularly in developing countries, the Secretariat used some of the content from its publications. That covered not only copyright, but also other important aspects of Intellectual Property, including Brands and Designs, for example if someone was trying to earn a living in the music industry. As far as gathering economic data was concerned, that focused broadly on the creative industries. The development of the methodology was being worked on in collaboration with the WIPO Department for Economics and Data Analytics. The overall objective was to leave a legacy of skills in the relevant Member State, in order that they could continue to gather creative industries' data themselves.

174. The Secretariat addressed the specific issues previously raised by the Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, regarding the Regional and National Development Sector's contribution to SDGs, and also those of the Delegation of Algeria and the Delegation of Tunisia regarding support for Arab countries. With regard to the former, the Regional and National Development Sector contributed to many SDGs, and its contributions were illustrated through the example of SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, which related to the mandate and many activities of the Sector contributing directly to those goals. The work with Member States on policy, strategy, advice and assistance, including national Intellectual Property strategies, was cited as a case in point. The cooperation with countries on Intellectual Property policies for universities contributed to SDG 4, Quality Education; for example, a project promoting knowledge and use of Intellectual Property related to culinary tradition for use in the tourist industry in Morocco, contributed to quality education and also contributed to SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities. Additionally, the Regional and National Development Sector cooperated with many Member States to empower women to use the Intellectual Property system and this contributed to SDG 5, Gender Equality. One such recent activity was the organization of training for women entrepreneurs on trademark, brands and designs. Underscoring the nature of the Sector as a gateway, the Secretariat acknowledged that although many services, tools and products offered by the Secretariat to Member States were the responsibility of other Sectors, the Regional and National Development Sector worked closely with other Sectors, bringing its knowledge of the Member States, as well as its network of relationships, and language skills, to bear. Referring to the implementation strategy of the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, it should be noted that almost all of the SDGs to which WIPO contributed, were reflected in the Regional and National Development Sector. That was also driven by the Development Agenda Coordination Division, which worked horizontally across the Secretariat to coordinate WIPO development-related activities, including Development Agenda projects. With respect to the comment and question from the Delegation of Algeria and the Delegation of Tunisia on support to the Arab Countries, the Secretariat gave assurances that the division would strengthen its engagement,

support and services to all Arab Countries without exception, and that the Regional and National Development Sector would customize its assistance and support in accordance with the needs and priorities of the respective countries in the Region. While focusing more on impactful project-based activities, the relevant directors had been encouraged to apply new approaches in the support given and engagement with all Arab Countries in a more efficient and impactful manner. The Secretariat expressed confidence in the competence of the Division's personnel to undertake the new challenges in collaboration and cooperation with all countries of the region. In respect of the question and observation on External Offices raised by a number of delegations, the Secretariat explained that the External Office network, along with the Division for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC), joined the Regional and National Development Sector in March 2021, thereby bringing all Regional Divisions, WIPO External Offices, the WIPO Academy, and the Development Agenda Coordination Division (DACD), under one portfolio. That move was creating more potential collaboration and cooperation, including between the Sector and the External Offices. Previously, there had always been a meeting of the External Office network. However, it had not been sufficiently regular or interactive. As of March 2021, meetings had been conducted with the External Office network, as well as individual meetings with the External Offices, where their activities, collaboration among networks, and the respective workplan activities of each External Office were discussed. As a result of this endeavor, External Offices were now working closely with the Regional Division, and recently, divisions in various Sectors within the Organization had been invited to meet with the External Offices. Responding specifically to the question and comment from the Delegation of Algeria, the Secretariat expressed thanks to the Government of Algeria for the hospitality and generosity shown, and underscored that the WIPO Algeria Office, which was only recently established in 2019, was not yet fully operational due to the impact of the pandemic. Resources would be matched accordingly with the current workload, but the situation would be closely monitored and assessed for any development. With regard to the question from the Delegation of Indonesia as to the sort of activities which were included under Expected Result 1.1, it was stated that allocations under Expected Result 1.1 had been made for a wide variety of activities, including participation and coordination of promotional activities, the development and dissemination to stakeholders of specific information, and the service interface provided for stakeholders. It was stressed that allocations under the Expected Result also captured the operating costs of the External Offices. As for the 1 million Swiss franc budget under Expected Result 3.3, that was for the work undertaken by the External Offices with respect to the promotion and provision of information on WIPO platforms, databases and tools. In addition, the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean intended to conduct activities and projects directed at patent analytics for innovation, and that also fell under Expected Result 3.3. It should also be noted that while other Regional Divisions did not have explicitly budgeted activities under the Expected Result, they facilitated cooperation among Member States in their roles as a gateway, working horizontally within relevant divisions. On Expected Result 4.1 concerning the implementation of topics in the performance indicator relevant to the CDIP, the Secretariat stated that once a topic from the roster came before the Committee, the Secretariat would have already started working on it. The first step was an Organization-wide coordination and preparation of the Secretariat's presentation before the Committee, which was often preceded by preparations of the internal workplans, and colleagues, including DACD, started planning towards addressing the topic. After consideration by the Committee and, in most cases, the follow-up, the Regional and National Development Sector would start implementing those decisions, based on the topic from the roster. With regard to the performance indicator for Expected Result 2.4, it should be recognized and understood that the Division for Least-Developed Countries was coordinating activities within the Secretariat as well as building relationships with the United Nations on LDC matters, as it coordinated and undertook supporting activities in close collaboration with the United Nations and Intergovernmental Organizations. One such example was the most recent Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade of 2011 to 2020. Furthermore, the LDCs have also participated in the preparatory process led by the United Nations in identifying the new

Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade of 2021 to 2030, and included organizing and planning various assessments to survey and identify their specific needs. On Expected Result 4.1, the question had been asked where the 16 targeted projects would be located. It was explained that all of the projects would be impactful project-based activities, and would be discussed and covered at the workplan level. Regarding the question of the fellowships, there would be one in the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, two in the Division for Transition and Developed Countries (for the CACEEC and the CEBS Groups), and one for the WIPO Academy (for the Joint Master's Program). On another question regarding the cooperation between the Regional and National Development Sector and the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, the Secretariat assured delegations that both Sectors were working very closely on issues related to copyright, particularly when developing and formulating national Intellectual Property strategies, and this collaboration would continue, particularly with the Copyright Development Division. The Regional and National Development Sector was the focal point for industrial property and all other development related activities, and the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector was the focal point for copyright; however, since joining the Regional and National Development Sector, the Division for Transition in Developed Countries was also acting as focal point for copyright with respect to countries which it covered. In the future, an appropriate methodology aimed at better serving the Member States would be studied. Concerning the issue of South-South Cooperation, the Secretariat agreed with the Delegation of South Africa on the importance of such cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, and cited as an example the close collaboration between the LDCs Division and the Government of Sweden, in providing training to stakeholders in LDCs. Regarding South-South Cooperation, the Sector now worked more closely with Regional frameworks, such as the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), and the League of Arab States (LAS), to better reflect the name change and focus of the Sector, and in an effort to encourage sharing practices, lessons learned and experiences among developing countries. The Secretariat recognized and thanked the Delegation of South Africa which, together with the Organization, had been developing a workshop in which the former was sharing its knowledge with Ethiopia on traditional medicinal practices. It also gave assurances that the Sector would continue to put importance on South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation between developed and developing countries and LDCs and was ready to facilitate and try to identify impactful projects in that respect. The Secretariat added that the Sector looked forward to future collaboration, in the interest of building skills and knowledge. The Delegation of Tunisia thanked the Secretariat for the clarifications with regards to the Regional and National Development Sector. The Delegation emphasized that, in its opening statements, it had not intended to criticize the work of the Division for Arab Countries. On the contrary, the Delegation cited the excellent relations it had with that Division, and reiterated how satisfied it had been with the cooperation between the Division for Arab Countries and Tunisia. Nevertheless, the Delegation requested that WIPO strengthen the financial resources within the overall framework of the program, so that it could continue to benefit from the activities and services of the division that were very useful for the region. In closing, the Delegation underscored that the Division was doing a huge amount of work, and that it was extremely pleased and satisfied by the role it was playing within WIPO.

175. The Delegation of Tunisia thanked the Secretariat for the clarifications with regards to the Regional and National Development Sector. The Delegation emphasized that, in its opening statements, it had not intended to criticize the work of the Division for Arab Countries. On the contrary, the Delegation cited the excellent relations it had with that Division, and reiterated how satisfied it had been with the cooperation between the Division for Arab Countries and Tunisia. Nevertheless, the Delegation requested that WIPO strengthen the financial resources within the overall framework of the program, so that it could continue to benefit from the activities and services of the division that were very useful for the region. In closing, the Delegation underscored that the Division was doing a huge amount of work, and that it was extremely pleased and satisfied by the role it was playing within WIPO.

176. The Secretariat clarified that the opening statement of the Delegation of Tunisia had not been perceived as criticism levied against the Division of Arab Countries, but rather, as appreciation for the work done by the Division, and for the strengthened support of financial resources provided. The Secretariat also noted that a similar call for additional support had been raised by the Delegation of Algeria, and gave assurance that the Regional and National Development Sector, and in particular the Division for Arab Countries, would strengthen its engagement with and support for all Arab countries in accordance with their priorities and needs.

177. While recognizing that the Secretariat would eventually respond to some of the questions it had posed earlier, the Delegation of Indonesia was pleased to note that the Secretariat had shared its enthusiasm for the artificial intelligence issues that had been raised by the delegations, and looked forward to the concrete initiative and program regarding that method on copyright and artificial intelligence. Addressing a particular response from the Secretariat, the Delegation underscored that from the website, the members of WIPO for Creators were not actual creators but rather legal entities representing creators and acknowledged that while it was supportive of the program, the question remained that the two particular programs were not represented in the performance indicators of the Sector, as was the case regarding the indicators measuring WIPO Connect and ABC Programs. The Delegation took note of the explanation provided by the Secretariat, and was happy to see that the building skills on the website stated that the methodology of data analysis of creative industries was not limited to copyright products, but was also for other Intellectual Property products that were related to creative industries. The Delegation did, however, ask again to which KPI and Expected Results did the project and the particular initiative correspond. As regards to the Regional and National Development Sector, the Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the explanation given regarding Expected Result 1.1, that it was not just for communication or outreach, but also for the operating of the External Offices. Even so, the Delegation asked if it was sufficient to limit the performance indicator solely to visitors of the websites of External Offices for that particular Expected Result 1.1. The Delegation fully appreciated that the Secretariat was trying to limit the number of KPIs, but wished to put on record its concern. The Delegation also took note of the response given by the Secretariat with regard to the Expected Result 3.3, which was important, and requested that Expected Result 3.3 be included in the table that measured performance indicators, baselines and targets. Regarding the response provided by the Secretariat, the Delegation followed up on the questions raised by the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, asking whether the eight IPTIs would be located in developing countries.

178. Regarding the requests made by the Delegation of Indonesia concerning the established IPTIs, the Secretariat clarified that there were two in Colombia, and one in each of the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia and Peru. Furthermore, there were three others established in Costa Rica, Tunisia, and Azerbaijan. The WIPO Academy was also working closely with them to make them sustainable and self-sufficient. The Academy was engaged in the establishment of an IPTI in cooperation with the Regional Training Institute for ARIPO, and the others were in Iran, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. The WIPO Academy expected to conclude Memoranda of Understanding with other countries and with one sub-regional organization for the establishment of future of IPTIs: those were Algeria, Syria, South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Oman, Belarus, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Vice-Chair thanked the Secretariat for providing specific answers to the questions posed by the delegations. As there were no further requests for the floor, the discussions on the Regional and National Development Sector were brought to a close.

179. The Secretariat acknowledged that there were some detailed questions related to Expected Results and the linking of those, and committed to provide further responses through

an updated version of the Questions & Answers document, which had been published on the PBC website for consultation and review by Member States.

180. The Vice-Chair thanked the Secretariat for providing specific answers to the questions posed by the delegations. As there were no further requests for the floor, the discussions on the Regional and National Development Sector were brought to a close. The Vice-Chair moved to the discussion on a review of the Infrastructure and Platform Sector, and the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector and opened the floor for questions or comments from delegations.

181. The Delegation of the Russian Federation was in agreement with the proposal for the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector. The Delegation said that it was a crucial area in terms of ensuring progress throughout the Organization, in particular, the implementation of Frontier Technologies, including 3-D digital objects, blockchain and so forth. The Delegation attached great importance to the achievements of the Organization that had significant experience in terms of the implementation of digital techniques. The Delegation wished to see the dialogue continue on that subject in WIPO, since it was important from an Intellectual Property perspective, in particular with regards to the activities of partnerships. That was an area of critical importance, including the many activities that were foreseen, to ensure the respect of Intellectual Property and the rights of Intellectual Property, including through the internet, which was also an important work element. The Delegation noted the importance of pursuing research in the area of Intellectual Property competition, in order to respond to issues concerning regulations and policies, to ensure the development of systems for the advancement of Intellectual Property. The Delegation concluded by stating that it was interested to see how activities for Expected Results 2.2 would be carried out in the future.

182. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its gratitude that the work program over the following biennium maintained a focus on the impact on global and local Intellectual Property ecosystems of Frontier Technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain and gene engineering. The Group advocated that resources continued to be dedicated to that important area, and it said that it supported WIPO's ongoing work on standards and was keen to understand how the Secretariat considered the use of technologies such as blockchain. On a less abstract and a more technical level, the Group wished to ensure that WIPO focused on the interoperability of those systems and technologies across national and regional networks. The Group also indicated that work on standards, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and other elements were important. The Group emphasized that a user-friendly interface was of utmost importance, especially when addressing new target groups, new potential users and customers. The Group stated that the various services, databases and platforms had often been developed separately, and it wished to see a full digitalization and digital transformation that led to a positive user experience, via one gateway, the WIPO IP Portal, with structured interconnectedness and no 'dead ends'. The Group also believed that it was essential that the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector worked across the Organization, in particular with the Administration, Finance and Management Sector and the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector to achieve that by the end of the following biennium. Concerning the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, the Group said that it continued to identify Intellectual Property as an enabler to tackle global challenges and in that regard, it was pleased to see that Sector allocated the resources to continue its valuable work. The Group noted that the world was experiencing several crises at that time, and it further noted that the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector was the smallest WIPO Sector from a budget perspective and second smallest from a post perspective. The Group considered that there was scope for additional resources to be dedicated to that Sector, for WIPO to address current and future challenges, such as supporting WIPO's COVID-19 response. In particular, the Group believed strongly that WIPO had good understanding and know-how with regards building IT platforms, the ability to automate matchmaking, as well as robust network of partnerships with both the private sector and civil society. The Group expected that WIPO,

through its Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector and in collaboration with other Sectors, would leverage that expertise and trust with partners in order to further develop creative ideas to address the pandemic. The Group expressed that it was ready to work with the Secretariat on impactful initiatives and to reflect them in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, via the insert on page 15, WIPO's response to COVID-19, as well as Expected Results 2.2, 2.4 and 3.3. At the same time, the Group was mindful that all initiatives should be sustainable. In that sense, it encouraged the Secretariat to plan for potential future pandemics when considering its COVID-19 response. The Group also remained focused on ensuring that Intellectual Property could support global green recovery and to that end, the Group considered that the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector should strive to enhance and deliver the full potential of the WIPO GREEN, and if needed that additional resources should be allocated. The Group concluded by stating that it was keen to explore the Future of Intellectual Property, it was a notable opportunity for WIPO to look forward and attempt to prepare for both challenges and opportunities for Intellectual Property and its future role in innovation and creativity.

183. The Delegation of Spain expressed the importance of WIPO improving the infrastructure of National Intellectual Property Offices by assisting in their digital transformation through the use of technologies such as artificial intelligence, in order to support the effectiveness of tools, platforms and databases. The Delegation aligned itself with the Statement from Group B, and it was surprised by the budget reduction of 5 per cent for the 2022/23 biennium, as compared to the previous biennium's budget. The Delegation expressed its concern about the reduction of five staff posts in the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, since human resources were critical in to achieve the goals of the programs. The Delegation believed that WIPO should continue to make an effort in the area of the promotion of technologies as related to Industrial Property and to share them with National Intellectual Property Offices, to ensure that everyone was working together, living in the same ecosystem, and was provided with the tools needed to be efficient. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for the improvement of WIPO's software for publications and other areas, which included the development of updated software versions with improved functionality. The Delegation was also grateful for the technical assistance for the implementation of the program in Spanish. The Delegation was optimistic concerning the experience of the digital classification system and the use of artificial intelligence to send patent applications to the appropriate examiners as well as for automatic classification. Concerning the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the Delegation would continue progress on the work of the standardization of digital transition. Particularly, the format, the structure of digital data and the technical groups, which worked on the definition of the functional and technical requirements for the preparation of new standards for 3-D images, for example: web services, to exchange data, machine to machine, and other digital transitions for standards related to the publication of data. Proper coordination with Industrial Property Offices was needed in order to compile up-to-date information on work with WIPO's standards, and work with the developers of Intellectual Property. The Delegation said that the fundamental work of WIPO in the area of PATENTSCOPE was to develop and continue to improve the search tools for those databases, particularly multilingual tools, recovery of images where brands were concerned, and industrial design and complex structures in chemical patent applications. Any information regarding Latin America, in particular, should be easily accessible so that the public could consult international platforms to satisfy the increased demand for such training at the regional, national and international level. The Delegation particularly stressed the importance of the database of patent documentation (PATENTSCOPE) in Spanish. The Delegation believed it was essential to have the best functioning global system for Intellectual Property and Industrial Property and also access to systems like WIPO Translate through its Advanced Technologies Applications Center, would allow the Organization to share its experience in the area of artificial intelligence, and that it would continue to develop artificial intelligence systems in-house in order to intensify international cooperation with National Intellectual Property Offices. The Delegation believed that it was important to have available effective methods to unify the use of artificial intelligence at the global level, particularly when those measures were established in order to safeguard systems. WIPO Translate, the automatic translation system developed in-house, which used

artificial intelligence, was a useful and fundamental tool for Industrial Property Offices. The Delegation hoped that the budget increase of 3.2 per cent for contractual services in the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector would be used in those areas emphasized by the Delegation, as well as across the Industrial Property ecosystem more broadly. With regards the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO should maintain close links with other United Nations organizations, as well as other interested organizations, such as companies and civil society, on the subject of Intellectual Property in the area of global challenges such as the pandemic situation that was afflicting the world at that time. With regards to that, the Delegation noted, compared to the previous biennium, the overall budget increase of 10.5 per cent, including the creation of six staff posts, demonstrated the Organization's commitment to reinforce the resources in the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector. The Delegation stressed the importance of promoting multilingualism in the United Nations system. To conclude, the Delegation expressed that in view of the increased cost of information technology systems and information security for all institutions, it advised WIPO to take into consideration the possibility of looking at services provided by the United Nations International Computing Centre, as some other United Nations organizations had already done.

184. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates expressed the importance of Frontier Technologies and noted how the Secretariat intended to foster discussion on the conversations on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technology. The Delegation had a question on the target for the performance indicator of "Engagement in the WIPO Conversations on IP and Frontier Technology" for Expected Result 2.2 on page 45. The target shown is "Engagement from government representatives, enterprises, IP professionals and other stakeholders from at least 50 Member States." The Delegation requested that the Secretariat explain why there was an emphasis on the number of Member States that would be engaged with for the conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies. In addition, for the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, the Delegation was also of the opinion that for Expected Result 2.2, there were no performance indicators, baselines and targets, which would demonstrate what WIPO brought the international community together to proactively address emerging issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, policy challenges at the global level, relating to Intellectual Property innovation and creativity, which the Delegation would wish to understand the targeted performance and how the Secretariat was going to undertake activities towards those Expected Results for the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector.

185. The Delegation of Canada expressed its support of the intervention by Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, noting that it was a cross-cutting issue. The Delegation welcomed the work plan that addressed the COVID-19 pandemic on page 15 of the document. The Delegation noted that in 2020, the pandemic took the world off-guard and, like many Member States, Canada was in reactive mode, and it adapted to the evolving circumstances posed by the global health crisis. The Delegation was grateful to the former Director General Mr. Francis Gurry, for setting up conference calls with the Heads of National Intellectual Property Offices early on during the pandemic. Those meetings were informative and allowed the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) to learn how counterparts and WIPO had been addressing the situation. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's efforts in ensuring business continuity and the continued availability of services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to affect users worldwide. Like WIPO, Canada had explored innovative ways to support businesses during the pandemic and it was seeking opportunities to make its services more accessible. For example, in May and June 2021, CIPO had partnered with WIPO to co-host the Canadian series of Roving Webinars on WIPO Services and Initiatives. The event was the first of its kind, as an interactive series of short webinars co-developed by WIPO and a National Intellectual Property Office. The Delegation said that it had been pleased to welcome hundreds of attendees from across the world and to share with them resources to unlock the value of Intellectual Property. Additionally, as the COVID-19 pandemic situation continued to evolve, CIPO had developed new forecasting technology to estimate the impact of economic shocks on CIPO's Intellectual Property activities. CIPO had led research to evaluate

the effect of the economic turmoil due to the COVID-19 pandemic on Intellectual Property filings. CIPO had implemented a set of regressions to approximate the impact of these economic shocks on future Intellectual Property filings, and this forecast model had been shared with the Vancouver Group and with WIPO. The Delegation said that it looked forward to continued work with WIPO on an ongoing basis, to ensure that WIPO's services did not only remain fully operational, but also to continue to consider and meet the evolving needs of users whether in emergency situations or more generally. The Delegation then proceeded to comment briefly on an aspect of the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector in relation to traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's initiatives regarding genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions as those initiatives aligned with its continued support for an inclusive and collaborative approach to Intellectual Property policy that took into account and promoted the effective participation of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people, as well as other creators and innovators, industry and the general public. The Delegation stated that the Government of Canada had launched an indigenous Intellectual Property program in 2019 to support indigenous Intellectual Property awareness and capacity building, and participation of indigenous representatives in the development and implementation of policy and programs about the domestic and international levels. Through that program, Canada made a contribution of 25,000 Canadian Dollars, which is 18,268 Swiss francs, to the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities in March 2019 and has provided funding for indigenous peoples from Canada to participate in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) negotiations and anticipates further funding in the future.

186. The Delegation of Indonesia welcomed the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 for the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, but emphasized that programs and initiatives related to Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies should take into account the existing gaps in developing countries, with in turn related to an issue raised by the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, which related to the targets of Expected Result 2.2, where the target stated engagement expected from at least 50 Member States. The Delegation hoped that the targets of Expected Result 2.2 would take into account the balance between developed and developing countries, since there were existing gaps in Intellectual Property and Frontier Technology between the developed and developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Delegation supported the KPIs under the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector. Concerning the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, the Delegation emphasized the importance of the work of the Traditional Knowledge Division, and it supported the continuation of the work to facilitate the discussion within the IGC framework for international normative activities related to the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. The Delegation then referred to paragraph 112 of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, which referenced a 'WIPO Creative Heritage Project'. The Delegation offered its support for the project and asked if that project would be managed under the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector. The Delegation stated that Indonesia had always been a strong believer of Intellectual Property as an enabler of innovation and that included the role of Intellectual Property to incentivize information and research as well as transfer of technology and expertise. In the context of the pandemic, the Delegation believed that WIPO was well placed to ensure an initiative with Intellectual Property could facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge, and thus to demonstrate how Intellectual Property was not an obstacle in the global efforts to handle the pandemic. The Delegation wished to see such an initiative or program with regards to the transfer and technology and knowledge, alongside the success of WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search. The Delegation pointed out a difference between the baseline and target for the performance indicator for Expected Result 2.4: The Delegation noted that the baseline showed "Representatives of 319 permanently accredited NGOs, targets different between those attending the WIPO committee meetings" which for the target had been changed to "attending WIPO events". The Delegation requested to know the reason behind that change, and asked if the engagement of accredited NGOs was

no longer counted at committee meetings, or if the definition of 'WIPO events' included WIPO events and WIPO committee meetings. Finally, concerning Expected Result 2.2, the Delegation indicated that KPIs were omitted for the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector.

187. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the presentation on the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector. The Group had taken note of the Sector's work and strongly supported its area of work. The Group expressed its interest in the development of an international legal instrument for the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. The Group believed there was significant work to be done on a more practical level to empower local and indigenous communities, although the Group recognized that much work had been done on that, including a substantial capacity building work, which it appreciated. The Group requested that such activities of work be communicated frequently to Member States, particularly in Geneva, and that the Organization consider having some kind of indicator related to communication with the Member States or with Permanent Missions in Geneva, in that instance. The Group welcomed the focus that would be placed on engagement with women and youth and supporting the participation of indigenous and local communities with normative work. The Group noted with concern a reduction of resources as compared to the 2020/21 biennium, related to Expected Results correlated to the "development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for Intellectual Property". The Group concluded by reiterating its question regarding unallocated resources.

188. The Delegation of Algeria acknowledged the idea of intersectionality of global issues. The Delegation recognized that there were references made to some initiatives, especially WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search, which were important initiatives taken by WIPO to respond to global challenges. The Delegation emphasized, however, that it did not believe that there should be a restrictive definition as to what the role of WIPO could be in delivering partnerships. The Delegation had noted the importance of existing initiatives, but believed the need also to focus on new possibilities to conceptualize and to implement new programs that respond to emerging global challenges. The Delegation further recognized the important trilateral cooperation between the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization and WIPO to address some of those challenges. The Delegation suggested that WIPO consider creating new programs and initiatives, similar to those already underway, such as WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search, for addressing emerging global issues. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for implementing the cooperation platforms noting that it supported the continued strengthening of those platforms.

189. The Vice-Chair opened the floor for comments or questions. No Delegations requested the floor, thus he gave the floor to the Secretariat.

190. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group for the reminder and confirmed that that the answer to his question had been included in the Questions and Answers document that had been published.

191. The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting for that day. The following day, The Vice-Chair asked the Secretariat to respond to questions from delegations.

192. The Secretariat thanked the many delegations who had expressed their interests on the issue of Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies, including the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, the Delegation of the Russian Federation, the Delegation of Spain, the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates and the Delegation of Indonesia. As the Director General had mentioned during his remarks earlier in the week, the scope had been expanded to Frontier Technologies, which not only included artificial intelligence, but and also other cutting edge fields such as blockchain, big data, quantum computing and genetic engineering. The Secretariat said that, many of the delegations were already aware of that, and

there would be WIPO Conversation organized on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies, titled “Data – Beyond AI in a Fully Interconnected World” on September 22 and 23, 2021. The Secretariat indicated that registration was open and it looked forward to a broad participation. The Secretariat addressed the specific question on the target of the Expected Result 2.2 from the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates and the Delegation of Indonesia, and said that the intention was to include participation from various parts of the world with a view of achieving geographical diversity. The Secretariat then shared with the Committee that at the last WIPO Conversation earlier that year, there was more than 60 per cent participation from developing and least developed countries. The Secretariat was pleased to note that there were also participants from the Asia and Pacific Region, the Arab Region, including both Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. The Secretariat stated that geographical diversity in the upcoming WIPO Conversation would be taken into account. For comments regarding standards from the Delegation of the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of Group B, the Delegation of the Russian Federation, and the Delegation of Spain, the Secretariat said that there were several comments made regarding standards and the importance of interoperability was also mentioned. The Secretariat agreed that interoperability was an important key element and that it was the reason for the existence of WIPO standards, that allowed various stakeholders’ machines to exchange information and data smoothly. With regards to blockchain, the Secretariat explained that the Committee on WIPO Standards had established a Blockchain Taskforce in 2018. The draft of the blockchain whitepaper had been shared with the Taskforce the previous week and had been appreciated by the Taskforce. The Secretariat looked forward to comments from Taskforce members with a view of finalizing the whitepaper and making it available in due course. The Secretariat also took the opportunity to thank the Delegation of the Republic of Korea, who mentioned the whitepaper during its intervention earlier in the week, and also for its kind contribution of the Funds-in-Trust for the blockchain whitepaper. Concerning the Application Programming Interface (API), the Secretariat stated that Member States adopted WIPO Standard ST.90, which was about API to facilitate the processing and exchange of Intellectual Property data in a harmonized way over the Web. The Secretariat said that it looked forward to the utilization of that standard by the Member States and other stakeholders to achieve better interoperability. Regarding the questions from the Delegation of the Russian Federation and the Delegation of Spain, the Secretariat said that concerning the use of 3-D models and 3-D images in Intellectual Property data and documentation, the discussion was ongoing in the 3-D Task Force under the Committee on WIPO Standards. The Secretariat hoped that the draft of the standard could be proposed to, and adopted by, a future session of the Committee on WIPO Standards. Concerning the comment on the WIPO IP Portal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, the Secretariat said that the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector was cooperating and collaborating with other IT teams as well as other units across the Sectors, and that it would continue its cross-sectoral interaction. Concerning the comment from the Delegation of Spain on Global Databases and tools assisted by technologies such as artificial intelligence in terms of multilingualism, the Secretariat explained that PATENTSCOPE, one of WIPO’s flagship databases, did have the functionality of machine translation with the Organization’s artificial intelligence-based WIPO Translate, which allowed machine translation with 11 languages including Spanish. The Secretariat also explained that while some required a license agreement, the Organization’s artificial intelligence-powered tools, such as WIPO Translate, Image Similarity Search API and Vienna classification assistance were available for National Intellectual Property Offices without fees. Regarding the importance of the Organization’s Global Databases, the Secretariat explained that it would continue its effort and that, for example, the Image Similarity Search was now available for Global Brands Database. With regards to the questions on the budget reduction of 4.6 per cent and the decrease of four posts, the Secretariat explained that they were merely the results of internal restructuring. Some units were re-allocated to other Sectors while some others units were consolidated under the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector. As a result of that restructuring, the document showed a

reduction for Infrastructure and Platforms Sector. The Secretariat confirmed that there had been no substantial reduction of the budget and cost for the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector.

193. The Secretariat thanked all delegations for their consideration of that Sector. The Secretariat was grateful for the recognition and the fact that the Sector's work was indeed considered as a crucial aspect of the new administration's mission and work. The Secretariat then proceeded to respond directly to Delegations that had raised specific questions or made comments in respect of the Sector. The Secretariat had taken note of the comments and thanked the Delegation of the Russian Federation, regarding the Building Respect for IP Division, the IP and Competition Policy Division, and in general the work of the Sector. With regards to the comments from the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, the Secretariat considered that there was indeed the scope for additional resources to be dedicated to the Sector, in order to assist WIPO to effectively address current, as well as future challenges. That would include supporting WIPO's COVID-19 response. In particular, the Secretariat strongly believed, in line with Group B's Statement, that WIPO had a good basis, and it had the knowledge and ability to build IT platforms. The Organization also had the ability to automate matchmaking, and had a robust network of partnerships with the private sector and civil society alike. The Secretariat therefore expected WIPO, through its Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, and importantly in collaboration with other Sectors in the Organization, to leverage that expertise and trust with partners in order to further develop creative ideas that would assist in addressing the pandemic. In that light, the Secretariat said that it was ready to work within the Secretariat on impactful initiatives and to reflect those in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Secretariat assured the Delegation of Spain that its intention was to maintain close links and collaboration with other Intergovernmental Organizations, as well as civil society, and the Secretariat agreed that that was particularly necessary in view of the ongoing pandemic. Concerning comments made by the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, the Secretariat confirmed that it would include performance indicators, baselines and targets that corresponded to Expected Result 2.2. In response to the Delegation of Canada, the Secretariat thanked the Delegation for recalling the launch of its Indigenous Representatives Program in 2019. The Secretariat was pleased to recall the productive collaboration with the Canadian Government, for the organization of the practical workshop on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions for countries in the Arctic region, in Iqaluit, Canada in 2019. That event that was still widely spoken of, and Nordic countries were looking to that model in respect of their planning for an event late 2021. The Secretariat thanked Canada for setting the pace in that regard. Additionally, the Secretariat expressed his gratitude to the Canadian Government, for the 25,000 Canadian dollars contribution for the WIPO Voluntary Fund. That contribution facilitated, and would continue to facilitate, the participation of indigenous peoples in the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Committee. The Secretariat responded to the Delegation of Indonesia indicating that it had taken note of its reference and the importance that the Delegation attached to the IGC process and the continuation of the normative process that included the overall work of the Traditional Knowledge Division. The Secretariat noted also the reference to capacity building as part of a significant drive by the Traditional Knowledge Division to build capacity among indigenous peoples and local communities, in order for them to benefit from a more effective use of Intellectual Property. An example of the more efficient use of Intellectual Property was the Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship Program. The Sector would continue to demonstrate how Intellectual Property could facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise, and establish that Intellectual Property was a force for good when used appropriately. Concerning the question raised about paragraph 112 of the Medium Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the Secretariat confirmed that the WIPO Creative Heritage Project was managed under the Traditional Knowledge Division in the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation for its offer of support in that context. Regarding Expected Results 2.2 and 2.4, the Secretariat said it would ensure that they would correspond to the necessary indicators. With regards to the reference made to WIPO events as opposed to WIPO committee meetings, the Secretariat suggested that events should be considered as being

broader than committee meetings. In the particular context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat realized it could not guarantee specific participation levels or participation types and therefore, the Secretariat suggested referring to events rather than meetings. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, had referred to the importance of the Sector's work in the Organization; the Secretariat had taken note of the Group's support of the work carried out in the traditional knowledge area. It was also noted that the Group had welcomed the participation of the youth, indigenous people, women, and other hitherto underrepresented communities. The Secretariat wished to assure the Group of the continued relevance and impact of the Sector's work in that area. For example, the WIPO Office in New York organized and co-sponsored events that are aimed to celebrate: (i) the International Day of the Girl, each year on October 11; (ii) the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, on February 11 each year; and, (iii) in May 2021, on the margins of the Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, the Secretariat organized an event to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and more specifically SDG 5 on Gender Equality. The Secretariat believed that as more women used the Intellectual Property system, and as more women innovated and created, that would ultimately contribute to most of the other Sustainable Development Goals that relied on innovation and creativity for their attainment. Concerning remarks made by the Delegation of Algeria, the Secretariat confirmed that WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search were indeed important initiatives and that it would endeavor, as suggested, to see when it could implement new programs and initiatives in response to emerging challenges. The Secretariat concluded the responses on the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector by stating that it was counting on the Member States' continued guidance and direction as progress was made with its work implementation. The Secretariat would also be looking to Member States for indications as to the specific entities within each country, that could partner effectively with the Organization, for example, in the area of youth engagement, or other aspects of the Sector's work. The Secretariat also believed that with the continued assistance and guidance from Member States, it would be able to effectively deliver to the Member States' satisfaction.

194. The Delegation of the United Kingdom took the floor on behalf of Group B, and thanked the Secretariat for its detailed responses. The Delegation recalled that the Group B Statement requested additional information on the plans for the WIPO GREEN platform, in particular any plans to enhance and deliver the full potential of the platform as well as the newly created team on the Future of IP. The Delegation also expressed that it would welcome taking those matters up further, bilaterally.

195. The Secretariat apologized for not providing direct responses to Group B's comments, as it had believed that since the Group had expressed support, a response was not necessarily required. With respect to the WIPO GREEN platform, there were certainly plans to take it to the next level, and in that context, the Secretariat was looking forward to the Glasgow event in November 2021. That was one of the places where it hoped to have a side event to further showcase WIPO GREEN. The Secretariat would be happy to provide further information bilaterally, should that be helpful. With respect to the Future of IP, it was a work in progress, and a new area for the Organization. The Secretariat pointed to the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, where three areas that it intended to work on were noted. First, to undertake a perception survey of the Intellectual Property system worldwide - the idea was, for example, to capture thoughts on Intellectual Property from African countries, from Asia and Pacific countries and from Latin American and Caribbean countries. That global survey would help to identify the needs, through a gap analysis, and by addressing the Intellectual Property system in the various areas. It would help assess global attitudes towards IP and the changes in such attitudes. The other two areas in the Future of IP work stream included supporting IP offices as they evolve their roles in a world where national economies are increasingly driven by innovation and creativity. Finally, the Secretariat would be doing some work on raising awareness of the growth of intangible assets, and it would look at that as a core aspect of the Intellectual Property system and how it could best be utilized.

196. The Vice-Chair opened the floor for further comments or questions. There were no further requests for the floor regarding either the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector or the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector. The Vice-Chair therefore confirmed that the discussion on those Sectors was thereby concluded. The Vice-Chair proceeded with the consideration of the Program of Work and Budget for the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, the Administration, Finance and Management Sector and the Office of the Director General. The Vice-Chair invited delegations to take the floor.

197. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Director General for the initiative of establishing the new Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, which would focus on issues related to intangible assets, the marketing of intellectual property and related ecosystems, and geared towards introducing innovative solutions. The Delegation believed that Intellectual Property for businesses and innovators were particularly important directions of work and the Delegation was interested in the projects supporting small and medium-sized enterprises aimed at enhancing their potential in terms of managing intellectual property and assessing Intellectual Property assets as the approaches for this were not yet finalized. The Delegation stressed the importance of commercialization, marketing, and developing innovation and technology support centers. The Delegation believed that some of these projects could be reflected in recommendations and studies and the results could be reflected in performance indicators. The Delegation also pointed out that no performance indicators were provided for ER 3.2, 4.1 and 4.3. With respect to the Administration Finance and Management Sector, the Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the detailed information provided on the priorities of this Sector. The Delegation supported this area of work aimed at making WIPO more digitalized and more effective. The Delegation stated that a lot of money had been invested in digital transformation, approximately 150 million of Swiss francs. The Delegation asked for clarification on how these projects were related to the capital master plan. The Delegation further stated that they had traditionally given great importance to the promotion of multilingualism. The table on page 16 of the document showed that 21 million of Swiss francs had been allocated to multilingualism. The Delegation thought it was necessary to include in the performance indicators, specific measurable metrics, which would reflect the real situation and progress made. This could include the implementation of pilot projects as part of the revised language policy, which would be discussed during the 32nd PBC session. It could also include a percentage ratio for the translation of WIPO publications in all official languages, somewhat similar to those in the budget for 2022/21. The Delegation wanted to draw attention to the fact that in the current draft there were no performance indicators for ER 2.2 and 2.4.

198. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Director General for the establishment of the new Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. The Delegation welcomed and was excited about this new Sector as Intellectual Property and innovation ecosystems is key to drive economic growth. The Delegation welcomed the focus of the Sector on work related to economics and its analysis, support for individuals, businesses, researchers and communities, as well as its focus on judicial institutes and arbitration and meditation centers. The Delegation looked forward to working together with the Sector, in particular the Intellectual Property for Business Division. The Delegation had been working together with WIPO, especially on small and medium sized enterprises and Intellectual Property related issues, and looked forward to seeing more activities and impact driven initiatives aimed at empowering enterprises, in particular SMEs, to maximize the potential for IP management and commercialization. The Delegation also noted the importance of the Intellectual Property for Innovators Department, with impactful programs such as TISCs and e-TISCs, University Intellectual Property Policies, WIPO INSPIRE and all other programs, which were there to support researchers, innovators and universities. The Delegation welcomed more activities on the impact initiatives in this area. Intellectual Property for Business and Intellectual Property for Innovators are integral in the efforts of broadening WIPO's reach as mentioned by the Director General. There was one particular request for clarification on this sector which is the issue of missing KPIs. The Delegation noted there were no performance indicators, baselines and targets for ER 3.2, 4.1

and 4.3. The Delegation took good note of the Secretariat's explanation on the need to avoid inflation of numbers of KPIs. As the Delegation had highlighted in earlier interventions, it did not have any intention to request new additional KPIs but rather that some shared ERs with were shared baselines and targets for ER 4.2 and 4.3 be shared between CCI, PT, GCP and RND. A similar case of shared KPI with corresponding shared baselines and targets could be seen for ER 4.4 relating to TISCs. Both the Regional and National Development Sector and the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector have shared ERs, KPIs, baselines and targets related to ER 4.4. The Delegation further noted that the Administration, Finance and Management Sector and the Office of the Director General were the foundation for the four strategic pillars guiding the work of the Organization. They were delivering results driving overall performance, allocating and managing resources, implementing the HR strategy as well as carrying out strategic engagement to external stakeholders including the Member States. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for the implementation and continued focus on sound and prudent financial management. The Delegation took note and supported the ongoing work and future plans regarding digital transformation, including the focus on digitalization of HR under the People and Culture implementation strategy, because ensuring a robust, well-functioning and secure digital ecosystem was key for smooth operation and delivery of WIPO services. The Delegation welcomed the focus on media strategies as well as the deepening of engagement and coordination with key stakeholders, including targeted communication with Member States, bringing WIPO at the forefront as the global forum for Intellectual Property related issues for everyone, everywhere. The Delegation highlighted its satisfaction with the quality of conference services for meetings, including interpreter services and other related event and protocol services of WIPO. The Delegation had no particular questions in regard to the narratives and the results frameworks under each Sector except for pointing out that there were no KPIs for ER 2.4.

199. The Delegation of Pakistan stated that they had been stressing the need for a separate dedicated Sector on innovations and it was thankful to WIPO for the new Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. The Delegation further noted that the Global Innovation Index was very useful and had allowed Pakistan and many other countries, based on the scores and the rankings, specifically the rankings of the individual sub-indicators, to have targeted interventions. The Delegation wished to draw attention to one major challenge related to the Global Innovation Index data collection. The Delegation understood that WIPO was collecting the data from various international organizations and UN agencies, but there had been a persistent problem of outdated or missing data. For example, in the 2020 Global Innovation Index, Pakistan had missing data for at least 10 sub-indicators and outdated data for seven sub-indicators. The Delegation requested that when WIPO carried out the exercise in consultation with its partners for the publication of the Global Innovation Index more communication should take place with the missions in Geneva and the relevant countries. Timely information as to which kind of data and which data sets were missing or outdated would be helpful for the Delegation as well as for other countries.

200. The Delegation of Canada was supportive of the creation of the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector and the allocation of funds towards its initiatives. The Sector's initiatives were well aligned with Canada's priorities under its intellectual property strategy, which aims to help businesses, creators, entrepreneurs and innovators better understand, protect and access Intellectual Property. The Delegation was also pleased to see WIPO's continued support for the development of effective Intellectual Property, innovation and creative ecosystems and support for researchers, innovators, universities and research institutions. This support would improve access to Intellectual Property and innovation data and other related information, to build skills and create platforms that use Intellectual Property to translate research into market outcomes, which was an important element of Canada's Intellectual Property strategy.

201. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the creation of the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. The Delegation had high hopes that the Sector would play a critical role in bringing to life the Director General's Vision as stated in the MTSP 2022-2026, "A world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by intellectual property, for the good of everyone". The Delegation welcomed that the Sector would work to bring a variety of new stakeholders into the Intellectual Property ecosystem, to use Intellectual Property as a tool for economic growth and sustainable development. The focus on SMEs and entrepreneurs was welcome, as it would assist the stakeholders to leverage Intellectual Property effectively for business growth. The Delegation noted that SMEs would play a significant role in job creation across the world. Innovation is the foundation of human advancement and the Delegation believed it was the key to lift people out of poverty and to address many other challenges including those faced in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation looked forward to this Sector assisting stakeholders in Africa, to play a meaningful role in the Intellectual Property ecosystem and to benefit from it. The Delegation noted with appreciation that the Sector would work on the long-term sustainability of the TISC networks and technology transfer structures, by encouraging knowledge sharing through effective coordinated national, regional and global networks, and the online e-TISC community. The Delegation asked when data on the baselines for ERs 3.1, 3.3, and 4.2 were to be expected, as it was indicated in the document that it was still to be determined. On the Administration, Finance and Management Sector, the Delegation recognized its importance, including in regards to the preparation of the PBC, and welcomed the commitment to create a more harmonious workplace with zero tolerance for harassment and bullying. The Delegation continued calling for more equitable geographical diversity and gender balance through broader and enhanced recruitment outreach programs. In terms of the targets that had been set on where participants from the Young Experts Program would be coming from, and the gender makeup, the Group asked if there were any specific targets that had been set for the participants of that program.

202. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, mentioned that the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector was a welcome addition to WIPO and it had read the implementation strategies with interest. The Group had a strong interest in developing WIPO's capacity in this area and stood ready to support its work. The Group was supportive of the envisaged shift in narratives for the WIPO flagship publications, such as the Global Innovation Index, WIPO Technology Trends or World Intellectual Property Indicators, which are globally well respected. The Group wished to see more focus on the impact of those publications on both policymakers and decision-makers. The Group had stressed numerous times in the course of the week the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and it saw the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector as being in the center of such collaboration. The Administration, Finance and Management Sector was essential to running the WIPO machinery. The Group understood that for the purposes of the Draft Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, the Director General and his slimmed down office was covered by this Sector. The Group noted and agreed with the notion to bring young talent into the Organization. The Group also noted that short-term contracts, for example in the form of internships and fellowships were proposed to increase significantly, which may have an impact on the attractiveness of WIPO as an employer. The Group was interested in receiving more details on the new WIPO Human Resources approach related to this matter. The Group further noted that this Sector was handling directly the governing bodies of WIPO, including the General Assembly. The Group encouraged the Secretariat to find ways to incorporate in the WIPO Assembly 2022 and beyond, elements that would attract attention and raise awareness among policymakers and decision-makers about intellectual property and its role in innovation and creativity. The Group was thankful for the opportunity to comment on the document and looked forward to engaging further.

203. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group and in its national capacity, wished to follow up on the statement made by the Delegation of the Russian

Federation. The Group traditionally was attaching a lot of importance to multilingualism. Over the previous years, the Group had been working very hard with WIPO on this subject. The Group thanked the Secretariat for taking into account its wishes and for reflecting this in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the Revised Policy on Languages. The Group wished to see specific Expected Results and KPIs, which were measurable and would reflect the real situation and progress made in the area of multilingualism. The Group hoped that specific goals in relation to the language policy would be discussed later in plenary.

