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The following is a draft summary of the presentation prepared by the Secretariate of WIPO.

Professor Pacon overviewed some of the problems encountered with IP education and IP research in Latin America. She noted that there is a distinct danger that IP is getting too politicized, such as when it is linked too closely to trade. A lack of resources is undermining new research projects. Most students also had to work. Therefore, the private sector could do much more in the nature of funding and scholarships. There was too little collaboration, and resources were limited.

She felt that there could be more links to the practical side of IP. It was almost impossible for IP teachers to be exclusively IP teachers—they were forced to be on the faculty, and at the same time, take outside employment to earn a sufficient salary. However, the industry teachers had more practical experience.

More multi-disciplinary approaches to IP could be beneficial, including impact studies involving natural and biological sciences, engineering and economics. She mentioned that there had been studies on the impact of IP on four countries in her region, each with a different basis of analysis. Along the same lines, the sociological impact of IP needed to be studied, especially with respect to TK. Can it be protected at all?

Access to medicines was a large issue, but work must be conducted jointly with the private sector to be effective. She would like to encourage more joint research projects, both national and international. There needed to be more exchanges of syllabi and teaching materials. In general, she felt that there was too little cooperation in developing countries in all areas.