

[Draft] Statement delivered by H.E. M. Shameem Ahsan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs Group

57th WIPO Assemblies of the Member States of Geneva, 2-11 October 2017

Mr. Chair
Director General
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,
Bangladesh has the Honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the LDCs Group.

Mr. Chair,

1. We wish to begin by congratulating you for assuming your charge as the acting-Chair of the 57th Series of WIPO Assemblies. The LDCs group looks forward to working with you and the acting Vice Chairs and other member of the Bureau for a successful outcome from these Assemblies of the Member States. We also congratulate Ambassador of Vietnam on his election as the Chair and Ambassador of Moldova and Senegal as Vice Chairs of the Assemblies for 2018-19 biennium.

2. The Group also extends its appreciation to the Director General for his detailed report on the activities of the Organization. We are particularly thankful to him for his focus and special attention to the IP needs and priorities of the LDCs and the WIPO support programs for our countries. We also thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the Assemblies and the documentation.

Mr. Chair,

3. LDCs seek to achieve development with ambition. Increasing number of LDCs are charting pathways to achieve accelerated economic growth and development and reach the point of graduating out of the LDCs category. Thus, attaining higher level of economic competitiveness is central to their national aspiration to catch up and bridge the development divide. Against this backdrop, the present development policy landscape in LDCs provides stronger impetus on the positive role of IP system to create a robust knowledge base of innovation and creativity for development. Accordingly, WIPO's work and our partnership with the organization have become more important, relevant and needed.

4. We appreciate the attention given to instill greater coherence between our IP needs and WIPO cooperation framework. LDCs benefitted from WIPO cooperation to prepare national IP policy and innovation strategies, support to modernize IP administration system, establishment and strengthening of TISCs, extensive training and technical skill development, building institutional capacity for IP system through the strategic use of IP tools, enhanced and free of cost access to IP databases on science and technology. Projects on capacity building on appropriate technology to meet key development challenges of

LDCs brought out a value-added dimension of the WIPO-LDCs partnerships. It demonstrated successfully in a number of LDCs how LDCs could use the IP system to build national knowledge base through transfer of appropriate technology to address our development challenges.

Mr. Chair,

5. The group attaches high importance to the work of the CDIP. Development Agenda and successful implementation of the various development agenda projects under this committee are crucial for advancing IP-Development phenomenon in our countries. LDCs group constitutes one fourth of the UN membership and confronts daunting development challenges and inherent structural weakness. The CDIP's work and its projects should be able to take into account this special and differential need of the LDCs in terms of selection of beneficiary countries for their implementation. In this context, we underline the need of fast-tracking the LDC projects in the CDIP.

Mr. Chair,

6. Establishing balanced and legally binding instrument or instruments on TK, TCE and GR is crucial to LDCs interest. Such a system will contribute to LDCs effort to benefit from the use of IP based legal protection, management and use of the rich TK, TCE and GR resources of the LDCs. The Group calls for considered understanding in order to reach agreement on one or more legally binding instruments for the benefit of all.

7. In respect of the Design Law Treaty, the Group reaffirms its commitment to engage in the discussion constructively and underscores the importance of having a technical assistance article in the main body of the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

8. A balanced, fair and equitable IP system that takes into account the constraints and needs of the developing countries and LDCs is important for enabling development. In the context of Marrakech Treaty, we wish to reiterate our support for discussion to have efficient and meaningful provisions in the form of international agreements on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions as well as for libraries and archives and person with other types of disabilities.

Mr. Chair,

9. The Istanbul Programme of Action adopted in 2011 for the LDCs, emphasizes on the issues of coherence and coordination. The report on the evaluation of the WIPO Assistance to LDCs, prepared by the IOD, underlines the importance of coordination of support for LDCs within WIPO. In this context, we thank the LDC Division for its expertise, sincere hard work in forging stronger WIPO and LDCs cooperation and delivering need-based programs under a coordinated delivery structure. We wish to see the Division supported adequately resource-wise as well as by best available human resources in order to continue its good work. To that end, we request for strengthening of coordination of all LDCs issues by the Division for LDCs in WIPO. A good example of such cooperation programs is the WIPO project on Appropriate Technology which is in phase II after successful completion of the

pilot phase. LDCs being 'Innovation Learners' as per 'Global Innovation Index', can benefit immensely from such joint endeavors.

Mr. Chair,

10. We welcome the 10 percent reduction of the annual membership contribution, provided that it does not adversely affect WIPO's development cooperation expenditure in future.

I thank you.