204. The Delegation of China noted that the implementation strategies for the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector mentioned that WIPO would further develop TISCs, making them an important way for innovators to obtain high-quality Intellectual Property services. The Delegation appreciated this idea. Since 2017, the Delegation had cooperated with WIPO in building 102 TISCs, providing high-quality Intellectual Property information services, to Chinese innovators and Intellectual Property stakeholders. Going forward, the Delegation was willing to continue strengthening cooperation with WIPO in this field in order to create more advanced versions of Chinese TISCs and to contribute to the global TISC network. In terms of human resources, the Delegation appreciated the YEP initiative and welcomed it. This initiative aimed at rejuvenating the WIPO workforce and at increasing geographical representation. As the representative of South Africa had pointed out, this initiative would help to create 10 new posts. In addition, the Delegation also supported increasing fellowships and internships. This would help the Organization to implement its work both qualitatively and quantitatively, including the operation of WIPO's Intellectual Property services. The Delegation supported WIPO's idea to improve the culture based on a team-based approach. The Delegation suggested that WIPO consider increasing cooperation and human exchanges in the PCT and Madrid systems. In addition, in terms of communication, the Delegation supported the idea mentioned on page 63 to optimize the use of social media and expand into specialized social media, in order to expand the coverage of WIPO's new target audience around the world. In China, WeChat and other social media platforms were the most commonly used. According to statistics, every day about 1.09 billion people were using WeChat. Many United Nations agencies, including the WIPO office in China, and the United Nations Representative Office in China had opened WeChat public accounts and other accounts for social media commonly used by the Chinese people. These agencies had published rich and diversified news and communication about the UN system. This was highly welcomed and loved by the Chinese public, especially by the young generation.

205. The Delegation of Spain stated that in connection with the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, it commended the work done by WIPO to develop Intellectual Property ecosystems for innovation and creativity in the Member States, to help creators such as artists, musicians, designers, university researchers, emerging industries and SMEs to bring their ideas to the market. There was no doubt that the innovative ecosystems would play a key role in intellectual property in the future. The Delegation commended the resources intended for this new Sector in 2022/23, which it considered sufficient and fundamental for the future work of the Sector. The Delegation believed that it was important to prioritize the generation and transfer of technology, particularly for SMEs, and to strengthen research institutions, by supporting the improvement in the quality and impact of their research and knowledge, through capacity building, in particular of stakeholders involved in technology transfer and industrial property. The Delegation further indicated that it was important to ensure access to quality industrial property information, taking into consideration the multilingualism of the Member States, by facilitating access to statistics and studies done by WIPO on its website. This would facilitate Member States' cooperation and also enable the preparation of reliable statistical studies, which would improve available information and transparency. These statistical studies would provide useful assessments to Member States to showcase trends, pointing out strong areas, and areas to be strengthened in the area of intellectual property and technology transfer. The Delegation also emphasized the need to continue to promote arbitration and mediation

while strengthening the role of the institution to enhance cooperation with Member States. The Delegation would be pleased if the Global Innovation Index could be published in the other United Nations official languages as it would help in its dissemination and use in order to support national public policies. This would considerably improve the capacity of National Offices to have a political impact in their countries. The Delegation considered it a priority for the Administration, Finance and Management Sector of WIPO firstly to monitor WIPO's program of work, secondly to effectively administer costs and human resources, and thirdly to enhance gender equality and geographical diversity through the ongoing monitoring of WIPO policies and long-term plans. The Delegation also believed that it was the Sector's role to establish mechanisms for preparing reports that would enable the Member States to review the impact of the COVID pandemic at the global level and its effect on WIPO's work in the future. The Delegation stated that the Organization also needed to continue to look at strategies to improve the achievement of results given the challenging times. The Delegation said that a constant effort was needed to improve the presentation of reports on results, through looking at yields and output. There was also a need to develop a plan for inclusion of a gender perspective in order to improve gender diversity at the top levels of senior management. There was equally a need to improve learning platforms. The Delegation stressed the need for giving impetus to the Spanish language as a technical and working language of the Organization in the framework of multilingualism. In this context, the Delegation believed that the indicator of satisfaction given on page 69 of 29.5 per cent, could be higher and that greater satisfaction should be achieved by all stakeholders. The Delegation believed that standards should be raised and be reflected in that satisfaction indicator. There was a need to develop new alliances, for instance with the UNICC, in order to ensure that management and administration of IT could be fruitful in guaranteeing an appropriate safeguard of IT information. Finally, as to the fact that human resources had declined in number, the Delegation considered it indispensable to maintain an adequate level of expenditure to attain the objectives set out in the program of work.

206. The Delegation of Italy joined the statement made by the distinguished Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation was particularly pleased to see the inclusion of the new Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector as other delegations had already highlighted. The Delegation welcomed the outlined pragmatic approaches and the focus on impact. The Delegation appreciated very much that the topic for the celebration of World IP Day was in line with the new strategic approach focusing on SMEs and taking ideas to the market. The Delegation liked the more holistic approach and, in particular, was interested in the initiatives that would be developed by the Intellectual Property for Business Division. The Delegation welcomed any project tool that could be developed targeting the needs of micro and small companies, startups and individual entrepreneurs. The Delegation would welcome not just online tools but also in-person activities when feasible. In this respect, the Delegation wished to receive more information regarding what had been accomplished by the intellectual property online diagnostic tool that WIPO had launched more than a year and half ago. The Delegation would be pleased to understand how much this tool had been used, by which companies, and in which geographical areas. As there was a great interest for Intellectual Property for business, involving both public and private stakeholders working to support SMEs in their daily activities, the Delegation recommended WIPO to create synergies and connections as much as possible with other international organizations, including those active in Europe, that were developing initiatives and projects to achieve the very same results that WIPO had included in this draft budget. Finally yet importantly, the Delegation commended the activities of the Arbitration and Mediation Centre and in this regard wished to highlight the importance of future engagement with ICANN, especially concerning assisting intellectual property owners to access the WHOIS database.

207. The Vice-Chair noted that many statements had been made by delegations on the two sectors, which were essential for the development and future of the Organization. The Vice-Chair requested a short recess so that the Secretariat could answer the questions raised by the

delegations. After resuming the session, the Vice-Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to respond to the statements that had been presented by the various delegations.

208. The Secretariat expressed his gratitude for the many positive comments that had been received regarding the creation of the new Sector, particularly how the Sector would be key in the implementation of the Director General's vision in the MTSP 2022-2026. The Secretariat stated that it had taken note of the comments from the delegations and that they would be duly considered in the implementation of the Sector's 2021 workplan and in the next biennium. The Secretariat noted the comment made by the Delegation of Pakistan on the impact of the Global Innovation Index in policy discussions and the considerations, which had taken place in its own country when it came to the design of innovation policies. The Secretariat stated that the Delegation of Pakistan had rightly mentioned the different challenges that countries faced in collecting relevant data to be used for the preparation of the Global Innovation Index. An important part of the outcomes that had been reached with the Global Innovation Index was that countries had been able to mobilize different forces, resources and structures to collect data on innovation-related matters at the national level. In that regard, the Global Innovation Index exercise at the national level was improving efforts to collect data nationally. However, at the same time, a lot of challenges arose in huge projects, such as the Global Innovation Index. Some of those challenges were related to the interest of Member States, on many occasions, to share data directly with WIPO on issues that were not necessarily intellectual property-related, but related to data that was mainly curated, analyzed and put forward in different reports produced in ITU, UNESCO, the World Bank and other organizations. In those cases, what the Secretariat would normally do was to facilitate the translation of data received from Member States to the different organizations for the analysis of that data and the inclusion in those respective reports. After the Global Innovation Index was published, the Secretariat remained open to engage with Member States on any update needed in case data was missing or out-of-date. The Secretariat would engage with the Delegation of Pakistan to find out how it could improve the data related to this country. The Secretariat mentioned that work had been already undertaken bilaterally between the Secretariat and Pakistan to improve the collection of data. In regards to the second point raised by the Delegation of Indonesia related to missing KPIs, the Secretariat stated that it knew that this issue had been raised across the board as similar comments had been made in relation to other sectors. As the Secretariat already announced in the Questions & Answers document which was going to be circulated, the Secretariat would explain the reason why the mentioned KPIs were not used when it came to very specific activities in the different sectors. The Secretariat encouraged the delegations to refer to that document for a more concrete and specific reply to that question. In regards to the question from the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group, on the baselines that were to be determined, the Secretariat explained that there were several reasons for this. One of the reasons related to some of the baseline information on the use and consultation of different WIPO websites where a change had been made in the way visitors were identified from visitors in general to unique visitors. Because of this change, some of the baselines, not only related to the Intellectual Property and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, but to other sectors as well, needed to be fine-tuned and revised. An overall approach from the Secretariat was going to be made before the end of the year 2021 and the baselines would be updated accordingly. The second reason was that some of the performance indicators were new, so there was no baseline information. More information would be elaborated when data would become available. On the comment from the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, related to the importance of flagship publications for policymakers and the general public, the Secretariat stated that it shared a particular interest in this matter. The Secretariat explained that the Global Innovation Index, the World Intellectual Property Report and the WIPO Technology Trends Reports showed that WIPO's efforts should not only be focused on improving the selection process of teams that were preparing those publications, but to also on improving the way the Organization was reaching out to a larger audience to ensure that the report was more impactful. For example, the Global Innovation Index was one of the flagship publications with the most advanced dissemination strategies. It included a very prominent annual luncheon,

which would take place during September 2021. The Secretariat also had activities such as national and regional workshops where it was able to engage with different authorities for the use of the Global Innovation Index as an important tool to promote a conversation on innovation and innovation policies at large. Those national and regional activities allowed the Secretariat to work closely with national authorities on the different issues. The same applied to the World Intellectual Property Report and the WIPO Technology Trends Report, where the Organization made efforts to reach a larger audience. The Assistive Technology Trends Report for 2021 was an example of where a number of very concrete dissemination activities had been put in place to ensure that the maximum impact on those exchanges and conversations around the report would produce impactful results. On the comment made by the Delegation of Spain related to the relevance of the Global Innovation Index, and that this publication needed to be available in the United Nations official languages, the Secretariat explained that the Global Innovation Index highlights had been translated into 10 languages: English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean and Portuguese. Beyond the highlights, the Secretariat knew that there was interest for the full report to be translated into other languages, and depending on the availability of resources, it could be possible. This had happened in the past in various specific languages with different support coming from private partners or government, specific both to the translation and specific language. The Secretariat would be happy to engage in conversation with the Delegation of Spain to explore options for translating the report into the Spanish language. Finally, the Secretariat addressed the comments from the Delegation of Italy on the WIPO Intellectual Property diagnostic tool being a very important tool in order to assess the situation of Intellectual Property and the use of Intellectual Property by different stakeholders, particularly by small and medium-size enterprises. The Secretariat explained that the diagnostic tool was a project in its pilot phase, and the Organization aimed at getting inputs to improve the tool. The Secretariat stated that more than 2,500 users had used the tool worldwide. Based on inputs received from those different users, WIPO was working on a revised version of the tool, and the tool was going to go global by the second half of 2021 with a new look and feel, improved software and with additional languages. Some of the technical elements of the tool were going to go global before 2021. There was a balanced distribution of the tool in all regions of the world, and in fact, Italy was one of those big users of the tool. The Secretariat wanted to reassure the Delegation of Italy that the Secretariat was working to improve the tool and make it more widely available worldwide for the benefit of small and medium-sized enterprises. The Secretariat concluded that it had covered in a very general manner those elements that, in his view, deserved a special reply from his side and remained available in case additional information was required.

209. The Secretariat appreciated the comments from delegations and thanked his teams for their work. In addressing the question from the Delegation of the Russian Federation on the 149.6 million Swiss francs on page 67 of the English version, under Expected Result 5.2, it was explained that the figure was far broader than IT only and in fact covered a range of costs contributing to the operating platform on which the Secretariat relied. The 149.6 million Swiss francs also covered costs in other areas under the Administration, Finance and Management Sector such as the Department of Program Planning and Finance, Procurement and Travel Division, Premises Infrastructure Division, which was working to ensure that premises were carbon neutral, the Safety and Information Assurance Division, the Knowledge Management and General Services Division, the Office of the Legal Counsel, the Language Division and the Information and Communication Technology Department. The Secretariat reiterated that it went far beyond just IT, IT being about 70 million Swiss francs. The Secretariat stated that WIPO was making a considerable investment in IT infrastructure. It was an investment taken seriously, and the Secretariat also took the governance of that investment very seriously. That was something the Secretariat was looking into making sure that the governance structure gave the right levels of assurance for the management of that considerable investment, and that investment went across the operational budget and into the capital master plan projects. Over time, the capital master plan projects' operations become regularized and go back into the regular budget, so the Secretariat was looking at the WIPO governance model for IT

investments to make sure it had an effective, good quality oversight over that area. The Secretariat would be happy to engage bilaterally if further information was needed. Turning to multilingualism, and indicators on multilingualism, raised by the Delegation of Spain, the Secretariat explained that it had not included indicators on the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, which Member States would consider under Agenda Item 9 later in the session. That was because the Secretariat did not want to be presumptuous and prejudge the Member States' decision. The Secretariat was conscious that the strategy was representing a new leap forward in the way the different stakeholders would think about multilingualism in this Organization. It was one that was for the input and engagement and use of Member States. The Secretariat did not want to immediately leap towards deciding how it was going to operationalize that in terms of specific indicators. The Secretariat was very open to looking at how, if Member States did decide to embrace that new approach, they could effectively call the Secretariat into account and monitor that. The Secretariat mentioned that there was a reference to indicators on pilot projects, which related to the first phase that was envisaged under the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, and the Secretariat was very open to exploring indicators for those pilot projects. The idea was not to prejudge the discussion on the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO. The idea was to go beyond just publications and to take multilingualism into the full breadth of WIPO's work. On the question from the Delegation of Indonesia on the performance indicators in the Sector, the Secretariat reassured the Delegation that there were indicators under Expected Result 1.1 and 2.1, there was an investment of 1.3 million Swiss francs as indicated on page 62, and in Expected Result 2.2, there was an investment of 7.1 million Swiss francs. That was very much focused on the conference services and it was absolutely right that there was an indicator to measure the conference services provided to Member States and stakeholders. There was an indicator for that on page 65. Also, on the reference to Expected Result 2.4 on engagement across the United Nations system, the Secretariat explained that there was an expectation to spend 165,000 Swiss francs over the 2022/23 biennium. That related to the logistics cost of WIPO's engagement in bodies such as the United Nations Chief Executives Board. There was no explicit indicator for that. That was by design as the Organization had streamlined the program and budget proposal and brought back the number of indicators. The Secretariat tried to make the document more transparent and easy to read and the Secretariat was trying not to have a performance indicator for each Swiss franc spent. In regards to the comments from the Delegation of Spain on WIPO's partnership with the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), the Secretariat explained that it was a very important partnership and worked both ways because WIPO relied on the UNICC for a range of services and WIPO provided them with space for some of their servers. The Secretariat reiterated that it was a key relationship for WIPO and it had met with the Director of the UNICC a few months prior to discuss that relationship and how it would be possible to work even better together. The Secretariat mentioned that WIPO had also used some services from the UNICC office in Valencia, Spain. The Secretariat had enjoyed following the recent successful visit of the United Nations Secretary General to Valencia, which was an important part of the UNICC system and one that was used at WIPO as part of the portfolio of services that the Organization procures. The Secretariat addressed the questions on Human Resource issues and stated that colleagues from the Human Resources Management Department would clarify further if necessary. On the Delegation of the United Kingdom's, on behalf of Group B, question on short-term contracts, the Secretariat explained that the increase in short-term contracts was not related to staff positions and was for internships and fellowships and actually overall, there was a very slight reduction in the number of temporary positions. Internships and fellowships were programs that WIPO was investing in, as mentioned already by the Director General. They were designed to target younger people, to bring new talent into the organization, and that new talent was talent that could both enrich WIPO's work, and in many cases could be talent that would go back to their countries' Intellectual Property offices or other parts of government. This was focused on nurturing future Intellectual Property experts. It helped present WIPO's brand as a good and excellent employer. There had been a question on the increase in the fellowship program related to the launch of the new Young Experts

program. The Secretariat recalled that the Director General had talked about it at the beginning of the PBC that week. The Secretariat thanked the delegates that had welcomed the introduction of that program. The Secretariat was still working out the practicalities, so Member States would have to give some time to the Secretariat to advise them further on the exact practicalities of that initiative. It was a work in progress, but the Secretariat would communicate those as soon as possible. The Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group, had asked about targets around diversity, and the Secretariat did not have specific targets but reassured Member States that diversity was very much on its mind in introducing this program. At that stage, the program was targeted at developing countries. The Delegation of China commented on internal mobility between sectors, and the Secretariat did not think there was a question there but wanted to acknowledge that comment. The Secretariat stated that it was something that the Organization was very much committed to, which included looking at refreshing WIPO's Human Resources strategy. The Medium-Term Strategic Plan paragraphs 128 to 133 was setting out a little more of the Secretariat's thinking on the direction in which it would like to take it and the move towards more internal mobility between different sectors. The Secretariat recalled that the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, had encouraged the Secretariat to find ways to attract attention and raise awareness amongst policymakers and amongst decision makers, including in the WIPO Assemblies in the year 2022, and thanked them for their encouragement. The Secretariat was doing that and saw the meetings of WIPO's governing bodies as an opportunity for the formal processes, which were important, but also as a chance to showcase innovation and creativity and the role of intellectual property in underpinning that. There were two more technical issues on which the Secretariat had promised to come back to Member States earlier in the session. Firstly, the contractual services in the area of IT, which the Secretariat had included in a table in the Questions & Answers document as it was quite a long list of expenditure. The Secretariat remained available to answer further questions. There had also been a question from the Delegation of the United States of America on the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability, which was handed over to the Secretariat to provide more detail on the shift to the eight per cent charge in the draft program and budget.

210. The Secretariat addressed the questions from the Delegation of the United States of America and the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates on the ASHI liability. On the question concerning the IPSAS adjustments to expenditures, included in table 1 of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 document on page 4, the Delegations had asked why the figure was so high and if WIPO had changed its actuary recently. The Secretariat explained that 41.8 million of the 58.3 million Swiss francs related to the adjustment that was made to reflect the growth in the ASHI liability. The second largest element within the 58.3 million Swiss francs concerned the depreciation of buildings, which was just over 70 million Swiss francs. With regard to the ASHI figure, WIPO did indeed change its actuary in 2019 and this adjustment was based on the forecast, which had been calculated by the Secretariat's new actuary, Aon Hewitt. Aon Hewitt had a different approach than the organization's former actuary with regard to some of the assumptions that underlie the calculations of long-term employee liabilities. Most notably for ASHI, Aon Hewitt aimed to reflect future medical costs rather than the costs of future insurance premium payments in the calculations. On an average per staff age, the medical costs exceeded the insurance payments paid in that respect. The Aon Hewitt approach was endeavoring to reflect this excess over the cost of insurance. The Secretariat knew that several other agencies had also engaged Aon Hewitt as their actuary and were therefore applying the same approach. The Secretariat then responded to the question raised by the Delegation of the United States of America on whether the eight per cent provision for ASHI was sufficient to fund the liability. The Secretariat explained that the eight per cent reflected the continued practice, which started in the biennium 2004/05, of charging the budget with a certain percentage in order to build up a provision, which was first available to cover certain elements of staff costs, which arose in respect to long-term employee benefits. The Secretariat had also included eight per cent as a provision charge in the 2020/21 budget, which was used to cover the organization's share of health insurance payments in respect to retirees, the cost of repatriation and

accumulated annual leave, which fell due during the year for staff leaving the Organization. Any amount, which was then remaining from the eight per cent at the year-end was added to the strategic cash funds and was invested in order to provide financing for long-term employee benefit liabilities. This remaining balance available for funding varied between years according to the percentage originally charged and the level of payments made during the year. By way of example in 2019, when the percentage was six per cent, the amount remaining available for investment was 6.6 million Swiss francs while for 2020, with a percentage of eight per cent, the equivalent figure was 10.1 million Swiss francs. With the rates of increase in the liability that had occurred in previous years, and the forecasted increases, the balance remaining from the percentage charged had been and would continue to be insufficient to finance the liabilities growth. With that in mind, and in response to a recommendation received from the External Auditor in its 2020 Report, WIPO intended to propose a plan to Member States for the financing of long-term employee liabilities. This would be presented in 2022 on the basis of an asset and liability management study to be commissioned, which would update the assessment for the extent to which assets and liabilities were matched with regards to ASHI. The study will facilitate the establishment of a target level for earmarked funds, which would then be discussed with Member States at the Program and Budget Committee. As at the end of 2020, the percentage of the total long-term employee benefits liability that was financed was at 43.4 per cent. In 2019 the equivalent percentage had been 54.5 per cent following the investments of a lump sum of 38.3 million of Swiss francs, that had been approved by Member States as an additional injection of funds to the strategic cash pool. The decline in this percentage covered over one year reflected the increase in the liability during 2020. In the meantime, ahead of the proposal that was to be put before the Program and Budget Committee in 2022, having been actively involved with the working group for several years and in ASHI-related discussions within the UN Finance and Budget Network, the Secretariat continued to monitor developments across the United Nations system with regard to the subject. This was particularly the case in respect to the analysis of measures, which were proposed by the ASHI working group as possible ways of containing the growth of ASHI liabilities.

211. The Vice-Chair explained that the most efficient way to analyze document WO/PBC/32/4 whilst respecting the time would be to begin with Part III, the annexes, since those were closely linked to other parts of the document, notably Part I: Financial Results - Overview and Part II: Financial Results - By Sector. The Vice-Chair then opened the floor for general statements on the Annexes I to IX contained in Part III of the document WO/PBC/32/4. Since Delegations did not have any statements, the Vice-Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat for comments on the Annexes.

212. The Secretariat explained that it did not have much to say except that it had taken note in earlier discussions of the question from the Delegation of the United States of America on Annex IV. The Secretariat indicated that it was working on the answer and it would integrate the answer in the following version of the Questions & Answers document.

213. The Vice-Chair then proceeded to open the floor for further comments from delegations, however, there were none. Consequently, he suggested the closure of Part III: Annexes and to proceed to Part IV: Appendices from page 103 in the English language version of the document. The Vice-Chair opened the floor for comments on the Appendices. Given that there were no comments on the annexes nor the appendices, the Vice-Chair closed deliberations on those sections. The Vice-Chair then proposed the consideration of agenda item 8. United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership. The Vice-Chair explained that since there would be questions on that agenda item, Delegations could raise a point of order. The Vice-Chair then opened the floor for the consideration of item 8.

214. The Delegation of the United States of America raised a point of order, and indicated that it preferred that the timetable provided to Member States be observed, as because of the time difference, certain Delegations would not be ready to discuss that agenda item.

215. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of the United States of America, and understood its point of order. The Vice-Chair concluded that since all delegations were in agreement with Agenda Item 7: Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 the item could be closed. The Chair adjourned the meeting momentarily, since he was working with the Secretariat on language for the decision paragraph on Agenda Item 7. Once that was done, the three agenda items addressed during the course of that morning would be concluded, thus completing the official agenda and closing statements could be made.

216. The following day, the Vice-Chair reopened Item 7 and stated that he and the Secretariat had been working on formulating a proposed decision paragraph that would be shared with the delegations.

