

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Development Agenda Group.

I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the General Assembly of WIPO. Our group trusts that under your able stewardship we will achieve important results for developing countries, as well as for the intellectual property system.

On the outset, DAG would like to recall that its membership, formed by 19 countries, see the implementation of the 45 recommendations of the Development Agenda as a priority for this organization. In this session of the General Assembly, many decisions such as on the enhancement of the mandate of the IGC have a direct link with one or with multiple recommendations of WIPO's Development Agenda. After 6 years of studies and discussions, WIPO's DA recommendation 18 is still urging us to accelerate the IGC process. This GA must make the decision to accelerate the process towards a Diplomatic Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

We must also remember an old item in member states agenda, discussion on WIPO Governance have been in PBC Agenda for a long period, nonetheless, discussions on the proposals presented by member states have not been productive. In the last sessions of PBC, the African Group presented a proposal for discussion that could be the basis of a formal process of consultations on the subject. In the context of this new proposal, we urge all delegations to constructively engage in a formal consultations process to draft a policy that will make WIPO activities more efficient, participative and transparent.

We would like to recall that WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations and, as such, it should be a member-driven institution. Nonetheless, in this Assembly, member states, representing millions or even a billion of people, were asked to follow a three minutes limit imposed by the Secretariat to General Statements, while at the same time, a paralel event will stall discussions among member states for two hours, in spite of a very busy agenda in front of us. Paralel events are important but they should not affect the substantive discussions among member states unless there is a decision on this subject.

These governance issues are not only present in the organization of this session of the General Assembly, but also in other areas such as the implementation of a strategic realignment program that was not mandated by member states. It is up to member states to reassert that the service orientation of this organization is aimed at first and foremost fulfill the requests of WIPO member states.

The strategy of Human Resources of the institution should also be reformulated in order to build a more diverse organization, where nationals of different countries can implement decisions agreed by all member states. Today, more than 50% of WIPO staff come only from one region and there is no strategy currently in place aimed at bridging the representation GAP among regions.

Regarding the decision on Program 18, IP and Global Challenges, DAG urges all member states to approve a reporting mechanism to CDIP that will inform and allow countries to provide guidance to the program and its activities. This system will not only increase the transparency of the initiative, but also potentially engage member states in its implementation.

Another item for discussion related to the Program and Budget is the new definition of development

expenditure. It is important to member countries to count with an appropriate index that identifies budget allocations that are aimed at bringing the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries.

On the implementation of CDIP mandate, it is unfortunate that we have to recall that the coordination and monetary mechanism still has no oversight on the CWS and PBC. We understand the development dimension is an integral part of discussions on both, standards and WIPO budget. At the same time, some delegations still hinder the full implementation of CDIP mandate related with the debate on IP and development.

On discussions on Design Law, our group reiterates its position that capacity building and technical cooperation should be addressed properly in an article that should be an integral part of the instrument.

As a final remark, DAG members would like to recall the historic result of the Marrakesh Treaty, aimed at addressing the "book famine" for visually impaired, blind or otherwise print disabled. The agreement reached last June proved that member states can work together in multilateral fora in response to a call from the international civil society. DAG urges WIPO members to strengthen this will.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.