217. The Secretariat informed the delegations that it had worked on the answers to different questions raised that week, and an updated version of the Questions & Answers document would be published shortly. The Secretariat requested that the delegations review the document to ensure that their questions had been answered, and further clarifications would be provided if required. The Secretariat noted that the majority of the questions were related to Agenda Item 7: Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and some other questions to the WIPO Performance Report 2020.

218. The Vice-Chair informed delegations that the Secretariat had published an update of the Questions & Answers document. He indicated that some of the questions concerned Agenda Item 7: the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Vice-Chair explained that additional questions that Delegations might have would be noted with the following reading of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 at the 33rd Program and Budget Committee session in September 2021. The floor was opened for statements and comments regarding the updated Questions & Answers document.

219. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Vice-Chair and also thanked the Secretariat for the Questions & Answers document. The Group noted that it was a useful document, especially when one worked in a hybrid meeting format since all delegations could look at the answers in writing. The Group stated that it would review the responses to its questions, which had been sent to the Secretariat. The Group concluded by indicating that the Questions & Answers document was a good way to respond to questions. The Group would review the responses and revert to the Secretariat ahead of the following session or the next session, if needed.

220. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, thanked the Secretariat and requested a clarification on the published Questions & Answers document. The Group asked if a new version had been prepared that day and sent to everyone, or if the document was the one that had been published the day before. The Group had already reviewed the document published the day before, and thanked the Secretariat for responding to its question.

221. The Secretariat explained that the published Questions & Answers document was the updated version. For ease of reference, the document would also be sent to Regional Coordinators. The Secretariat highlighted further that it was important to understand that it was a single document which was being continuously updated with new questions and answers. Although the document seemed identical to the previous version, what was on the website was the updated version with many more questions answered.

222. The Delegation of Italy thanked the Secretariat for the responses to the multiple questions and stated that the document was extremely useful. The Delegation requested additional information regarding WIPO Proof and the discontinuation of the tool in 2022. The Delegation had promoted WIPO Proof at a national level, especially to small and medium sized enterprises and innovators, and information had been included on websites and in newsletters nationally. The Delegation therefore requested the Secretariat to elaborate further on how it intended to communicate WIPO Proof's discontinuation as that would allow the Delegation to proceed simultaneously. The Delegation would need to stop promoting WIPO Proof and information was not available on the WIPO website, therefore it had understood that WIPO Proof was still running. The Delegation explained that strategies had to be aligned for coherence of information for users and also to avoid misunderstandings. After all, the Delegation did not want to promote a tool that was no longer in use.

223. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, commended the Secretariat for the Questions & Answers document. The Group appreciated that its question on unallocated resources had been answered and reflected in the document. The Group requested that since information regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) membership of the Organization had already been communicated by the UN, the Group believed that the necessary provisions should be made for WIPO to join, as indicated in its statement. The Group explained that the financial implications of that would have to be reflected as part of the unallocated budget in the document in the document for the 33rd Program and Budget Committee Session in September 2021.

224. The Secretariat thanked the Delegation of South Africa for his remarks and reassured the African Group that the provision for potentially joining the UNSDG had already been included in the budget of the Regional and National Development Sector amounting to CHF 400,000.

225. The Vice-Chair took note of the fact that there were no further requests for the floor and acknowledged that the delegations had been very conscientious throughout the PBC on the first reading of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Vice-Chair stated that he hoped that the Questions & Answers document updated by the Secretariat had clarified some issues. The Vice-Chair explained that he understood that the questions raised by the Delegation of Italy would be answered at another moment, and that they would not influence the document and discussions. The Vice-Chair then proceeded to read out the proposed decision:

226. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC), having completed a comprehensive first review by Sector, as well as Annexes and Appendices, of the draft proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium (document WO/PBC/32/4):

- (i) Welcomed the streamlining of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 facilitating readability, transparency and accountability;
- (ii) Emphasized the importance of WIPO prioritizing its COVID-19 response in the biennium 2022/23, including the initiatives outlined in the P&B document and as further clarified by the Director General in his opening statement, ensuring adequate resources to assist Member States in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and in laying the foundations for post COVID-19 economic recovery efforts.

(iii) Underlined the importance of promoting diversity and inclusivity in the field of intellectual property, including gender balance and geographical diversity, both through WIPO's initiatives and within the Secretariat.

(iv) Agreed to the following modifications proposed by Member States:

- addition of SDGs by Strategic Pillar to the Results Framework Chart (page 8);
- change of document reference for the definition of development expenditure (A/55/4) in the footnote (page 8);
- update of Table 6 and the Resources by Cost Category table for Brands and Designs (page 29) to reflect the correction in the "Publishing" and "Contractual Services" cost-categories related to the promotion of the Hague System;
- addition of a cross-organizational KPI: "No. of national, sub-regional, and regional projects, including those implemented through partnership frameworks, that have achieved their expected benefits or completed important milestones" for ER 4.1 in the PT and CCI Sectors;
- addition of two cross-organizational KPIs: (i) No. of matches between green technology seekers and providers via the WIPO GREEN platform and through Acceleration Projects; and (ii) No. of WIPO Re:Search R&D collaborations advancing through clinical R&D phases for ER 3.3. in the RND Sector.

(v) Requested the Secretariat to issue a revised version of the draft proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium based on (iv).

227. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for the IT Support during the session. The Delegation indicated that it agreed with the decision on Agenda Item 7 with one small correction: the reference in paragraph 5 should be to (iv) instead of (iii).

228. The Vice-Chair confirmed to the Delegation of Indonesia that the error had already been corrected and thanked the Secretariat for its prompt action. The Vice-Chair suggested that the Agenda Item be reviewed again on the basis of that draft. The decision was sent to the delegations for their review and consideration.

229. The Vice-Chair then reopened Item 7 and noted that delegations had had the time to confer on the various proposals that were provided by the Secretariat in the morning session and the proposal provided by the CACEEC Group. The Vice-Chair then opened the floor for statements by the Regional Coordinators who had put forth the proposals followed by the delegations.

230. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, stated that in paragraph (iv) of the draft proposal, the Group wished to include separate indicators related to languages and translation. The Group noted that it had sent the proposal to the Secretariat and requested that the proposal be put on the screen. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that the proposal projected on the screen was the Secretariat's wording of the CACEEC

proposal and asked if the CACEEC Group proposal submitted to the Secretariat and Regional Group Coordinators could be shown. The Delegation explained that the proposal suggested additional KPIs to be included for two Sectors. The first proposal was along the lines of the proposal made at the previous PBC session in 2019 for the 2020/21 Budget complemented by a proposal concerning the implementation of the revised language policy, through the implementation of a pilot project in phase I. The aim of this would be to review the effectiveness of the implementation of the policy. The Delegation believed that those indicators should be included in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 to be adopted by the WIPO Assemblies. The second proposal concerned the performance indicators of the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. As the priority areas put forth were of great interest to many delegations, the Delegation was in favor of having specific reflection of that work, such as thematic studies or framework recommendations to be used by small and medium sized enterprises, research organizations and other users of IP. The Delegation proposed that the specific targets be discussed at the following PBC session following work in the inter-sessional period.

231. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, stated that every organization had specific lingo and that documents were not always read by WIPO specialists. The Group suggested using fewer abbreviations and acronyms in the decision. On the specific suggestions put forward, the Group could not react at that point. As a general observation, the streamlining of the documents, including reducing the number of KPIs, was welcomed by the delegations. The proposed decision included a number of additional KPIs. The Group therefore asked the Secretariat whether the CACEEC Group proposal of adding new KPIs would be in line with the attempt to streamline the Program and Budget document from previous biennia. The Group also suggested an additional bullet point under subparagraph (iv) and asked the Vice-Chair whether it should be read out at that moment or whether it should wait until after the discussion on the CACEEC Group proposal.

232. The Vice-Chair stated that from a procedural point of view, the PBC would consider the CACEEC proposal first and then discuss other proposals.

233. The Delegation of China supported the suggestion from the CACEEC Group on additional KPIs on multilingualism. On the other suggestions, the Delegation would revert later.

234. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the Vice-Chair for trying to accommodate the various views of delegations on the proposed decision. The Group was not in a position to make comments at that time. However, on paragraph (ii) line 5, the Group suggested adding "...and its consequences" after "...in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic...."

235. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, for its contribution. The Vice-Chair stated that he and the Secretariat would include the proposal from the Delegation of Bangladesh "...and its consequences" to paragraph (ii), of the proposed decision paragraph for Agenda Item 7. The Vice-Chair indicated that this was entirely consistent with what had been said earlier, therefore the proposal could be accepted. The Vice-Chair opened the floor for any objections to the proposal by the Delegation of Bangladesh.

236. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, suggested that in paragraph (iii) of the proposed decision, "programs" be added after the words "...through WIPO's initiatives," and "...within the Secretariat" be replaced with "within its own Organization."

237. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, for its proposal. Coming back to the proposal from the Delegation of Bangladesh made

on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, the Vice-Chair asked if there were any objections to the proposal to paragraph (ii) to add the words "...and its consequences". Since there were no objections to that proposal, the Vice-Chair asked if there were any objections to the proposal from the Delegation of Georgia made on behalf of the CEBS Group to include in paragraph (iii) the word "programs" after the words "...through WIPO's initiatives," and the "...the Secretariat" be replaced with "within its own organization." The Vice-Chair opened the floor for proposals or counterproposals or views on the amendments suggested by the Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group and explained by the Delegation of the Russian Federation.

238. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Secretariat for the updated Questions & Answers document. The Delegation noted that one of its main concerns regarding the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 was about the number of missing Key Performance Indicators. Based on the Questions & Answers document provided by the Secretariat, and after discussions over the previous few days, the Delegation had taken note that the focus was on the key achievements that the Organization targeted and the focus to reduce the number of KPIs to improve the focus and have more direct control of its key priorities. The Delegation also indicated that the Secretariat had mentioned that the KPIs represented 98 per cent of the budget, therefore 2 per cent was not represented by KPIs and the Delegation could agree with that. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the explanation, and requested further information regarding the new proposed KPIs. The Delegation also expressed that it believed that additional KPI's should not be added apart from cross-sectoral KPIs, targets and baselines, as had been the case for the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector and the Patents and Technology Sector. The Delegation also reiterated that the Brands and Designs Sector did not contribute to Expected Result 4.1, although the Sector clearly had development expenditure. The Delegation would not be asking for the inclusion of Expected Result 4.1, however, if there was the possibility of an exercise that would include additional KPIs, the Delegation would revert to the point on Expected Result 4.1.

239. The Delegation of Switzerland referred to the proposal by the CACEEC Group regarding the Revised WIPO Policy on Languages, and indicated that it had only recently become familiar with it. The Delegation stated that the proposal required more time given the fact that the proposal could have financial implications and requested clarifications in this regard.

240. The Delegation of the United States of America explained that its comments were not related to the CACEEC Group proposal, therefore, it could add or deliver comments then or later on.

241. The Vice-Chair requested that the Delegation of United States of America deliver its comments at a later stage.

242. The Delegation of Algeria supported the CACEEC Group proposal. The Delegation acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts to reduce the number of Key Performance Indicators, however, the Delegation believed that the reduction should not be at the expense of the content. The Delegation believed that the KPI in the 2020/21 Budget was the same KPI being proposed now, and in view of the importance that many countries attached to the KPI and to multilingualism at WIPO, the Delegation indicated that it would support the inclusion. The Delegation would accept the CACEEC Group proposal, which was reasonable in light of the interest expressed by other delegations, especially by Arab countries and the Delegations of the Russian Federation and China at the 31st PBC session.

243. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea thanked fellow delegates for providing the new additional information on Key Performance Indicators. The Delegation suggested that since the information was new, additional time was needed for a thorough review. The Delegation recommended further discussions during the inter-sessional period to come to a conclusion at the 33rd PBC session.

244. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of Korea for its statement. Since several delegations had requested the Secretariat to give its view on the streamlining of key performance indicators, the Vice-Chair requested the Secretariat to take the floor.

245. The Secretariat thanked the Vice-Chair, and indicated that further information would be provided to the Committee. As regards the multilingualism KPI, the Secretariat stated that WIPO was committed to multilingualism and was grateful to Member States for their approval of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO the day before. WIPO would be happy to have performance indicators that monitored and held the Organization accountable for its delivery of the first phase of the strategy. The Secretariat stated that the percentage of flagship publications for which the executive summaries had been translated into all of the official United Nations languages was at 100 per cent. The Secretariat confirmed that this was already being done and given that this was the target in the previous biennium the Organization was already at 100 per cent. The Secretariat intended to continue at that 100 per cent level, and similarly for the percentage of WIPO global publications on topics published and translated into all the official UN languages, the target was at 100 per cent. Likewise, the Secretariat was already at 100 per cent currently and it would remain committed at 100 per cent in 2022/23. Ordinarily, the Organization did not need to have targets where it stayed at 100 per cent. The Secretariat explained that normally there would be KPIs if there was a goal to be achieved, and assured the Member States that what was requested had been achieved and it would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. On the implementation of pilots within the framework of the revised language policy, the Secretariat looked forward to proposing some more concrete indicators that reflected the content of the Language Policy and the position of Member States. The Secretariat also explained that it had no conceptual problem with including an indicator or two on its delivery of the Revised WIPO Policy on Languages. That would be something for Member States to consider, and the Secretariat would gladly submit suggestions.

246. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, wished to make a proposal for paragraph (iv). The Delegation explained that it had submitted its proposal in writing to all Regional Coordinators, the Secretariat and the Vice-Chair and requested that the proposal be projected on the screen. The proposal related to the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, and pertained to the Secretariat's COVID-19 response, which had received the support from various Member States. The Group proposed to include the following language: "Update of insert on WIPO's COVID-19 response and implementation strategies of the Global Challenges and Partnerships sector and in collaboration with other sectors to include additional initiative or initiatives to utilize the organization's know-how on IT platforms and match-making and its network of partnerships towards WIPO's Covid-19 response, and strengthen resources allocated to expected results 2.2, 2.4 and 3.3 accordingly." The Group hoped that the delegations would respond to the proposal positively and would be available to respond to any questions on the Group's proposal.

247. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the CACEEC Group for its proposal and indicated that it would comment on the first part of the proposal later. With regards to the second part of the proposal, the Delegation understood that the inclusion of new Key Performance Indicators was because the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sectors was a new Sector. The Delegation

drew a parallel to the WIPO for Creators program under the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, regarding which the Secretariat had answered in the Questions & Answers that WIPO for Creators was a brand-new program and the related KPIs would be designed during the biennium for inclusion in subsequent Program of Work and Budgets. This was food for thought for Member States who would request new KPIs for new programs.

248. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Vice-Chair and reiterated the issue already raised in its opening statement regarding Expected Result 3.1 in the new Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, and how the level of detail in previous Program and Budgets was not in the new proposal. The Delegation appreciated the updated Questions & Answers provided by the Secretariat to address the concerns raised. The new table at the top of page 7 of the document provided the breakdown of the registration systems and the amount that would be budgeted for promotional costs or promotional activities for each registration system. The Delegation requested that the same level of detail be provided in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 to be discussed in the September 2021 PBC session. The Delegation stated that it was flexible on where that detail would be included, i.e. whether it would be shown in Table 5 on page 10 of the document or in the Annex. It was important that Member States be aware of the amounts budgeted for the promotional activities of the different registration systems. The Delegation stated that it saw a lot of promise in the Hague System, and therefore wanted to ensure that resources were being allocated for its promotion. The Delegation stated that it did not have specific textual recommendations for the draft decision, perhaps an update of table 5 to reflect the breakdown of promotional costs by international registration system, and would leave it to the Secretariat to propose a text.

249. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, thanked the Vice-Chair and apologized for taking the floor a second time. The Group expressed that the Committee had been very productive, and the Group supported Group B's proposal on the draft decision that had just been put forward.

250. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, for its statement and noted the support for the Group B proposal. As there were no further requests for the floor, the Vice-Chair proposed that delegations review the proposals from the CACEEC Group and Group B.

251. The Vice-Chair stated that the Secretariat had been working on the proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America. The Vice-Chair then explained that the different proposals had been compiled and would be shared with all delegations. The Vice-Chair explained that the second and third paragraphs included the proposals from the Delegations of Bangladesh and Georgia, on behalf of their respective Groups, which had all been agreed. The updated text also reflected the proposals by the Delegation of Belarus, on behalf of the CACEEC Group, the proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B and the proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America.

252. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for the requested modification of the decision language, and confirmed that it agreed with the change. With regards to where it should be, in the main document or in the Annex, the Delegation left that to the Secretariat to make a decision. The Delegation concluded by stating that its needs had been met.

253. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Vice-Chair and expressed its support on the proposal from the Delegation of the United States of America. That was in conjunction with the Delegation's request for breakdowns of tables related to development expenditure. The Delegation therefore requested that the breakdown of development expenditure be included in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation also noted that the Secretariat had stated that the Questions & Answers document was already part of that document.

254. The Secretariat requested that the Delegation of Indonesia clarify its request and if it wanted the two tables that it had requested be included in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23.

255. The Delegation of Indonesia confirmed that indeed it meant that the two tables should be included in the document. The Delegation further clarified that it would be the table on the comparison of 2022/23 development expenditure by Sector, versus 2020/2021, and the breakdown of the development expenditure by Sector and Expected Results.

256. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the delegations that had supported its proposal for the draft decision on the implementation of WIPO's Language Policy. The Delegation also expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for the information provided. The Delegation had taken note of the comments made by certain Member States notably, the reduction in the number of Key Performance Indicators. The Delegation indicated that the key goal was to ensure the highest level of transparency in the budget process, and the methodology for drawing up Program of Work and Budget proposals, which was aimed at achieving very specific results and tangible outcomes. Therefore, the Delegation deemed it logical to include measurable and quantitative indicators in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation also explained that it understood that the proposal was very recent and assured Delegations and the Secretariat of its flexibility and constructive approach in ongoing discussions during the session, in the inter-sessional period and at the 33rd PBC session in September 2021.

257. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat and proceeded to request that the draft decision be presented on the screen. The Group confirmed its principle agreement with the draft decision, however, the Group requested to review the proposal by Group B with its Regional Coordinator off-line. The Group needed more information regarding the additional initiative or initiatives to utilize the organization's know-how on IT platforms and match-making and its network of partnerships towards WIPO's COVID-19 response. The Group reiterated its appreciation of the proposal since it addressed the COVID-19 challenges and the response. The Group also cautioned against being too specific on some of the proposals, and the need to be broad in scope. The Group had taken note of what the Director General had said over the course of the week on this topic, and welcomed references to the COVID-19 response and increasing resources for some Expected Results.

258. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its appreciation of the delegations' comments on Group B's proposal. With regards to the comment made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group, the Delegation stated that it would be happy to discuss further the proposal. The Delegation expressed that it trusted the wisdom and the experience of the Secretariat to guide Member States and expressed its confidence that the Secretariat would assist both Groups to come to an understanding, and looked forward to future deliberations off-line.

259. The Vice-Chair then asked Group B to clarify whether the language of the Group's proposal would remain as it was or whether it should be changed.

260. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, stated that the draft was the result of consensus, and it was ready to be corrected if needed. However, its response to the Delegation of South Africa was an expression of its readiness to discuss off-line as well as with the assurances that it trusted the Secretariat's wisdom in utilizing its know-how and them not needing to have more specific guidance which Group B believed was the sentiment expressed by the Delegation of South Africa.

261. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Group B Regional Group Coordinator for his comments that it had noted. The Group explained that it would have to probably amend the proposal to avoid referring to specifics. The Group was sure that the amendments could be done quickly.

262. The Vice-Chair continued to see if there were any other comments on the proposals. The last paragraph of the draft decision had been updated to include the proposal by the Delegation of Indonesia to "Include a comparison of development expenditure by Sector 2022/23 versus 2020/21 and a breakdown of the development expenditure by ER and Sector."

263. The Delegation of Indonesia proceeded to comment on Group B's proposal and the updated draft decision by the Secretariat which included its own proposal. The Delegation confirmed that it agreed with the language and left it to the Secretariat to decide where it should be in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 for further deliberations at the 33rd session of the PBC. With regards to the proposal by Group B, the Delegation had some questions. The Delegation had taken note that the Group B Regional Group Coordinator had stated that the language of the proposal already enjoyed wide consensus. However, since the meeting was in a hybrid format, the Delegation could not be present for discussions off-line or in the corridors. This highlighted the fact that the recovery from the pandemic was not even, some of the developing world, including Indonesia, were still struggling. Therefore, the Delegation hoped that this type of informal meetings would not continue as it was problematic for the Delegation. However, with regards to the Group B proposal, since the Delegation did not participate in the informal discussions, the Delegation requested clarifications on the term "update of insert on WIPO's COVID-19 response". The Delegation asked if this referred to the insert on page 15 or to the narrative of the Global Challenges and Partnership Sector. Based on that question, the Delegation asked if the resources that would be allocated to Expected Result 2.2, 2.4 and 3.3, was for the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector.

264. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, stated that in line with the remarks from the Delegation of Indonesia on some of the difficulties of the hybrid format, the Group expressed that they were also sad that colleagues from London could not join and could only participate online. However, the Group B Regional Group Coordinator was glad to see Geneva-based delegations present at the meeting, including the Indonesian delegate in Geneva who was seated in front of him. The Regional Group Coordinator expressed that he was happy to discuss further with the Indonesian delegate in Geneva. With regards to the question about the insert on WIPO's COVID-19 response in the box on page 15, titled "WIPO's Response to COVID-19", the Group was happy to proceed with the change to reflect the title exactly as it was on page 15 but was concerned that the page numbering might change. The Group confirmed that it had looked at the implementation strategies of the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector. When it came to Expected Results, those that were relevant to the

specific suggestions and updates were included under the Global Challenges and Partnership Sector. The Group stated that the Expected Results were obviously cross-sectoral.

265. The Secretariat proceeded to respond to the CACEEC Group proposal and the intervention from the Delegation of the Russian Federation on that proposal. The Secretariat explained that their comments highlighted the importance attached to the program area of Intellectual Property for businesses and the importance given to the different initiatives in the specific area of small and medium-sized enterprises' use of the Intellectual Property system. The Secretariat explained that the proposals also highlighted that some projects could be reflected in the different performance indicators and proposals. It was clear that the main idea of the proposal was the need for a more precise identification of the different projects that the Secretariat had in mind, and the Secretariat proposed to proceed in that manner for the following Program of Work and Budget. In that regard, there were two elements that deserved some attention. Firstly, the implementation strategies for the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector had a very specific list of concrete programs, for example: creating business IT tools, either online or the type of tools for the benefit of enterprises, assisting national Intellectual Property offices in building services to help SMEs in a given jurisdiction, assisting capacity building activities at a national level and finally, assisting governments to include Intellectual Property in economic development plans in the specific field of IP for business. Secondly, the performance indicators for the IP and Innovation and Ecosystems Sector were one of the areas in which performance indicators were very precise, including those indicators related to small and medium-sized enterprises. For instance, the performance indicators referred to the number of unique visitors to the website-based services, and inventors and SMEs were targets. With reference to SMEs, there was the number of SME support institutions that were using WIPO materials and tools in the area of Intellectual Property. The Secretariat stated that in order to address the requests by some delegations, one option was to refine the narrative of the implementation strategies to make more precise reference to some of the projects that would be considered for implementation in the following Program of Work and Budget. The second option was that since the Program of Work and Budget was cascaded down to a workplan that was prepared on a yearly basis, the Sector would include the precise list of projects in those annual workplans. The Secretariat explained that these options represented alternative mechanisms to deal with the proposal, and in particular, the way Key Performance Indicators were drafted needed to facilitate assessment and the measurement of impact of the projects which were implemented and carried out by the Secretariat. This was why in the Secretariat's view, it was important to use KPIs correctly. With the clarifications, the Secretariat expected delegations to consider the options ahead.

266. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, thanked the Sector Lead of the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector for his extensive and detailed reaction to the CACEEC proposal. The Delegation was prepared to work in a constructive and flexible way and in the spirit of moving forward, it concurred with the proposed options. Therefore, it was prepared to continue with appropriate consultations in the inter-sessional period, either to further refine the text of the implementation strategies of that Sector, or to define specific lines of work to address those points. The Delegation emphasized that whilst preparing its proposal, it had been guided by the project-based approach proposed by the Director General. The Delegation was of the opinion that small and medium-sized enterprises should be targeted, and also micro enterprises and the broader array of users who were unfortunately not yet covered by Intellectual Property services. The Delegation concluded by explaining that its entire proposal was on a flexible basis as it was prepared to continue to work with the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector.

267. The Vice-Chair noted that the Delegation of the Russian Federation had pledged flexibility concerning wording to clarify the issue. Therefore, to clarify the final language of the draft decision, the Vice-Chair asked if the Delegation wished to keep that specific paragraph in the text: "The inclusion of KPI: projects on SMEs..." or if the Delegation wished to withdraw the

proposal or amend it. The Vice-Chair requested that the Delegation respond so that he would know how to proceed with the decision.

268. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Vice-Chair and informed the Committee that it would continue to work with the Secretariat. The Delegation stated that it was prepared to withdraw the paragraph for the moment, with the understanding that at the following PBC session there would be a collective approach to address questions regarding the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector. The Delegation requested that it be recorded and that the discussion be continued at some other juncture.

269. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of the Russian Federation for its flexibility, which had set an example that everyone could follow, and that would lead to a consensus on different issues. The Vice-Chair said that since the Delegation had agreed to withdraw the paragraph for the time being, the paragraph would be withdrawn from the document as requested. The Vice-Chair also said that the Secretariat would reflect in the meeting records that the Delegation wished to take up that specific subject of ecosystems and Intellectual Property, and in addition, the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector's readiness to discuss that issue would be on record. The Vice-Chair then moved to the discussion between the Delegation of the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of Group B, and the Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group. The Vice-Chair said that both Groups would have some time to find points of convergence over the proposal submitted by Group B. The Vice-Chair then recalled that after the intermission, the Delegation of South Africa had asked some questions about the proposal from Group B, and had proposed alternative wording, which had been agreed between the African Group and Group B. The agreed proposal read: "Update of insert on WIPO's response to COVID-19 and implementation strategies of the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector and in collaboration with other Sectors to include additional initiative(s) to utilize the Organization's know-how and its partnerships towards WIPO's COVID-19 response, and strengthen resources allocated to Expected Results 2.2, 2.4, 3.3 and 4.4 accordingly;" The Vice-Chair then opened the floor, and since there was no objection, he confirmed that the proposal had been included in the decision. The Vice-Chair continued to the following line in the decision which read: "Provide a breakdown of the resources associated with ER 3.1 for the promotion of the Global IP Systems." The Vice-Chair recalled that it was based on the proposal from the Delegation of the United States of America. The proposal had been accepted by all delegations, including the Delegation of the United States of America. The Vice-Chair then opened the floor. Since there were no objections, the proposal was included in the final decision. The Vice-Chair then proceeded to the proposal by the Delegation of Indonesia, and recalled that the language, which had already been included by the Secretariat, read: "Include a comparison of development expenditure by Sector 2022/23 versus 2020/21 and a breakdown of the development expenditure by ER and Sector." As there were no objections to the proposals for the decision on Agenda Item 7, the Vice-Chair concluded that the proposals as agreed would be part of the decision. The final decision was adopted as follows:

270. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC), having completed a comprehensive first review by Sector, as well as Annexes and Appendices, of the draft proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium (document WO/PBC/32/4):

- (i) Welcomed the streamlining of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 facilitating readability, transparency and accountability;
- (ii) Emphasized the importance of WIPO prioritizing its COVID-19 response in the biennium 2022/23, including the initiatives outlined in the P&B document and as further clarified by the Director General in his opening statement, ensuring adequate resources to assist Member States in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its

consequences and in laying the foundations for post COVID-19 economic recovery efforts;

(iii) Underlined the importance of promoting diversity and inclusivity in the field of intellectual property, including gender balance and geographical diversity, through WIPO's initiatives, programs and within its own organization;

(iv) Agreed to the following modifications proposed by Member States:

- addition of SDGs by Strategic Pillar to the Results Framework Chart (page 8);
- change of document reference for the definition of development expenditure (A/55/4) in the footnote (page 8);
- update of Table 6 and the Resources by Cost Category table for Brands and Designs (page 29) to reflect the correction in the "Publishing" and "Contractual Services" cost-categories related to the promotion of the Hague System;
- addition of a cross-organizational KPI: "No. of national, sub-regional, and regional projects, including those implemented through partnership frameworks, that have achieved their expected benefits or completed important milestones" for ER 4.1 in the PT and CCI Sectors;
- addition of two cross-organizational KPIs: (i) No. of matches between green technology seekers and providers via the WIPO GREEN platform and through Acceleration Projects; and (ii) No. of WIPO Re:Search R&D collaborations advancing through clinical R&D phases for ER 3.3. in the RND Sector;
- update of insert on WIPO's response to COVID-19 and implementation strategies of the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector and in collaboration with other Sectors to include additional initiative(s) to utilize the Organization's know-how and its partnerships towards WIPO's COVID-19 response, and strengthen resources allocated to Expected Results 2.2, 2.4, 3.3 and 4.4 accordingly;
- the inclusion of KPI: (i) percentage of WIPO Flagship Publications for which the Executive Summary is translated into all official UN languages, target 100 %, (ii) percentage of WIPO global publications on substantive IP topics published in 2022/2023 and translated into all official UN languages, target 100 %, (iii) implementation of pilots within the framework of the Revised Language Policy roadmap, Phase 1 for ER 1.1 in the AFM Sector;
- Provide a breakdown of the resources associated with ER 3.1 for promotion of the Global IP Systems; and
- Include a comparison of development expenditure by Sector 2022/23 versus 2020/21 and a breakdown of the development expenditure by ER and Sector.

(v) Requested the Secretariat to issue a revised version of the draft proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium based on (iv).

ITEM 8 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (UNSDG) MEMBERSHIP

271. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/5.

272. The Vice-Chair introduced Agenda Item 8, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership. Following the discussions on agenda item 12, United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership (document WO/PBC/31/10), during the 31st session of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) in September 2020, and following the adoption of the List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC by the Assemblies in September 2020, the Assemblies requested the PBC Secretariat to seek further clarification from the UNSDG Secretariat elaborating on;

- (i) acknowledged the important work of the UNSDG for achieving the SDGs to which WIPO is contributing through many of its programs and projects as per the Program and Budget 2020/21;
- (ii) requested the Secretariat to seek further clarification from the UNSDG Secretariat and to submit a document to the PBC at its 32nd session elaborating on:
 - a. The exact amount of the WIPO contribution based on the UNSDG cost allocation review and the associated administrative and reporting implications;
 - b. The application of a 1% coordination levy on tightly earmarked third party non-core contributions to UN development-related activities, to be paid at source;
 - c. The use of the WIPO contribution and the possibilities for its future evaluation.
- (iii) Requested the Secretariat to explore the impact of WIPO membership in the UNSDG as it relates to Program and Budgets and to report it to the 32nd session of the PBC.

The Vice-Chair passed the floor to the Secretariat to present the report.

273. The Secretariat stated that in November 2020, the Director General wrote a letter to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations in her capacity as UNSDG Chair, the contents of which are in the Annex, in which he communicated the decision of the PBC and requested further clarifications on the issues raised by the Committee. The Deputy Secretary General duly replied to the letter of the Director General in March 2021. The Deputy Secretary General confirmed the exact amount of the WIPO contribution based on the UNSDG cost allocation review as USD 200,000 annually for 2022 and 2023. It was also indicated that cost-sharing allocations will be updated every two years and the next such review is in 2023 for 2024-25. The Deputy Secretary General confirmed that the 1 per cent coordination levy applies to all tightly earmarked contributions for development-related activities, irrespective of whether the contribution is for headquarters or field-level activities. The Development Coordination Office uses the United Nations data standard definition of development-related activities. These are defined in the data standard as those activities specifically aimed at promoting sustainable development of programming countries (or countries covered by a Resident Coordinator) with the focus on long-term impacts. The other three categories defined in the United Nations data standard, namely global agenda and specialized assistance; peace operations; and humanitarian assistance are specifically excluded from the levy as they are not in the scope of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/279 which established the UNSDG. Member States my wish to note that, activities to support sustainable development with the

focus on long term impact in non-United Nations programming countries are not defined as development-related activities for the purposes of the 1 per cent levy and hence are exempt. It is the Secretariat's understanding that the levy would only apply to Funds-in-Trust (FITs) signed after the date an entity joins the UNSDG that meet the definition of development-related activities under the United Nations data standard definition. However, in applying the levy to the Funds-in-Trust for development-related activities, the Development Coordination Office, lists categories of eight exceptions to the application of the levy on a case by case basis. If any one of those exceptions applies to an agreement, then the 1 per cent levy for that particular agreement is waived. Details on the eight exceptions are provided in the Coordination Levy Operational Guidance of which a link is included in document WO/PBC/32/5: United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership. It might be important for Member States to note that the potential impact of the levy being applicable to a Funds-in-Trust may result in a reduction of potentially up to 1 per cent in the resources available for the activities planned. If Member States want to maintain the resources available for the activities planned, they will incur an additional cost related to the levy. All resources, including all contributions to the UNSDG cost-sharing, are considered as co-mingled core resources to fund the Resident Coordinator system and its operations. The funded costs are for a full-time Resident Coordinator and approximately 1,100 United Nations staff plus operating costs. The Development Coordination Office indicated that UNSDG membership was also a potential opportunity to take activities beyond intellectual property, and interlink them with other development activities that may influence the intellectual property ecosystem. Consultations with the Development Coordination Office are ongoing covering such issues as; the effect of UNSDG membership on development activities annual workplanning; the impact on the work of External Offices; reporting requirements for development-related activities at a national and regional level and business operations strategy. The consultations are to gather more information on how these areas may affect WIPO's program of work on development activities and its service delivery model in the countries covered by Resident Coordinators. The Secretariat will provide an updated report on the UNSDG membership related to those consultations for a decision to be made on the membership at the 33rd Session of the PBC in September.

274. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing document WO/PBC/32/5 on UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership following on from the request at PBC 31 for a document setting further information on UNSDG Membership costs and the impact of WIPO Membership in the UNSDG. The Group took note of the actual financial requirements and potential administrative and reporting implications of joining the UNSDG, in particular, the cost of USD 200,000 annually for 2022 and 2023. The Group considered that these costs remain reasonable given the wider benefits to be gained from the support of the broader UN system. In particular, the Resident Coordinator system has proved invaluable in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and showed it may be too simplistic to try and weigh financial costs with benefits, in the short- and long-term. Considering the relative financial stability of the WIPO and the likelihood that broader global economic crisis may impact on this, it would make sense to ensure that all efforts are made to insulate against such difficulties including strengthening multilateral frameworks in this regard. While noting that WIPO's contribution would be non-attributable and considered part of a co-mingled core resource, the Group also noted that WIPO joining the UNSDG might improve multilateral cooperation in relation to the SDGs. The Group consider that this outcome could support the future direction of 2.4 as set out in document WO/PBC/32/3. SDGs are a blueprint to move forward development and Intellectual Property has a key role to play in this process. While the Group acknowledged that the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and some of its components are evolving and improving, the Group considered that WIPO has the potential to impart its expertise, rigor and know-how to assist these improvements. The Group remained interested in this issue and agreed that the Secretariat should continue to engage with the United Nations Development Coordination Office on this proposal. The Group hoped that

this engagement would assist Member States' thorough consideration of the invitation with a view to WIPO joining the UNSDG.

275. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, reiterated its statement at the 31st PBC session that the SDGs required concerted efforts and policy coherence from all relevant stakeholders in an enabling environment for sustainable development to ensure that no one is left behind. The UNSDG was established to support these efforts between relevant entities in the United Nations system. As a specialized United Nations agency, it was important for WIPO to be fully engaged in the United Nations system-wide effort to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, the Group welcomed all necessary steps taken by WIPO to positively consider the invitation to join the UNSDG. The Group noted the clarifications that were gathered by WIPO from the UNSDG Secretariat, and noted that the document provided a clear direction for WIPO on how to move forward. The Group hoped that the Secretariat would duly engage with the UNSDG Secretariat, to further identify how Intellectual Property could be included in the UNSDG activities in a more integrated approach towards achieving the sustainable development goals. The Group was also willing to hear the views from the member states and regional groups and looked forward to a positive position in the 33rd PBC session for WIPO joining the UNSDG.

276. The Delegation of South Africa thanked the Secretariat for introducing the item and for providing feedback regarding the questions raised during the 31st PBC session in 2020. The Group noted that extensive deliberations were held on this matter at the 31st PBC session and the Group made clear its views on the benefits of WIPO joining UNSDG. As reflected in its decision at the 31st PBC session, the PBC also acknowledged the important work of the UNSDG for achieving the SDGs to which WIPO is contributing through many of its programs and projects as per the Program of Work and Budget 2020/21. The work that WIPO does in contributing to the SDGs would of course continue into the following biennium and beyond and as stated earlier during plenary, WIPO intends to strengthen its contributions to SDGs, including through collaboration and partnership with the United Nations, Inter-Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in support of global goals to which WIPO could contribute. This includes the package of services offered by the trilateral cooperation between WIPO, WTO and the WHO in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. The Group had noted the response by the UNSDG Secretariat on the financial implications of WIPO joining the UNSDG. In terms of the use of WIPO's contribution, the Group noted the explanation by the UNSDG that all resources, including all contributions to the UNSDG cost-sharing are considered co-mingled core resources to fund the Resident Coordinator system and its operations and that these resources would not be attributable to any specific donor. Furthermore, in its engagement with the Development Coordinator Office (DCO), WIPO had been informed that joining the UNSDG might improve multilateral collaboration with other United Nations system entities and partners and inspire new thinking on how to include intellectual property in a more integrated approach towards the SDGs. The Group believed that the engagement the Secretariat held with the UNSDG Secretariat and the DCO had clearly revealed the potential that could be derived from WIPO's membership of the UNSDG. That said, the Group encouraged the Secretariat to continue engaging with the DCO to better assess the impact of UNSDG membership on WIPO's work and its contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, and provide a comprehensive report to allow member states to take a decision within the purview of the PBC at its 33rd session. The Group also requested the Secretariat to take into account the financial implications which might result from WIPO's membership to the UNSDG when drawing up the budgetary estimates for the 2022/23 biennium.

277. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat for presenting the document on the UNSDG membership. The Group noted the promotion of the actions for a greater linking of WIPO with the United Nations, and especially with regard to the SDGs. The Group asked the Secretariat for more information on the implications, benefits and impact on WIPO's membership with the UNSDG.

278. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document which provided further information on WIPO's UNSDG membership, including the cost and impact of WIPO membership in the UNSDG. The Group also noted the financial requirements and possible administrative workload. The Group was ready to support further discussions on this issue and agreed that the Secretariat should continue to engage on this proposal. The Group was ready to join efforts to explore possibilities of WIPO membership in the UNSDG.

279. The Delegation of Canada expressed its support for WIPO joining the UNSDG membership given the UNSDG's role as the coordinating entity of the United Nations development system and the role that all UN agencies could play in contributing to that system. While WIPO certainly did not have field presence on the same scale as agencies whose mandates imply major field operations, like the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), or the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Delegation noted that WIPO absolutely had a notable and potentially increasing development footprint in the field, including in the form of external offices. To the extent that WIPO is delivering development activities, and technical assistance to member states, the organization should be in alignment with the new ways of working and accountabilities as agreed by member states under the corresponding UN resolutions and frameworks, and in a way that promotes the coherence and coordination that the UNSDG could help provide. That said, in an effort to enhance the understanding with precision of what WIPO's role might be, including how its contributions may be administered, the Delegation encouraged the Secretariat to continue to engage with the DCO to obtain additional clarifications on the impact of UNSDG membership on WIPO's work. As outlined in the document, the Delegation also encouraged member states to continue to engage productively on discussions on this issue. This information and dialogue would be valuable to assist member states in making an informed decision regarding membership in the UNSDG at the 33rd PBC session.

280. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the document. The Delegation appreciated the various active exchanges between WIPO and the UNSDG DCO with regard to the issues linked to WIPO's potential participation in the UNSDG. The Delegation believed that the implementation of the 2030 SDGs represented the essential task in the area of development. Current global issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change posed major challenges to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. Unity and cooperation amongst all stakeholders and participants in order to provide a collective response, and strengthening synergies and cooperation between WIPO and the UNSDG was along the lines of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026. The Delegation underlined that although Intellectual Property is an important tool for achieving SDGs, there was no specific reference to Intellectual Property within the 17 SDGs and the various associated tasks. Therefore, a closer look at how Intellectual Property could be best integrated into the achievement of the SDGs was needed. The Delegation approved the participation of WIPO within the UNSDG in principle, but at the same time, the Delegation believed that the WIPO Secretariat should continue exchanges with the UNSDG DCO in order to clarify and evaluate the impact of such participation on WIPO's own work. The Delegation suggested that the Secretariat should look at various different specific situations and assess the positive effects of initiatives, like the WIPO GREEN platform which brought together Intellectual Property to promote green technology and fight climate change and mitigate its effect. The Delegation would be very interested to hear those results and come to a decision at the 33rd PBC session.

281. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation took note of the exchange of communications between the WIPO Director General and the UNSDG Chair and the clarifications presented bilaterally in that regard. The Delegation supported an expedited engagement of WIPO to join the UNSDG with regard to its vital role in achieving the SDGs which is consistent with WIPO's development agenda and plans. The Delegation encouraged

WIPO to further engage with the DCO to outline means to support the Resident Coordinator system to ensure incorporating Intellectual Property in the development plans and programs at a country and regional level. The Delegation believed that joining the UNSDG would strengthen WIPO's role within the United Nations system and would provide further opportunities to explore ways to enhance partnerships to address global and emerging challenges. It would also serve WIPO in supporting its ambitious strategies and plans, including the recent initiative produced by the trilateral cooperation between WIPO, WHO and WTO aimed at assisting member states in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and WIPO's appointment of a focal point for Intellectual Property and COVID-19 related questions from member states.

282. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation thanked the various delegates that had spoken on this topic and stated that it was helpful to hear some of the perspectives on the idea of joining the UNSDG, which the Delegation agreed, could be a helpful way to review WIPO's engagement in implementing the SDGs. The Delegation supported the proposal of the Secretariat to collect more information and discuss this issue further at the 33rd PBC session. The Delegation believed that more information was needed to better understand the details of possible WIPO membership, the implications for the organization and its governance and policy development. The United Nations began the Resident Coordinator system only in 2019, and a review of the system was underway. This review might lead to changes in how the system operates. Depending on the results of the review, some of these potential changes might influence the overall approach to the system. The Delegation believed it would have a clearer picture of what the changes would be by the 33rd PBC session in September and hoped to better assess the system and potential for WIPO membership at that time.

283. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for their hard work in preparing UNSDG Membership document. The Delegation stated that it is in favor of UNSDG Membership in general. However, the Delegation was concerned about the impact of a 1 per cent coordination levy on WIPO's operations. Therefore, the Delegation requested the Secretariat to collect more information on the balance between the advantages of using the Resident Coordinator system and the impact of a 1 per cent coordination levy. This could include case examples of other United Nations organizations using the Resident Coordinator system. The Delegation believed that information would assist Member States' thorough consideration of the invitation.

284. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking in its national capacity, supported the statement delivered by Group B. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document. The Delegation considered the annual membership costs of USD 200,000 reasonable, especially given the wider benefits to be gained from support of the broader Resident Coordinator system. The system had proved invaluable in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and showed it may be too simplistic to wave financial costs with benefits in the short and long-term. Considering the likelihood that the global crisis might impact on stability, it would make sense to make sure all efforts are made to insulate against such difficulties, including strengthening multilateral frameworks. WIPO joining the UNSDG would improve multilateral coordination and inject Intellectual Property into discussions on SDGs in general and on the ground when delivering technical assistance. The Delegation considered that this outcome would match well with Strategic Pillar 2, particularly section 2.4 of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026. SDGs are a blueprint that need to be translated into reality and Intellectual Property has a key role to play in this process. The Delegation acknowledged that the UNSDG and some of its components had been evolving and improving. WIPO had the potential to use its expertise, rigor and know-how to inform and guide those improvements. WIPO needed to be a UNSDG member to be able to contribute with impact. The Delegation hoped that further engagement and the Secretariat's advice would enable member states to take a decision at the

33rd PBC session and concluded that the Delegation was of the view that WIPO should become a UNSDG member.

285. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the material on the invitation to join the UNSDG and for holding thematic consultations. The Delegation reaffirmed its attachment to the aims of development and its readiness to collaborate constructively with partners in order to find effective solutions, taking into account the interests of the whole community. At the same time, the Delegation had not yet had a comprehensive reply to exactly what WIPO would gain from joining the UNSDG. The Delegation noted that WIPO had extremely limited presence on the ground, and moreover WIPO's mandate is linked with very complex legal issues, which limits the possible effective cooperation and coordination with Resident Coordinators who did not have the appropriate knowledge. The Delegation suggested that consultations between WIPO and the UNSDG DCO should continue. With regard to coordination of development activities, the Delegation supported the proposed draft decision on the need for ongoing detailed development of this topic.

286. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document, welcomed the report and appreciated the comprehensive explanation delivered earlier which followed up on the 31st PBC session request for more information on the key issues, particularly on the issues on the contributions and the coordination levy. The explanations given and WIPO's analysis was noted, however the Delegation believed that if actual amounts could be simulated, the delegations could take a more informed decision. Noting the information on the way forward as in paragraph 11 of the document, the Delegation looked forward to receiving a more detailed report on the impact of UNSDG membership on WIPO's work, and would continue its deliberation on this issue at the 33rd PBC session, hopefully towards a positive decision. The Delegation asked the Secretariat to provide an estimation of the costs in the 2022/23 biennium if WIPO joined the UNSDG, and if associated costs had been allocated in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation recalled that global leaders in 2015 had pledged common action and endeavor towards achieving of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, including through an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system, as such, it is important for the United Nations system to work in concert. Furthermore, becoming a member of the UNSDG would help WIPO's work on the SDGs to be in line with the rest of the United Nations, and it would promote the significance and relevance of WIPO's work to the United Nations system in achieving the SDGs. Bearing in mind that 33 United Nations agencies had joined the UNSDG, it would be quite amiss if WIPO did not join the United Nations family efforts. The Delegation supported continued discussions between WIPO and the DCO and looked forward to further discussion on this issue for a positive deliberation at the 33rd PBC session.

287. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document and the presentation. The Delegation associated itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. Participation in the UNSDG is aligned with the global mandate and the role of WIPO. It would also strengthen the coordination of WIPO's work toward the achievement of the broader United Nations objectives. UNSDG membership would also reinforce the ongoing organizational contribution within the UN system and other Inter-Governmental Organizations processes and negotiations. It might be added that reorganization of some of WIPO's programs would require effective interaction, collaboration and partnership with United Nations systems, entities and partners. The Delegation looked forward to the discussion of this matter for preparing the ground on making a decision and joining the UNSDG in the 33rd PBC session.

288. The Delegation of Mexico thanked the Secretariat for information on the implications of joining the UNSDG and the document reference to the technical and economic impact for the

organization. The Delegation stated that taking a decision with the support of the members required all the necessary data and indications for the implications for the organization's work. WIPO joining the UNSDG was a very important decision from a political policy point of view, and it would increase the recognition of the work that WIPO had already undertaken with regard to achievement of the SDGs. The Delegation believed that the organization had a lot more that it could bring, particularly in terms of strategy over the following decade moving towards 2030 SDGs. With regard to many of the targets and goals, under the sustainable development goals, and in aid of the whole policy of the United Nations family of organizations, the Delegation positively viewed WIPO joining the UNSDG. The Delegation looked forward to reviewing the information that had already been requested with regards to other United Nations organizations who had joined the UNSDG, so that this could be considered at the 33rd PBC session.

289. The Delegation of France thanked the Secretariat for preparing this document. The Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation welcomed the notion of WIPO joining the UNSDG which allowed the organization to better integrate its work in the framework of the 2030 SDG. The Delegation believed it would be necessary to continue consultations with the DCO to allow WIPO to have greater influence on future decisions in the area of sustainable development.

290. The Delegation of Switzerland supported the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B and on the basis of information available to date, the Delegation considered that joining the UNSDG would allow WIPO to better contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The Delegation hoped that the exchanges between the DCO and WIPO activities would allow member states to have the necessary information for a decision to be made at the 33rd PBC session. The Delegation believed that WIPO should become a member of the UNSDG as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Delegation suggested that the Secretariat obtain more information from the DCO on how WIPO could better use its unique expertise in the area of Intellectual Property within the framework of the UNSDG.

291. The Secretariat stated that they had taken very careful note of all of the guidance from the member states. Concerning the question from delegations on whether the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 included an allocation for UNSDG membership, the Secretariat confirmed that this allocation was included in the Regional and National Development Sector.

292. As there were no further comments, the Chair read out the decision paragraph which was adopted:

293. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC):

(i) requested the Secretariat to continue to engage with the Development Coordination Office to obtain additional clarifications on the impact of UNSDG membership on WIPO's work; and

(ii) requested the Secretariat to submit a report of the Secretariat's further consultations referred to in paragraph (i) above in order to facilitate the discussion on the decision on UNSDG membership at the 33rd session of the Program and Budget Committee.

ITEM 9 REVISED WIPO POLICY ON LANGUAGES

294. Discussions were based on document WO/PBC/32/6.

295. The Vice-Chair explained that following discussions on agenda item 15 "Revised WIPO Policy on Languages" during the 31st session of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) in

September 2020, and following the adoption of the List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC by the Assemblies in September 2020, the Assemblies requested the Secretariat to submit a comprehensive revised version of the Policy on Languages at WIPO at the 32nd session of the PBC including a sustainable roadmap for a phased multi-year implementation. The Vice-Chair passed the floor to the Secretariat to introduce the document.

296. The Secretariat explained that the Director General had established a language task force in order to address this very important issue across the Organization. The task force, which was co-chaired by himself and the Sector Lead for the Administration, Finance and Management Sector, was composed of members from various sectors across the Organization. This was an example of the commitment of the organization to deal with issues across the organization together as one Organization. In response to the decision by Member States for more extended language services in the activities of the Organization, a comprehensive Language Policy was submitted to and adopted by the 49th Series of Meetings of Assemblies of the Member States in 2011, extending coverage in the six United Nations languages to all meeting documents of the Main Bodies, Standing Committees and Working Groups. The Language Policy was successfully implemented across the Organization by the end of 2017, as reported to Member States in the WIPO Program Performance Report for 2016/17. At the 30th session of the PBC, during the discussions on the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium, Member States agreed to the inclusion of two new performance indicators in Program 19 (Communications) covering the translation of the executive summaries of WIPO flagship publications and WIPO global publications on substantive intellectual property (IP) topics into all official United Nations languages. The PBC also requested the Secretariat to propose a revision to the Language Policy at the 31st session of the PBC. Due to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat was not in a position to submit a revised Policy on Languages to the 31st session of the PBC as the policy review process would require time and extensive consultation. Subsequently, Member States requested the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive revised version of the Language Policy to the 32nd session of the PBC, including a sustainable roadmap for a phased multi-year implementation. WIPO recognizes the importance of multilingualism both as a core value of the Organization, and as a means to reach out worldwide to explain the potential for Intellectual Property to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere and for supporting governments, enterprises, communities and individuals to use Intellectual Property as a tool for growth and sustainable development. Multilingualism is furthermore important to ensure inclusive access to WIPO information and services, including as we engage with small and medium sized enterprises. In addition, the rapidly evolving external environment requires the Organization to adapt in order to remain competitive, efficient, agile, and future-proof. In this context, the objective of the revised Policy on Languages is to foster greater promotion of multilingualism in a cost effective manner, embracing the changing of the ways in which stakeholders access, receive and use information, and leveraging opportunities emerging from the rapid evolution of AI-based technologies, in particular with respect to machine translation. The revised Policy on Languages aims to take a strategic approach to translation strategies based on impact. It considers a comprehensive review of WIPO communications landscape, taking into account types of communication, intended audiences, means of communication employed and the degree of precision of translation that is required. In order to provide a consistent level of service to stakeholders in light of increasing demand for interpretation, and considering the increasingly complex meeting landscape, the Revised Policy on Languages also includes a proposal on language regimes for interpretation. The implementation of the Revised Policy on Languages would be broken down into three phases: 2022-2023, 2024-2025, and 2026 onwards.

297. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, thanked the Sector Lead of the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector for providing the information with regard to the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO. The Group thanked the Secretariat for preparing the Policy, and including the roadmap for its achievement. The Group noted that over the previous 10 years, there had been substantial changes in the situation with regards to access to

information resources, technological communication and the achievement of tools for translation. The possibility of using machine translation with mechanisms for AI should be looked at and the scope of new technological communications should be taken into account. The Group believed that the six United Nations official languages should be prioritized for implementation, and in realizing this, the feedback of the Member States and other stakeholders should be taken into account in forming the drafts.

298. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, attached great importance to the availability of key WIPO publications in all official languages as it promotes inclusiveness and makes information available to a wider audience. The Group appreciated the Secretariat's efforts outlined in document WO/PBC/32/6 to ensure that all key WIPO publications and documents would be made available in further languages with a view to supporting longer-term policy goals. The Group also appreciated ongoing updates on the financial implications as this policy is being implemented. The Group noted with great appreciation that the Secretariat explored innovative and technologically advanced solutions to deliver the desired outcomes at reasonable costs.

299. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, document WO/PBC/32/6. Since 2010, WIPO had made considerable progress in extending language coverage. WIPO's Main Bodies, Standing Committees and Working Groups all use the six official United Nations languages and WIPO's Translation teams had been providing a very high quality service for many years. This high quality service had reinforced the participation of Member States in the work of the organization, and had encouraged balanced global Intellectual Property governance. According to the document JIU/REP/2020/6, Multilingualism in the United Nations, among all United Nations agencies, WIPO only has a limited number of translation teams devoted to translation. Nevertheless, WIPO was one of the most successful agencies of the United Nations with the largest number of words translated. The Delegation was delighted by this and congratulated the organization. The Revised Policy on Languages is a very important document that would provide important guidance for WIPO to comprehensively improve the organization's multilingual coverage in the next phase. The Delegation had noticed that WIPO actively used advanced technology such as artificial intelligence machine translation, which provides a useful supplement to the translation of the documents. At the same time, the Delegation pointed out that WIPO should carefully consider the issue of tolerance and acceptance of poorly accurate translations that were first raised in the proposed translation policy. The precision of automatic translation left much to be desired at present. If these translations contained many errors and were published on the website and provided to the public, it would undoubtedly harm the professional reputation of the organization. The Delegation suggested that for this part of the document, automatic translation should be used only when it is revised by a human in order to ensure the quality of WIPO's document and preserve the professional reputation of organization. Finally, the Delegation had noticed that "Knowledge and technical materials including formal, legal or procedural documentation" were only available to a narrow audience and would only be translated if required. The Delegation asked the Secretariat to clarify which documents it referred to and why those documents would be only available to a restricted audience.

300. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the document. The Group believed that this language policy, which is solid, is extremely important because of its impact on the activities of the organization. The implementation of the language policy in the past had been satisfactory and new challenges had emerged since then. In order to ensure that communications reached the largest number of readers, this revised policy is both pragmatic and effective and is sustainable and based on concrete strategies. The Group believed that this policy could serve as a cornerstone for future activities.

301. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the Sector Lead of the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector for the brief introduction of the revised language policy. Since multilingualism plays an important role in broadening the geographical coverage of WIPO activities, the Group attached great importance to the language policy of the organization. The Group looked forward to a coherent and holistic revised policy that promoted multilingualism in a comprehensive and financially sustainable manner, going beyond publications and incorporating advanced technological tools available. The Group recalled that during the 31st session of the PBC, the PBC requested a roadmap that would allow for a systematic, gradual and phased implementation of such a policy for the long-term. The Group stated that it had very carefully gone through the revised language policy in order to take note of it and were pleased that many of its expectations were well reflected throughout the document, including the background and introduction parts. The impact-based approach, which had been proposed for overall language services of the organization, is very comprehensive, holistic and realistic. As mentioned in the revised language policy, the Group also believed that the ongoing discussions regarding language regions in other competent bodies could be guided by the principles proposed in this document. The Group hoped that the Secretariat would spare no efforts to successfully execute the policy as per the proposed multi-year phased roadmap.

302. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document WO/PBC/32/6 and were thankful for the analysis and suggested approaches. The Group recognized the importance of the promotion of multilingualism in the current environment. The Group also appreciated that the Secretariat explored new and innovative strategies and solutions while trying to ensure cost-effectiveness.

303. The Delegation of the United States of America recognized and supported multilingualism and appreciated the proposed revised policy on languages at WIPO, document WO/PBC/32/6. The Delegation asked a few questions that would help its understanding of how the implementation of this policy would impact WIPO's work. First, the proposal notes there is an expectation that translation and interpretation of technology would continue to rapidly evolve. The Group asked how the Secretariat would ensure its ability to incorporate and take advantage of what could be very rapid technological progress in this field over the following five years and beyond covered in the roadmap. The Group also asked if the Secretariat had early estimates for the cost and consequent savings for implementation of phases two and three.

304. The Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Belarus on behalf of the CACEEC Group and thanked WIPO for the draft revised language policy, which replaced the similar policy from 2011, and the roadmap for its realization. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat's initiative and the creation of the cross-sectoral task force and stated that it was a very good idea to involve all sectors, including the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector since it was particularly important to use technology, including translation technology. The Delegation supported the use of machine translation and mechanisms. The Delegation agreed with the differentiated approach to the different levels of precision, including Distance Learning courses, and drew attention to the fact that the use of automated translation should not have a bad effect on the quality of translations and/or the WIPO translation services. The Delegation believed that for consistent implementation of the policy, priority should be given to the six official United Nations languages. The Delegation also considered that in carrying out the revised policy, it was important to take into account the recommendations of the latest report of the JIU on multilingualism. The Delegation supported the thesis for the need to monitor the implementation of the policy with the establishment of feedback from Member States and other interested parties, and there should be a regular reporting of such in the WIPO Performance Reports. Concrete parameters of indicators for realization of the language policy could be decided over time and according to the situation.

305. The Delegation of United Arab Emirates stated that they supported the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation

thanked the Secretariat for the document. Following decisions taken at the 31st PBC session, a policy was established in order to revise the whole language policy within the various different areas of work of WIPO and all the sectors with an aim to promote multilingualism. The Delegation was very pleased that WIPO wished to promote multilingualism because the Delegation believed that it was an absolute pillar of the organization. The Director General mentioned this fact in the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation was very pleased that WIPO also attached great importance to technology for communication and this should include working in all the languages of WIPO. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for all their efforts in that regard. There is a strategy for translation that enabled the benefits of auto-translation, but also to ensure the clarity of translation as this should be implemented and integrated into all the services WIPO provides, including audio-visual means and other tools for users. The Delegation was very pleased to see the Revised Policy on Languages and its implementation over the coming years. The Arabic language is one of the official languages of WIPO and 400 million people are speakers of Arabic and therefore, the Delegation was very pleased to see policies which promoted multilingualism. The Delegation asked if there would be an executive summary of the WIPO global publications on the essential subjects translated in various different languages. On page 8, table 2 of the Revised Policy on Languages there is information on elements including cooperation for development and states that up to three languages could be used. The Delegation asked if there would be exceptions and if that meant that there are no other interpretations beyond those three languages which could be assured for those meetings.

306. The Delegation of Brazil thanked the Secretariat for preparing the Revised Policy on Languages. A comprehensive language policy and an attention to the target audience is key to impactful results. Technology has an important role to play in broadening the array of contemplated languages thus enhancing access to a larger audience. The Delegation supported WIPO's effort to continue to explore ways to improve its language coverage through technological means. The Delegation asked if the proposed policy for interpretation was an update to the existing policy. The Delegation was of the view that the policy for interpretation should permit flexibility to accommodate specific situations. In certain cases, such as the advisory committee on enforcement, certain flexibility on the policy for interpretation might make it possible for the participation of experts that are not necessarily proficient in one of the six United Nations official languages. If this flexibility did not exist to accommodate particular situations, there might be restrictions in a significant manner on the participation and the possibility to share different experiences. The Delegation asked the Secretariat for their views on that possibility, and if flexibility could be considered in the current proposal.

307. The Secretariat thanked the delegations that expressed their confidence in the new strategy and their support for it. The Secretariat assured the Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group, that the Secretariat would indeed take into account the feedback of Member States on the quality of translation. The Secretariat explained that the organization had been going through the process of working out how to measure the quality of translated outputs. When technology is used to a greater degree there are a number of different ways in which that feedback could be measured. One component that had been looked at and worked towards taking forward was using professional translators to evaluate the quality of the final product, also being keen to look at the users because users are the customers of this information so it is important to get feedback from users, including of course Member States. In response to the comments from the Delegation of the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of Group B, the Secretariat confirmed that the organization would keep the delegations up-to-date on the financial implications. In terms of the costs for phase one, page 28 of the document shows that 1.4 million Swiss francs had been set aside for phase one. In response to the question from the Delegation of the United States of America on the costs for phases two and three, the Secretariat stated that forecasts had not yet been made on those phases because the outcome of phase one would guide what could be done to assess the costs of phases two and three. The Secretariat stated that it could commit to engaging Member

States on the costs and phases two and three would come in subsequent program and budget proposals. The delegations would then have the opportunity to see those forecasts in future sessions of the Program and Budget Committee. With regard to questions on quality, there had been several discussions in the task force on quality because machine translation tools at the moment are not perfect. The strategy was to use these tools more ambitiously but in many cases the output from those is not perfect, and so the idea behind this is very much with the idea that in the majority of cases human editing would be needed at the end of the process. There was no intent to submit all of WIPO's output through a machine and expect it to come up with something perfect. Using technology and machine translation along with using experts post editing would ensure that the accuracy, fluency, terminology and style would be at a high quality level. With the Member States guidance, there would be some areas where experimentation with using pure machine translation could occur. One of the ideas in the strategy was to use machine translation on the less technical pages on the website which had not been translated. This provided an opportunity to determine whether or not the machine translation could help support readers by providing the most efficient tools for the task. However, this would be on a small subset of products that would be clearly labelled as having been translated by a machine. If those webpages had been done 100 per cent by a machine that would be clearly labelled on the page itself and there would be a very clear feedback mechanism for readers to advise if it was not translated properly. On the comments from the Delegation of the United States of America on taking advantage of technical progress, the Secretariat stated that there were a number of experts in the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector. On the question from the Delegation of the Russian Federation on quality, the Secretariat explained that quality was a top priority for the task force and certainly in terms of reporting back to Member States. The Secretariat would explore how to best shape some indicators but the idea should be that in future versions of the WIPO Performance Reports it would show clearly the performance and outcome from this strategy. On the question from the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates on the executive summaries of flagship publications, the Secretariat stated that those would continue and the strategy highlighted the importance flagship publications as being one of those products where quality is really important. This also linked to the earlier point from the Delegation of China. On the second question from the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates and the Delegation of Brazil on interpretation, the Secretariat explained that there would be exceptions including for meetings of the WIPO bodies. The Organization tried to capture that in the report and there is a small asterisk in the first column of table 2 which highlighted that other exceptions would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

308. On the question from the Delegation of China on restricted content that would not be translated in the six official United Nations languages, the Secretariat explained those were cases concerned limited or restricted audiences such as events targeted to specific countries or regions where translation into the six official United Nations languages was not needed. For example, for a specific event where only one or two languages were needed for that particular event there would be flexibility to adapt to those circumstances in terms of the availability of materials with languages. With regards to the first question from the Delegation of the United States of America on how to cope with the advancement of technologies in the following five years and beyond, the Secretariat explained that was an important point and confirmed that the Secretariat's Advanced Technology Application Center within the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector has experts in the latest technologies. These included machine learning, and WIPO has its own products for example WIPO translate which is AI-based machine translation, developed by WIPO colleagues. Those colleagues had been following up the technology on a day-to-day basis and there would be the capacity to capture the latest technologies in this particular field to take advantage of the evolution of technology in WIPO's products and activities. With regard to user feedback, the Secretariat pointed to paragraph 22 footnote 5, and paragraph 26 footnote 9 in the document which explained that the WIPO Performance Reports would report the progress with regard to this language policy and the application of new technologies. The Member States could review the progress, comment and evaluate on those services. The Secretariat

would take into account the feedback from the Member States as well as other stakeholders who would be benefiting from this new language policy.

309. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for their responses. The Delegation believed that according to the nature and the characteristics of “knowledge and technical materials including formal, legal or procedural documentation”, if such documents relate to formal, legal or procedural documents related to the global intellectual property service system, they should be translated into all six official United Nations languages. In the United Nations system, WIPO plays a very important role in promoting technological innovation and the dissemination of technological information sharing, and expanding the language coverage of knowledge and technical documents would effectively promote the dissemination of such information in different countries and regions around the world. It would be beneficial for WIPO to play the above-mentioned role. Some of the audiences in the global intellectual property service system were not very narrow, but rather extensive. When looking at the Madrid system, which had 124 Member States to date and covered six United Nations official language regions including Chinese, Russian, Arabic, English, French and Spanish, and its geographical coverage had been growing. China alone has a large number of existing and potential users. Such documents touched on the global intellectual property system which reached a very wide audience. The documents in the WIPO services system, especially those formal and legal procedural documents, were very important to global users and stakeholders. Therefore, translation of such documents into the six official United Nations languages would make it easier to use WIPO services, reduce user translation costs and enhance the attractiveness of WIPO’s global Intellectual Property system, thereby contributing to increasing WIPO’s income. The Delegation hoped that this would be recorded in the proceedings.

310. As there were no further requests for the floor, the Chair proceeded to read out the decision paragraph, which was adopted.

311. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC);

- (i) took note of the contents of the present document; and
- (ii) recommended to the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, the adoption of the proposed Revised Language Policy set out in Sections III, IV, V and VI, above.

ITEM 10 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE 2021 EVALUATION OF WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICES

312. The Vice-Chair asked the Committee whether there was any objection to initiating discussions of Agenda Item 10: Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. It was an Agenda Item that did not have a document prepared by the Secretariat. Therefore, it was simply for Member States to take the floor. He asked whether there were there any objections to continuing in that way, either from those present or the remote participants.

313. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, said it was continuing to have internal discussions on that Agenda Item, so would prefer that the Committee addressed that item the following day. Alternatively, the Group was willing to hear the thoughts of other groups and could observe what other colleagues had to say on that item, noting that its intervention on that Agenda Item would be made the following day.

314. Having consulted the Secretariat, the Vice-Chair said it was understood that the representative of South Africa was willing to intervene on behalf of the African Group the

following day. The Vice-Chair confirmed that that debate would continue the following day and the African Group could speak then. Agenda Item 10 was therefore opened for debate. The Vice-Chair referred the Committee to Agenda Item 16, Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices during the 31st session of the Program and Budget Committee, PBC, in September 2020. The PBC recommended to the General Assembly that the PBC should decide on the terms of reference during its 32nd session in 2021, taking into account all relevant documents including but not limited to the report by the External Auditor, document WO/PBC/31/3. The PBC also recommended to the General Assembly to refer as appropriate that decision contained in document A/59/13. To ensure that sufficient time was allowed for the fair assessment of the evaluation, the Chair had conducted informal consultations with Regional Coordinators and Members of the PBC on June 29, 2021. Members were thanked for their active participation, and the Vice-Chair and Secretariat were keen to listen to further views on that matter. The Vice-Chair opened the floor.

315. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea said it perfectly recognized the important role of WIPO External Offices, as mentioned in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, the External Offices are the extended arm of the Organization in the field, based on their detailed understanding of their areas of responsibility. The External Offices acted as a catalyst of the work offered by WIPO, while collaborating closely with WIPO headquarters and connecting to the Organization's assistance services and tools with the evolving needs and priorities on the ground. In that regard, the Republic of Korea hoped that the 2019 General Assembly's mandate on External Offices would be smoothly implemented and considering the WIPO Secretariat's experience and expertise, in conducting evaluations, it believed that more active engagement would be required in that agenda. The Delegation also wished to recall the 2019 External Auditor's recommendation, which stated that a more active role for the Secretariat should also be considered in particular with the contents of the report on WIPO's External Offices. The Republic of Korea looked forward to having constructive discussions with Member States on that Agenda Item.

316. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, said that having the decision in the 2019 General Assembly for a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices was an important development. The Group regretted that it was delayed owing to the challenges posed by the pandemic. The Group wished to thank the Chair for engaging Members through informal consultations to find a way forward. The Group noted the constructive and positive approaches of the Members during that consultation. The Group requested the Vice-Chair's guidance on the matter of finding common ground among the Members that should be based on the inputs and consultations with Member States, while taking into account the report by the External Auditor. The overall process should be a Member States driven process. The Group welcomed views and comments from other Regional Groups and Members however, it was of the view that the next steps could be for Member States to provide their inputs to the Secretariat to be combined and then clustered according to themes or areas to be addressed. Acknowledging that the Secretariat had the expertise and experience in conducting evaluations the Group requested that the Secretariat would share various templates of TOR other WIPO evaluations processes along with the compiled inputs. The templates could include some background information of existing evaluation systems. The Secretariat could also prepare a questionnaire for further clarification from the Members on any points of divergence that emerged from the initial inputs. The Group believed that such compilations and templates would give the Members a good opportunity to identify the areas of convergence to facilitate the preparation of the zero draft of the TOR.

317. The Delegation of Paraguay took the floor on behalf of GRULAC. For GRULAC, it was absolutely vital that the use of External Office network was optimized for providing the support to the nations and regions and therefore it believed that the Committee needed to have an objective and independent review of the network by looking at the offices from an external and independent point of view, and that was why it believed that the network could be improved with

a greater emphasis on the internal work plans of each office and each country. The Group believed it was of great relevance for the Committee to look at the importance of these External Offices.

318. The Delegation of the Russian Federation was also in agreement with the proposal on highlighting the importance of the role of the WIPO External Offices in carrying out the policies of WIPO. The Delegation believed that for a productive discussion on the issue of the mandate and assessment of the External Offices, it would be good to have a zero draft of the mandate for External Offices, taking into account the indicators to be looked at with regards to the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the program budget for the same period and also, when carrying out the assessments, due regard should be given to the positions of the Member States in which existing External Offices were located. The Delegation believed there needed to be a flexible approach since the External Offices were significantly different from one another in the way that they work, and the length of time that they had been functioning, and also in the scope of their activities regarding the countries' or region's priorities. The Delegation was ready to take part in consultations of a substantive nature with regard to the mandate of External Offices and their assessment.

319. The Delegation of China attached great importance to the External Offices of WIPO and the evaluation of the network of External Offices. The COVID-19 pandemic had affected the process of evaluation. The Secretariat was to work together with Member States in order to draw up a plan for evaluating the mandate of the External Offices in order to conclude that evaluation. Taking into account the evaluation was both an internal affair for WIPO but also an external affair in regards to Member States, the Delegation would like to propose that during that evaluation, the Secretariat needs to listen carefully to the suggestions and opinions of Member States and particularly those that host External Offices.

320. The Delegation of India intervened to thank the Chairman of the PBC for his efforts in the engagement of Member States through informal presentations to try and find a way forward on that critical matter. The Delegation regretted that the issue had not been taken up since the decision of the 2019 General Assemblies. It was important to remain engaged constructively and proactively to draft the TOR in a concrete timeline. It was also time to move forward in view of the contribution which External Offices make in fulfilling WIPO's agenda in various regions. The lack of progress was not in the interests of Member States. In the Delegation's view, the proposal to conduct the evaluation should not have been linked to the proposal to open new External Offices. While the Delegation accepted the need to undertake evaluation of WIPO's External Offices in an objective and meaningful way, it was imperative to recognize that Member States did not have the technical expertise to do so. At the same time, the WIPO Secretariat had the technical expertise and past experience in assessing the performance of WIPO's External Offices. While the overall process of evaluation ought to remain Member States driven, technical evaluation supported by the WIPO Secretariat would provide the Committee an objective template to move forward. The TOR should emphasize quantitative and qualitative parameters and aim to assess value-added to regional and global Intellectual Property regimes as a whole. Technical and merit-based approaches, as well as geographical representation should also be taken into account in assessing the service delivery and efficiency of External Offices. The Delegation reiterated its readiness to remain constructively engaged in the discussions of that important issue.

321. The Delegation of Pakistan wished to associate itself with the Statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of APG. While the Delegation regretted that there had been very little progress on the issue of the evaluation of the entire network of the External Offices because of the pandemic, it continued to attach great importance to that process. Moreover, the Delegation had consistently expressed its concerns about the proposed establishment of External Offices in the absence of proven benefits to the Organization. There was a need for an external assessment and feasibility studies through external sources to

identify the need for that expansion. The Committee did not have any criteria, methodology or vision document to rationalize the whole exercise. As pointed out by other delegations, the External Auditor's report on 2019 highlighted some very fundamental issues with the existing network of External Offices. The External Auditor believe a thorough external evaluation was a necessity before any new External Offices were opened. The Delegation acknowledged the technical expertise of the Secretariat and were open to supportive role of the Secretariat in the drafting of the TOR, as and when mandated by the Member States, and the PBC. The Delegation would like to reiterate and underscore the centrality of Member States processes, including the drafting of the TOR. As a logical next step, the Delegation encouraged the Secretariat to seek views of the Member States about the contents of the TOR and submit the compilation during the next PBC. As also highlighted in the APG Statement, the compilation of views may be arranged in several themes for Member States to be in a more informed position during PBC 33 in September to draft the TOR. The views of Member States should also be accompanied by the compilation of TORs that the Secretariat uses for its evaluations.

322. The Delegation of United Kingdom took the floor on behalf of Group B. The Group recalled the decision in the 2015 WIPO General Assembly document A/55/13, as well as decision in the 2019 WIPO General Assembly document A/59/13 addendum four. The Group also recalled the decisions of the 29th, 30th and 31st sessions of the Program and Budget Committee. The Group agreed with the importance of developing a clear strategy on a possible development of the External Office network. The need to clarify the role of the Secretariat and the need to enhance data available about the network to support its evaluation including activity reports and plans produced by External Offices. The Group also considered the External Auditor's report as presented at PBC in the 31st session contained some very useful elements that could form a part of the basis for the TOR. The Group stood ready to discuss that matter. The Group suggested, as a first step, that the Committee be presented with a draft TOR to be able to engage on a specific basis. Without the draft, the Committee should be realistic on the ability of the session to decide the TOR for the independent evaluation of the entire network of WIPO's External Offices. At the same time, and as had been decided on several occasions by the General Assembly, the TOR and the evaluation of the entire network itself were essential first steps on the road to considering any change in size and composition of the WIPO External Office network. Furthermore, the PBC at its 31st session in 2020 also considered the ongoing pandemic situation and recommended that General Assembly ensure sufficient time was allowed for the finalization of the independent evaluation. The Group therefore proposes that the General Assembly requests the Program and Budget Committee to begin discussions on the draft TOR no later than its 34th session and decide on such TOR at the 35th session.

323. The Delegation of Georgia took the floor on behalf of the CEBS Group. The issue of the opening of new WIPO External Offices had been on the Organization's agenda for several years and had been the subject of lengthy negotiations between Member States. The Group was committed to the implementation of the 2015 WIPO General Assembly decision to conduct the review of WIPO's External Offices and was ready to discuss the TOR. The Group also considered that the recommendations contained in the External Auditor's report presented at the 31st session of the PBC were valid and should be implemented in the review. The Group were aware of the 2020/21 constraints related to the ongoing pandemic and were ready to engage in discussions on the TOR during the next PBC session.

324. The Delegation of Canada aligned itself with the Statement delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. With the decision from the General Assembly, the development of the TOR was the precursor to the evaluation of the External Offices network. The Delegation stressed its view, whereby the evaluation of the External Office network was an absolute prerequisite on the deliberation of opening new offices. The Delegation noted positions of other Member States regarding the approach to evaluating External Offices. The Delegation would advocate for a uniform evaluation methodology to apply across External Offices, to ensure consistency and transparency in evaluation, in line with best international

practices in evaluation. The Delegation also heeded the advice of the External Auditor and therefore encouraged Member States to take a measured approach to development of the TOR for the evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Delegation would welcome the Secretariat preparing draft TOR along those lines, as had been suggested by other delegations.

325. The Vice-Chair said that given that there were no other delegations requesting to take the floor, and also considering that the representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group would speak to that issue the following day, he adjourned the day's session and indicated the Committee would continue the discussion on item 10 the following day.

326. The Delegation of South Africa speaking on behalf of the African Group recalled that in the 31st session of the PBC that it was not possible to undertake extensive discussions to make a decision under TOR for the evaluation of work of WIPO External Offices. Subsequently the 31st session recommended to the General Assembly to request the Program and Budget Committee to decide in the 32nd session in 2021, the TOR of such an evaluation, taking into account all relevant documents including, but not limited to the report by the External Auditor. The 61st session of the Assemblies duly approved the recommendations of the PBC. The Group recognized the conditions that prevented substantive discussion of the TOR in the previous sessions still prevailed. The Group also recognized the need to make progress on that matter to benefit from the results of the evaluation, with a view of considering opening new External Offices as provided for in the decision of the General Assembly. Given that Africa had two External Offices, the Group attached great importance to External Offices and emphasized the role they play to advance WIPO's mandate, particularly the development dimension of WIPO's work. As WIPO prepared to go into the 2022/23 biennium the Group saw an even greater role that the WIPO External Offices could play, particularly in light of the vision and mission articulated in the MTSP 2022-2026 which gave priority to reach out worldwide and connecting WIPO people from all walks of life. The Group believed that the process for the elaboration of the TOR should be Member States driven, with the Secretariat playing a key supporting role. The Group further believed that during the evaluation stage the host countries of the existing External Offices should be adequately consulted. Furthermore, for the evaluation to be of benefit the Group believed that the TOR that informs it should be balanced and should take into account the specific needs and characteristics of host countries, while focusing on the best ways to modernize management, improving processes and further streamlining the existing network. It was also important to note that the evaluation should also be based on specific criteria for each External Office, to allow a fair and realistic assessment given to the differences between External Offices. While the Committee continued to discuss the process for the evaluation of the External Offices, it should also take into account that External Offices need to be adequately resourced notably in terms of personnel in order to enhance their effectiveness. The Group therefore took that opportunity to call for increased resources to be allocated to the two newly opened External Offices in Africa. The Group took note of proposals that were raised by different delegations on the way forward, including the timeframes that should be followed. The Group was of the view that in order to expedite the process it could be useful to give the opportunity to interested Member States to provide their views and inputs on the contents of the TOR, as also suggested by the APG. These views and inputs would allow the Secretariat to prepare a first draft of the TOR for the Committee's consideration at its 33rd session.

327. The Delegation of Belarus took the floor and indicated that they had listened carefully to the discussion that began yesterday and related to the subject, The Delegation was not able to take the floor on behalf of the CACEEC Group, however, the Group already expressed its position during informal consultations in June with the Chair as well as discussions among experts which took place during the session. The Group already said that decisions must be taken in the appropriate way, and following the consultations it believed that due account should be taken of the different activities of the External Offices, for example, the Russian speaking office was in Moscow. The Group believed that in order to understand what the situation was in Member States that were interested, they should be a study of the situation. The Group

believed that the discussions that had taken place until that point should enable the Committee to move forward and it should take a decision at the 33rd session. This would mean having a draft document developed which could be studied in the meantime, and considered later by the General Assembly.

328. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the Statement delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation believed that it was important to follow transparent procedures when it came to evaluating External Offices. From the viewpoint of fair and transparent procedures, it was preferable to consider indicators and measures based on the guidelines already agreed, such as guiding principles regarding WIPO External Offices. The Delegation indicated that Japan would like to contribute to formulating fair and transparent procedures.

329. The Delegation of Mexico took the floor to share its thoughts concerning WIPO's network of External Offices, and on the need for the evaluation mandate to enable the Committee to identify the results already achieved by existing External Offices as well as the advisability of opening new External Offices. Bearing in mind the need for cross-cutting implementation of some of WIPO's programs, according to each region's specificities and its particular needs and priorities, the Delegation also believed it was relevant to optimize some of WIPO's External Offices as a means of supporting central offices to identify, plan for, and attend to the needs of countries and regions. As indicated in the MTSP 2022-2026, External Offices should support the work of making Intellectual Property known, as well as providing products, services and support and assisting in any way possible to using Intellectual Property as a tool for growth and development at a national level and, where necessary, at the regional level. External Offices should be sounding boards that could make the voices of Intellectual Property heard by people in the field, and to bring the Intellectual Property system closer to potential users in different regions. Irrespective of the opinion of Member States, the Delegation was convinced of the need to have an objective evaluation concerning the use of External Offices by the WIPO Secretariat that would make it possible to identify areas of opportunity and also those in which improvements could be made. The Delegation agreed with the comment in the External Auditor's report that the accountability of the network could be improved and that it would be important to stress the work plans of each External Office, and the means of assessing related impacts. It was important for External Offices to combine the Organization's global priorities with local and regional priorities. Bearing all that in mind, the evaluation of WIPO's External Offices should be oriented towards: first, checking on compliance and the activities granted, pursuing work plans and their relationship with the budget assigned. Second, identifying means of improving the reports and plans for activities of External Offices. Third, designing or updating indicators, activities and commitments in accordance with the agreed work plan. Fourth, to evaluate the cost-benefit activities of the External Office, bearing in mind the specificities of each External Office. And fifth, to identify the contribution of the External Office network to the compliance with the Organization's mandate. Furthermore, the Delegation agreed with the idea that it was important for the Internal Oversight Division of WIPO to carry out an audit of the operations of External Offices and the flow of information between External Offices and headquarters, that could usefully add to the results of the evaluation. The Delegation believed that the aforementioned elements would make it possible to carry out an evaluation that would bring in enough elements for analysis and, on that basis, to define future actions in connection with the External Offices network, bearing in mind the objective of ensuring that innovation and creativity were based on Intellectual Property for the benefit of all.

330. The Delegation of Nigeria valued the relevance of evaluating WIPO's network of External Offices to ensure they were effective and impactful. As a host country to one of Africa's two existing External Offices, the Delegation believed the TOR for evaluating the External Offices, should be carefully and meticulously developed to be balanced and realistic. While all WIPO External Offices shared the same objective of contributing to the achievement of WIPO's results-based Program of Work and Budget they did not necessarily meet or share the same

tests for meeting that objective. Some instances may include how long they had existed, the different levels of development in the countries or regions where they were situated and the kinds of services they provided. The Delegation would be happy to elaborate more on that when the Committee began the discussion on the criteria. The External Offices in Africa were primarily negotiated on the basis of contributing to, amongst other elements, the development of Intellectual Property in the region. It would therefore be important that the evaluation underscored the need to effectively and efficiently support the existing External Offices in Africa to run well-staffed, sustainable and functional External Offices that delivered positively on the set targets, not least the facilitation and acceleration of the use of Intellectual Property for development in Africa. That ideal was inherently captured in WIPO Strategic Focus areas and the appeal of the Organization's MTSP 2022-2026, which put forward positively ambitious goals of strengthening WIPO's engagement with stakeholders in WIPO Member States. Again, the multifaceted setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic further called for that type of engagement in those times of crisis and opportunity as noted by the MTSP 2022 - 2026, the Delegation looked forward to the period of that approach reflected by the TOR to be developed. The evaluation and elaboration exercise was also an opportunity, to take into account the Development Agenda recommendations and the fact that the 2020-2030 was the decade of action and delivery, for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, Nigeria stood ready to engage on the subject matter and ensure the evaluation of meaningful criteria for the evaluation of existing External Offices with a view to facilitating the effectiveness and impactfulness, and then facilitating the process for the opening of WIPO External Offices.

331. The Delegation of Pakistan said it was regrettable that PBC had not been able to enter into substantial discussions because of the pandemic related restrictions. The Delegation said that some very good proposals had been put forward since the day before. Some of the delegations and Regional Groups had called for a greater role of the Secretariat, one of the Regional Groups has called for a deferment until the 34th session and APG had requested to seek views of the Member States and submit a compilation by the next session of the PBC. Those options and proposals were not mutually exclusive and for the sake of building bridges, those options could be combined. The Delegation agreed that the Secretariat had the technical expertise and experience of the evaluation processes, but also wished to underscore the centrality of the role of the Member States in that process. The Delegation proposed to combine some of those proposals, for example, the Secretariat could seek views of the Member States, and the kind of evaluation to be conducted. The host countries had their own set of proposals. It would be a good idea that the Committee was in a more informed position in the 33rd session in September. The Secretariat may seek the views of some Member States in writing. The Delegation hoped that the possibility to meet in a face-to-face session would be possible the following year. The Delegation summarized that after the Committee concluded its session, the Secretariat may seek views of interested Member States, who may provide their views in writing and the Secretariat may present a compilation of those views in the following session.

332. The Secretariat thanked all delegations for their participation and expressions of views, comments and suggestions. The Secretariat had taken note of Regional Groups and delegations' comments, observations and suggestions and likewise proposals. The Secretariat stood ready to assist all delegations in any way upon their request. The Secretariat fully understood that the evaluation was a Member States driven exercise. Since the Secretariat had heard various proposals from Member States, it was looking forward to receiving further guidance on what the Secretariat's role would be in assisting delegations on the TOR for the 2021 evaluation of WIPO External Offices.

333. The Vice-Chair said that there had been interventions by many delegations making valid proposals and the Secretariat had been taking note of those proposals and ideas.

334. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) wished to thank the Secretariat for the valid remarks that were based on the decision of the General Assembly in 2019. The Delegation recollected that it was a Member States driven process, hence proposed that the Secretariat, in a communication, requests Member States to provide their input for preparing the TOR.

335. The Vice-Chair noted that taking into account that there had been proposals from various different delegations with regard to the role of the Secretariat. The Vice-Chair acknowledged that delegations had different positions with regard to the role of the Secretariat vis-a-vis the role of the Member States regarding the future of the network of External Offices. The concrete proposal made by the Delegation of Pakistan and others had suggested that the Committee should continue keeping the item on the agenda of the PBC. The Vice-Chair opened the floor to any further comments on that particular proposal.

336. The Delegation of Pakistan said it was flexible when it came to one of the proposals to keep the Item on the Agenda of the Committee. The Delegation would not press on its proposal to seek views of the Member States during the intersessional period, but it reiterated that the Committee would be entering into a similar debate when it met the following year or maybe in the following session. It would be better to know Member States views on the evaluation exercise for the sake of more useful discussion and for the sake of being in a more informed position. However, the Delegation was fine with a simple deferment of the Agenda Item until the following session.

337. The Vice-Chair said that he and the Secretariat had listened to the interventions and had been working on a decision paragraph for that Agenda Item. The Vice-Chair requested the Secretariat to share the draft decision paragraph on the screen for Agenda Item 10, Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Vice-Chair read the proposal as follows: "The Program and Budget Committee, PBC, took note of the interventions and requested the Secretariat to invite Member States to send their views on the content of the Terms of Reference and to provide an update on the status and progress of submissions by Member States at the 33rd session of the PBC." The Vice-Chair believed that the proposed decision paragraph captured the essence of the debate that had begun the day before, and that had continued again that day.

338. The Delegation of Belarus took the floor on behalf of the CACEEC Group. The Group thanked the Secretariat for sending the document on the decision and also for the wording, saying that it had not received in time to have a necessary discussion with Regional Group Member States. The Group wished to request more time in order for the Group to meet, perhaps until after 3 PM, since there were some matters to discuss within the Group before coming back to the Committee with its opinions.

339. The Vice-Chair indicated that sufficient time would be granted. It was not the aim to close the debate after that expression of opinions, since there were some Regional Coordinators and other delegations that wanted to look at the proposed text in more detail. The Committee would be given time to discuss during the afternoon session. The Vice-Chair invited other delegations to take the floor to give their views.

340. The Delegation of Pakistan wished to highlight that for a very long time that the PBC had spoken about the necessity and significance of having an evaluation of the network of External Offices. For reasons that were understandable by all, specifically the pandemic for the last year and a half, had impacted the process on that matter, and that was one reason why the Committee had not been able to make any progress. However, the Delegation believed that the proposal that had been put forward now would give an opportunity to Member States, including those who host an External Office already, to provide views of what kind of evaluation was required. The Delegation said they could support the proposal.

341. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation, saying that the proposal was intended to address all of the questions asked, and he was very pleased that the Delegation of Pakistan accepted that proposal.

342. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) wished to thank all Regional Coordinators and the Secretariat for their constructive efforts for reaching a compromise solution. The Delegation wished to support the draft decision.

343. The Vice-Chair thanked the Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) for its contribution and the support that it gave to the proposed decision paragraph.

344. The Delegation of Indonesia took the floor and indicated that they found the draft decision to be acceptable.

345. The Delegation of United Kingdom understood that Member States would be able to come back in that afternoon session to react to the decision proposal. The Delegation had not seen the draft on screen, and did not want to engage in live drafting of the decision. However, the Delegation indicated that the proposed decision paragraph appeared to suggest, especially the first bullet point, that there already were TOR in existence. The Delegation suggested that the PBC may refer to "inviting Member States to send their views of the future Terms of Reference of the evaluation", since there was not actually any document on which views could be expressed. The Delegation would come up with specific drafting and attempt to pre-discuss it with others and that it would consult with Group B to be able to come back with some specific proposals.

346. The Vice-Chair said that, as mentioned earlier, the Committee was taking advantage of the time before the afternoon session to share the proposal, which was based on Member States' proposals. The Vice-Chair indicated that there would certainly be time for the necessary consultations with Regional Groups.

347. The Vice-Chair noted that the Committee had been working hard since the beginning of the week and for that reason he wished to ask Member States to be flexible in reaching their agreements, and also to be as conscientious as Member States had been in the previous few days, so that the Committee's work could be as productive as possible. Much could be said about the importance of the External Offices to the Organization, but the key to all of that was the financial aspects and the program. The Committee was dealing with Intellectual Property and the system had to be functional. The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their constructive approach which had brought productivity. Given that the previous day there was a proposed decision paragraph shown to all delegations, and the Regional Groups had had various meetings among different delegations exercising their rights to agree and to make amendments. Delegations had been sent the proposals in advance and the Committee was then shown on the screen what the compilation of the proposed amendments to the decision paragraph on Agenda Item 10. The Vice-Chair suggested that it would be useful to have a short paragraph that would better reflect the debates held in the preceding days and the various proposals made by delegations. That approach would also help keep the debates orderly. As delegations were aware, the aim was to allow Member States to participate as much as possible because the more participation, the more likely an agreement would be reached. The Vice-Chair then focused the discussion on the amendments paragraph-by-paragraph, where the Secretariat had reflected every one of the changes in accordance with the suggestions made by the delegations. The first amendment was reflected as the inclusion of the words 'all interested', to modify Member States. That was a stylistic suggestion but since it was a suggestion for one of the paragraphs in the proposed decision, the Vice-Chair opened the floor for comments.

348. The Delegation of Bangladesh requested some time to have some internal conversation with the APG on the new decision paragraph proposal.

349. The Vice-Chair asked the Delegation of Bangladesh whether it needed a specific amount of time on the specific proposed amendment by the CACEEC Group, or whether it would need time to talk about the three proposals or any of the other proposals contained in the document.

350. The Delegation of Bangladesh responded that it was not exactly about any proposal or content but about the language used, thus the need to check with the APG.

351. The Vice-Chair said that the same may be the case for other Regional Groups, and so proposed to look at the three items of amendment in the Agenda Item so that delegations would have more information before the discussion.

352. The Delegation of South Africa asked about a revised proposal that was circulated that morning from the CACEEC Group, which was not exactly the same as the one that could be seen on the screen. The Delegation wanted to understand if the proposal would also be considered.

353. The Vice-Chair said that the proposal under review included all the proposals, however for confirmation he passed the floor to the Secretariat.

354. The Secretariat confirmed that the proposal under review was that one received that morning from the CACEEC Group. It was the latest one since there had been two proposals from the CACEEC Group, one the previous day, and one that morning.

355. The Vice-Chair asked the Secretariat to bring up the previous proposal, as some terms such as "in writing" were not contained in the latest proposal.

356. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the CACEEC Group said that the Group had tried to take into account the positions of other Regional Coordinators, in order to remove the points that for the CACEEC Group were less critical, even if they were critical for its partners, in order that the Committee could successfully conclude its session. The previous day, with regard to paragraph 2, the Group had only included those points that were vital for the Group, and the decision that was on the screen was indeed the final draft decision that the Group wished to propose for consideration by the Committee. It was a compromise proposal and that was why the Group hoped it would be an acceptable compromise for partners. The Group believed on the basis of the comments from other Regional Coordinators and Delegates that the comments had been taken into account.

357. Since there were no further requests for the floor, the Vice-Chair guided the Committee to review the proposal. There was a second set of amendments including 'in writing' and 'preparations of the Terms of Reference, TOR, for the evaluation of WIPO External Offices'. That was a proposal that was made by Group B and also the APG. The Vice-Chair said that whenever Regional Groups wished to make comments, they could ask for the floor and if they did not wish to do so, the Committee would have a brief recess for consultations and debate. The Vice-Chair asked if proponents of the second amendment, wished to take the floor, as the CACEEC Group had done on the first Amendment. There were no further requests for the floor, so the Vice-Chair indicated that the final proposed draft decision would be sent by email to Regional Coordinators.

358. The Vice-Chair announced that there was a new proposal and that there should be flexibility in debates. Accordingly, the Vice-Chair made the proposal for Regional Groups to discuss the new proposal that had been sent to all the Regional Coordinators by the APG.

359. After further consultations, referring to the new proposal from the APG, which was on the screen, which eliminated some items in the second paragraph and strengthened the heading of

the draft decision. The Vice-Chair asked for Regional Groups and delegations to share their preference, starting with Regional Groups.

360. The Delegation of Bangladesh took the floor on behalf of the APG. The Group stated that it did not consider that it was a new proposal or new element. The Group had simply made some small modifications, for example, in the second paragraph there were two points: One was duplication and another was the clarification of objective. In the first paragraph it had said that Members States' views would be expressed 'in writing' on the preparation of the TOR. It was understood that while the views would be collected, it was already covered in the first paragraph and thus it was redundant. The proposal was to reflect it as 'the basis of views from the Member States' to prepare a draft. In the second paragraph, the Group understood the objective of that process was to develop a draft TOR, so since it was the main objective, it could be kept only at the beginning, rather than also being kept in the last paragraph.

361. The Vice-Chair thanked the Group for the detailed explanation about the change and the contents of the document, and also for its flexibility and ability to negotiate.

362. The Delegation of Belarus took the floor to say that the CACEEC Group had submitted proposed amendments, and thus would request time for consultation with its Member States.

363. The Vice-Chair indicated that in order to move forward with the agenda, that if an agreement could not be reached, he would communicate with the Regional Coordinators to have an informal session prior to the formal session of the PBC in order to reach an agreement on the draft decision concerning that paragraph.

364. The Vice-Chair announced that a proposed text had been reached and it would be shared on the screen. The Vice-Chair said he was aware that there had been a meeting of the Regional Groups and on that basis, the Regional Coordinators consulted with their respective Member States in order to come to a consensus. If there were no objections and given that there were no requests for the floor, with regard to the wording for Agenda Item 10, decision paragraph on Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, the Vice-Chair concluded that the Committee had achieved consensus and the decision was adopted.

365. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) took note of the interventions and with the aim to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, requested the Secretariat:

- To invite all interested Member States to send their views in writing on the preparations of the ToR; and
- To provide an update on the status and progress of submissions by Member States at the 33rd session of the PBC for further discussion and consideration.

ITEM 11 METHODOLOGY FOR ALLOCATION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY UNION

366. Discussions were based on document A/59/10, A/59/11 and A/59/INF/6.

367. The Vice-Chair introduced the Agenda Item, reminding the PBC that there were three documents under the item: A/59/10, A59/11 and A59/INF/6, which were proposals from the Delegations of the United States of America and Switzerland to the Assemblies in 2019. The Vice-Chair asked the Delegations of the United States of America and Switzerland to take the floor to explain their proposals.

368. The Delegation of the United States of America stated that they had long held that the current allocation methodology had been supporting an imbalance in WIPO's budget. The PBC had been discussing an alternative budget allocation methodology since 2015, including a proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America in 2017 for the proportional allocation of both direct and indirect expenses among the Unions. Given the format of the 32nd PBC session, the Delegation was of the view that it would not be productive to rehash in detail its various positions. The Delegation hoped that when the PBC would resume in-person meetings, perhaps as early as September 2021, those discussions would continue with renewed interest in doing what is right for the financial health of the Organization. Nevertheless, the Delegation understood there had been no developments in the Lisbon Working Group up to that point to find a solution, which the Delegation found disheartening. The Delegation reiterated that it would not drop its insistence that each of the fee-funded Unions must abide by its treaty obligations and collect income sufficient to cover that Union's expenses, including its fair share of the Organization's common expenses.

369. The Delegation of Switzerland stated that there had been discussions on this item since 2015, and the positions had been well known, as the Delegation had already presented its proposal in document A/59/11 in 2019. The Delegation highlighted the two major points of that proposal. The first point was to maintain the current methodology, which had been included in many previous budget cycles. The Delegation considered it to be a pragmatic approach for WIPO, and almost all Member States had recognized that at the 2019 Assemblies. The second point flowed from the first, which was to make the current methodology, as reflected over use in time, the official methodology. The Delegation reiterated that discussions on that matter had been ongoing for six years and that it was time for a decision to be made. The Delegation concluded that the statements it had made at the 2019 Assemblies had supported that point.

370. The Vice-Chair stated that this topic was of interest to all delegations for the financial health of the Organization as a whole and of the Unions in carrying out their work. The Vice-Chair then opened the floor for Delegations to present their views.

371. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) was delighted with the positive indications in terms of new accessions to the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act, as well as the increased estimated applications and the corresponding growth of fee income in 2022/23, which would be key for promotion of the System. Promotional activities and the provision of high quality services to the global Intellectual Property system should be one of the main functions of WIPO, with particular focus on the promotion of the international registration systems, including the Lisbon System. The financial sustainability of the Lisbon System required the necessary allocation of resources, not just for the effective administration of the Registry, but also for information and promotion activities. The Delegation looked forward to equal prominence being given to the Lisbon System as that given to the other Unions. The Delegation insisted on maintaining the current methodology. Provision of legal and technical assistance by the Secretariat to Member States, particularly to the local producers in developing countries and in LDCs, continued to play a significant role in attracting more applications under the System. The Delegation concluded by thanking the excellent functioning of the WIPO Secretariat and the Lisbon Registry in the 2020/21 biennium.

372. The Delegation of France supported the statement made by the Delegation of Switzerland. The Delegation recalled that France attached itself to the principles of budgetary unitary solidarity for WIPO and had spoken on that issue a number of times. The Delegation believed that with regard to the expenditure and the allocation of expenditure to the different Unions on the basis of their capacity to pay, a concerted effort was needed in support of developing countries. Therefore, the Delegation believed that that should be one of the foundational points of the Organization.

373. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, reiterated its position that the conventional capacity to pay methodology had yielded positive results for the Organization as reflected by its sound financial position and would be concerned about changes to the allocation of methodology, especially given the current global economic uncertainty.

374. The Delegation of Italy confirmed its satisfaction with the current allocation methodology for income and budget by Union. Such a methodology was based on the capacity to pay principle for the allocation of costs that was coherent with the principle of solidarity among WIPO Unions being followed thus far. The Delegation was convinced that the present methodology helped WIPO fulfil its institutional goal according to the Convention, which is to promote the development of measures designed to facilitate efficient production of Intellectual Property throughout the world and to harmonize national legislation in that field. The Delegation believed that that was in line with the objectives outlined by the new administration under the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026. According to the MTSP, WIPO was willing to continue the construction and development of a balanced, effective, and inclusive global Intellectual Property ecosystem, working with the Member States and other stakeholders to ensure that Intellectual Property would be considered a fundamental tool for economies and societies for a better and more sustainable future. The Delegation agreed with the aim of creating a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere would be supported by Intellectual Property for the benefit of everyone, everywhere. Therefore, the Delegation failed to understand the need to depart from such a consolidated methodology that had contributed to the success of WIPO. Building a solid and financially sound Organization that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, had an estimated future surplus of over 100 million Swiss francs. There was no need to fix something that had not been broken. For the aforementioned reasons, the Delegation reiterated that it regarded the current allocation methodology as appropriate and an effective tool to achieve WIPO's actual and future goals, including the Development Agenda and the SDGs, to the benefit of both Contribution Financed and fee-funded Unions.

375. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, believed that the current allocation methodology did not need any change and the principle of solidarity should be respected. As stated on previous occasions, the Group was not in a position to support changes or alterations to the allocation methodology, and therefore, it could not support the proposal made in that regard. The Group believed that the current methodology was the best solution and appreciated the fact that it was reflected in the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23.

376. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Delegations of the United States of America and Switzerland for the documents provided with regard to the methodology for allocation of income and expenditure by Union. The Delegation believed that the principle of capacity to pay had shown its effectiveness. WIPO was an Organization with a complex structure, bringing together under one umbrella a number of separate Unions. The Lisbon System itself was still in the development stage, thus, putting additional requirements on it could negatively affect its attractiveness to new members and would not promote stable finances for WIPO or the Lisbon Union. The Delegation believed that a revision of the current methodology would not lead to the effective work of the international Intellectual Property system, and believed that, given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, any decision with regard to the principles and financing, which did not undertake solidarity among the Unions of WIPO should be avoided. The Delegation called for working together with all the Unions and WIPO.

377. The Vice-Chair thanked the delegations for their statements and stated that the Secretariat and the delegations would work together on a decision to finalize the item.

378. The following day, the Vice-Chair reopened the item and noted that no proposed amendments had been received from the delegations. The Vice-Chair noted that a proposed

draft decision prepared by the Secretariat had been sent to the delegations the previous day for their review and comments. As there were no requests for the floor, the Vice-Chair proceeded to read out the decision paragraph, which was adopted.

379. The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) took note of the interventions and decided to continue the discussion on the methodology for allocation of income and expenditure by Union at the 33rd session of the PBC.

ITEM 12 CLOSING OF THE SESSION

380. Noting that all the substantive items on the agenda had been dealt with, the Vice-Chair proposed a ten-minute pause to allow the Secretariat time to prepare the “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee”, and invited the Director General and all the delegations to join the Committee later for the closing of the session.

381. The Vice-Chair opened agenda item 12, the Closing of the Session, noting that the Committee could be proud of the good work accomplished. The Vice-Chair asked that the “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee” be projected on the screen, as it reflected the work that had been done in the committee during the week. The Vice-Chair recognized the presence of the Director General who joined the Committee, and acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat in compiling the list, and added that it would be communicated eventually to the delegations via the Regional Coordinators. The Vice-Chair then gave the floor to the delegations.

382. The Delegation of Belarus thanked the Committee and the Secretariat for the flexibility and collective compromise approach throughout the weeklong session that allowed the Committee to formulate its proposals, while excluding the lesser critical issues, thereby ensuring that the Organization could advance progressively.

383. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, expressed its thanks to the Vice-Chair, and recognized the efforts of all the Vice-Chair for skillfully guiding the Committee and efficiently managing the agenda. The Group also acknowledged the constant support provided by the Secretariat who facilitated the exchanges that took place as the Committee was analyzing the different documents. The Group appreciated the debates and work that had been carried out during the week, particularly the constructive spirit shown by all delegations as they maneuvered their way in dealing with the various agenda items. In turn, it allowed the Committee to support the new WIPO administration while confirming its trust and support for the proposals presented to the Committee. The Group welcomed the new orientations and approaches contained in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, and noted that the first review of the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 sets out the priorities of the Organization, where technology and innovation were a cornerstone to achieve its goals and to contribute to national development. In that regard, the Group supported the new proposals submitted in the sector, and welcomed the holistic view of WIPO and the projections for the next biennium. In that vein, the Group would continue closely monitoring the debates on forthcoming reviews of the budget. In closing, the Group congratulated the Organization for the firm step forward taken in revising the linguistic policy, which it felt would help in disseminating the benefits and opportunities being offered by WIPO. As Member States had made it quite clear that they attached great importance to the accession of WIPO to the UNSDG, the decision should be accompanied by clear and updated information, in light of possible changes forthcoming from the review of the Resident Coordinator system, which would shortly be analyzed at the UN General Assembly. The Group hoped that, on the basis of the comments made throughout the session, constructive progress would be made in defining the mandate of evaluating the External Offices of WIPO. Lastly, the Group extended its thanks to the interpreters, technicians, and WIPO staff members who, despite the COVID-19 situation had facilitated the smooth running of the sessions by their important contributions.

384. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Vice-Chair for expertly guiding the Committee and for facilitating the discussion while ably supporting the delegations as they arrived at the various decisions. The Group expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its collective support and dedication throughout the session, particularly noting the contributions of the skilled interpreters and the Conference Staff, without whom the PBC would not have been possible. The Group also thanked the Regional Coordinators and the delegations for their tireless efforts during the session as together they succeeded in making real progress on important issues. Moreover, the Group noted the great amount of innovative and forward-thinking efforts of the delegations, and was hopeful that such engagement would continue as the Committee went forward. A key document which had been presented to the PBC relative for the functioning of the Organization, the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, was obviously intertwined with the MTSP 2022-2026, and the Group highlighted the inclusive process and skilled drafting by the Secretariat leading to the proposed documents. The Group noted the positive spirit in which the PBC considered the draft and looked forward to participating in the WIPO General Assembly, where it hoped the Program of Work and Budget would be adopted. Lastly, the Group noted with satisfaction that the Committee had been able to adopt decisions on all agenda items, notably on item 9, the WIPO Policy on Languages, and on item 10, Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of the WIPO Network of External Offices. The Group was hopeful that the deliberations would continue in a similarly positive spirit at the next 33rd session of the PBC session in September and beyond.

385. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the Vice-Chair for effectively and successfully steering the somewhat intense session. The Delegation appreciated the efforts of the Regional Groups and Member States who displayed a very constructive and collaborative spirit during the deliberations and discussion-making exercises. The Delegation also expressed its thanks to the Director General, Sector Leaders and the Secretariat for extending support to Member States, and thanked the interpreters for their hard work throughout the week.

386. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Vice-Chair for skillfully guiding the Committee during the session, noting that his dedication had enabled the PBC to achieve significant progress throughout the week. The Group expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent work and efficient efforts invested in the preparation and advancement of the Committee's work, and thanked the interpreters and the Staff of the Conference Services. The Group stated that it stood ready to resume its engagement in ensuring the continued progress at the 33rd session in September 2021, and pledged its full support to the future work of the Committee.

387. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Vice-Chair for seamlessly stepping into the role of Acting Chair at the 32nd session of the PBC, and for doing so with admirable professionalism. The Group acknowledged the leadership provided at the beginning of this session by the Chair to the PBC, noting that he was not able to continue presiding over the meeting due to family-related issues, and wished him well. The Group expressed its appreciation of the MTSP 2022-2026, commending the Organization for a bold and ambitious plan which would help usher in a new and inclusive Intellectual Property ecosystem which would serve people all over the world, especially those who had not been served well in the past. The Group was pleased to learn of WIPO's commitment in assisting Member States in their battles against the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating consequences, welcomed the appointment of a focal point in that endeavor, and looked forward to seeing the realization of such commitment. The Group reaffirmed its support of the tripartite cooperation between WIPO, the WTO and the WHO. The Group thanked the Administrative, Finance and Management sector and the Assistant Director General for the sector, for preparing the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/33, underscoring its particular gratitude to the Finance Team for the support provided to Member States throughout the week,

and for their readiness to answer questions. The Group thanked the Secretariat for responding to the questions from the delegations and providing the necessary clarifications and information as needed. The Group admired and welcomed the many positive developments that had been introduced or were in preparation, such as the increased cross-sectoral collaboration. It expressed its appreciation for the commitment to strengthen collaboration in other UN agencies and programs, and looked forward to the discussions in the 33rd session of the PBC, which it hoped would make a positive recommendation for WIPO to join the UNSDG. Having reiterated its position on the importance of the External Offices as important vehicles to advance WIPO's program delivery and to promote the use of Intellectual Property as a tool for development in accordance with the Development Agenda. The Group looked forward to the commencement of the process for the development of a balanced Terms of Reference that would guide the evaluation of existing network of External Offices. The Group thanked all the delegations for their constructive approach, which ensured a successful PBC session. In closing, the Group expressed its gratitude to the Staff of the Conference Services, the interpreters, and the technical team for their support throughout the week, and wished continued good health to all.

388. The Delegation of the China thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their work during the session. Noting the constructive attitude of all delegations that had led to successfully reviewing the Program of Work and Budget 2022/23, the MTSP 2022-2026, the revised Language Policy and the proposal to join the UNSDG, the Delegation felt that all of this would provide a good foundation for the 33rd PBC session and for the WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation expressed its thanks for the support provided and for the clarifications given by the Director General and his team, which had helped the Committee to better understand how the Organization would move forward. The Delegation also thanked Staff of the Conference Services and the interpreters for their work, and wished all the participating delegates in Geneva or in their respective capitals good health, as it anticipated seeing them in person for the 33rd session in September.

389. The Delegation of Spain supported the statements made earlier by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, and thanked the Chair and the Vice-Chair for the work carried out during the 32nd session. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the diligent and effective work, not only in efficiently providing administrative services regarding the detailed exhaustive documentation provided and along with them and thanked the services of translation and interpretation associated with that. Their important work has facilitated creating a suitable climate promoting debate among member states on the nature and direction of activities, facilitating and providing objective and precise information on the questions asked during plenary. The Delegation drew attention to the questions and explanations that were satisfactorily responded to by the Sector Leads of the various different sectors of WIPO on the Draft Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 had been examined. The Delegation thanked the other delegations for their flexibility that they had showed and having brought the Committee to satisfactorily achieve agreements before the organization and the member states. The Delegation was satisfied with the healthy financial position of the organization and progress made on the programs in 2020. The Delegation congratulated WIPO for establishing the strategic direction of the organization for the following five years with the aim of leading the development of a balanced and effective global intellectual property system which promotes innovation and creativity for a better and more sustainable future. The Delegation was also pleased to note that multilingualism occupied a central position in the current discussions of WIPO since it is essential that such should be the case. Finally, the Delegation thanked the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang and the efforts of the organization to confront challenges ahead, among which continue to help member states as they cope with the pandemic and plan the post COVID-19 recovery.

390. The Delegation of Indonesia endorsed the statement previously made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership and guidance during the week, and also thanked the Director

General, the Sector Leads and the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the meeting, as well as the elaboration and discussions which ensued. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to supporting the work of the Organization under the new administration, guided by the refreshed and re-energized focused on its vision and mission as reflected in the MTSP2022-2026. Citing a statement made by the Director General in his opening remarks, the program and budget was not just the vision and mission of WIPO but also the vision and mission of all Member States and the stakeholders. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the Questions & Answers document that included answers to the observations and requests for clarifications, and which had clarified some issues. The Delegation welcomed all decisions that reflected the fruitful work achieved during the week, and looked forward to continued discussions at the 33rd session, with the aim of reaching positive decisions on all matters, including the adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 to the WIPO General Assembly. In closing, the Delegation added its thanks to the Staff of the Conference Services, the IT support technicians, and the interpreters who collectively contributed to the meaningful engagement of the session.

391. As there were no other delegations requesting the floor, the Vice-Chair handed over to the Director General.

392. The Director General first expressed his thanks to the Chair of the PBC for having presided over the proceedings earlier that week, and thanked the Acting Vice-Chair for taking over at short notice and for ably and efficiently guiding the discussions. The Director General appreciated the support shown to him and to the Secretariat by Member States, particularly the open, constructive and positive approach that had taken place during the week's discussions, all of which had inspired and energized the administration even more in wanting to be of service to the Member States as together, the Organization advanced to its next chapter. The Director General thanked the colleagues within the Secretariat who, for months, had been working tirelessly in order to present the MTSP and all the documents that facilitated the discussion, and reaffirmed the Organization's continued commitment to working with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, to continue having a successful set of discussion. In closing, on behalf of the Secretariat, the Director General wished all the delegations a restful and well-deserved summer break, and that all would keep safe and healthy until the Committee reconvened again in September 2021.

393. The Vice-Chair thanked the Director General for his statement and expressed his thanks to the demonstration of much flexibility and for the constructive and collaborative engagement in the discussions that had taken place regarding the Organization's future. Based on the experiences of the current session, the tasks ahead of the Committee were important in regard to the decisions to be taken on the agenda and the challenges faced in conducting the session in a hybrid format, with few participants allowed to be physically present and many other having to participate remotely, from different time zones. The Vice-Chair expressed his appreciation for the efforts made throughout the week by the delegations and for the work undertaken, and thanked all who were instrumental in leading the proceedings at the start of the session but, unfortunately, had to leave. It had been an honor to continue presiding over the Committee and, in that regard, to have contributed to the progress of the organization in the agreements that had been achieved and the commitments that had been made. The Vice-Chair expressed his thanks to all who had assisted on the podium, as well as the many colleagues working behind-the-scenes, including the interpreters and Staff of the Conference Services, who were not readily visible, but nevertheless had supported the Director General each day by providing the session documents and the respective technical services which had helped the Committee in making progress on the decisions taken throughout the session. Acknowledging the presence of the Director General at the closing of the session, the Vice-Chair felt that it underscored the importance of the PBC to the Organization. As many fruitful interventions had taken place throughout the week, particularly with the participation of the Sector Leads who provided support on a number of days. The Vice-Chair felt that the Member States were in very good hands and was confident that it could allow the Secretariat to carry it forward under the

leadership of the Director General and his Sector Leads. The Vice-Chair concluded by wishing all delegations a very happy summer season, hoping they would be able to be with their respective families. Mindful of the COVID-19 pandemic, he encouraged all to be prudent if traveling and to keep safe and healthy.

394. There being no further requests for the floor, the Vice-Chair closed the meeting.

[Annex follows]

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Président/Chair: Sabri BACHTOBI (M./Mr.) (Tunisie/Tunisia)

Vice-président/Vice-Chair: José Antonio GIL CELEDONIO (M./Mr.)
(Espagne/Spain)

Secrétaire/Secretary: Chitra NARAYANASWAMY (Mme/Ms.) (OMPI/WIPO)

IV. BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (OMPI)/ INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Daren TANG (M./Mr.), directeur général/Director General

Andrew STAINES (M./Mr.), sous-directeur général, Secteur administration et gestion/Assistant Director General, Administration and Management Sector

Frits BONTEKOE (M./Mr.), conseiller juridique/Legal Counsel

Chitra NARAYANASWAMY (Mme/Ms.), directrice, Département de la gestion des programmes et des finances (contrôleur)/Director, Department of Program Planning and Finance (Controller)

Maya BACHNER (Mme/Ms.), directrice, Division de l'exécution des programmes et du budget/Director, Program Performance and Budget Division

Janice COOK ROBBINS (Mme/Ms.), directrice, Division des finances/Director, Finance Division

Paradzai NEMATADZIRA (M./Mr.), contrôleur adjoint, Bureau du contrôleur/Assistant Controller, Office of the Controller

[End of Annex and of document]