

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Fifty-first Series of Meetings Geneva, September 23 to October 2, 2013

GENERAL REPORT

adopted by the Assemblies

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INTRODUCTION

1. This General Report records the deliberations and decisions of the following 20 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO:

- (1) WIPO General Assembly, forty-third (21st ordinary) session
- (2) WIPO Conference, thirty-third (21st ordinary) session
- (3) WIPO Coordination Committee, sixty-seventh (44th ordinary) session
- (4) Paris Union Assembly, forty-sixth (21st ordinary) session
- (5) Paris Union Executive Committee, fifty-second (49th ordinary) session
- (6) Berne Union Assembly, fortieth (21st ordinary) session
- (7) Berne Union Executive Committee, fifty-eighth (44th ordinary) session
- (8) Madrid Union Assembly, forty-sixth (20th ordinary) session
- (9) Hague Union Assembly, thirty-second (19th ordinary) session
- (10) Nice Union Assembly, thirty-second (21st ordinary) session
- (11) Lisbon Union Assembly, twenty-ninth (20th ordinary) session
- (12) Locarno Union Assembly, thirty-second (20th ordinary) session
- (13) IPC [International Patent Classification] Union Assembly, thirty-third (19th ordinary) session
- (14) PCT [Patent Cooperation Treaty] Union Assembly, forty-fourth (19th ordinary) session
- (15) Budapest Union Assembly, twenty-ninth (17th ordinary) session
- (16) Vienna Union Assembly, twenty-fifth (17th ordinary) session
- (17) WCT [WIPO Copyright Treaty] Assembly, twelfth (6th ordinary) session
- (18) WPPT [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty] Assembly, twelfth (6th ordinary) session
- (19) PLT [Patent Law Treaty] Assembly, eleventh (5th ordinary) session
- (20) Singapore Treaty [Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks] Assembly, fifth (3rd ordinary) session

meeting in Geneva from September 23 to October 2, 2013, where the deliberations took place, and decisions were made in joint meetings of two or more of the said Assemblies and other bodies convened (hereinafter referred to as “the joint meeting(s)” and “the Assemblies of the Member States,” respectively).

2. In addition to this General Report, separate Reports have been drawn up on the sessions of the General Assembly (WO/GA/43/22), WIPO Conference (WO/CF/33/1), WIPO Coordination Committee (WO/CC/67/4), Paris Union Assembly (P/A/46/1), Paris Union Executive Committee (P/EC/52/1), Berne Union Assembly (B/A/40/1), Berne Union Executive Committee (B/EC/58/1), Madrid Union Assembly (MM/A/46/3), Hague Union Assembly (H/A/32/3), Nice Union Assembly (N/A/32/1), Lisbon Union Assembly (LI/A/29/2), Locarno Union Assembly (LO/A/32/1), IPC Union Assembly (IPC/A/33/1), PCT Union Assembly (PCT/A/44/5), Budapest Union Assembly (BP/A/29/1), Vienna Union Assembly (VA/A/25/1), WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly (WCT/A/12/1), WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty Assembly (WPPT/A/12/1), Patent Law Treaty Assembly (PLT/A/11/2) and the Singapore Treaty Assembly (STLT/A/5/2).

3. The list of the States members of the Assemblies and other bodies concerned and the observers admitted to their sessions as of September 23, 2013, is set forth in document A/51/INF/1 Rev.

4. The meetings dealing with the following items of the Agenda (document A/51/1) were presided over by the following Chairs:

Items 1 and 2	Ambassador Uglješa Ugi Zvekić (Serbia), outgoing Chair of the General Assembly
Items 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 41, 42, 44 and 45	Ambassador Päivi Kairamo (Ms.) (Finland) newly-elected Chair of the General Assembly, and in her absence, the the Vice-Chairs Ambassador Mikhail Khvostov (Belarus) and Mr. Mokhtar Warida (Egypt)
Items 7, 45 and 46	Ambassador Fodé Seck (Senegal), Chair of the Coordination Committee
Item 37	Ms. Susanne Sivborg (Sweden), Chair of the PCT Union Assembly
Item 38	Mrs. Grace Issahaque (Ghana), Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly
Item 39	Ms. Sarnai Ganbayar (Mongolia), Chair of the Hague Union Assembly
Item 40	Mr. Tiberio Schmidlin (Italy), Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly
Item 43	Mr. Emil Žatkuliak (Slovakia), Chair of the Patent Law Treaty Assembly
Item 44	Mr. Ľuboš Knoth (Slovakia), Chair of the Singapore Treaty Assembly

5. An index of interventions by Delegations of States and Representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations mentioned in this report will be reproduced as an Annex to the final version of the present report. The Agenda, as adopted, and the list of participants will appear in documents A/51/1 and A/51/INF/3, respectively.

6. The Director General's Report is reproduced as an Annex to this present report.

ITEM 1 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

7. The fifty-first series of meetings of the Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry (hereinafter referred to as "the Director General").

8. The sessions of the Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO were opened in a joint meeting of all the 20 Assemblies and other bodies concerned by **Ambassador** Uglješa Ugi Zvekić (Serbia), the outgoing Chair of the General Assembly, who made the following statement:

“Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, Director General,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

“It is my great honor to warmly welcome you today to the opening of the Fifty-First Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). As outgoing Chair, I shall preside over the process of selection of my successor.

“Before handing over to the Legal Counsel under Agenda Item 2, ‘Election of Officers’, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some observations from my time as Chair.

“I believe that I have been very fortunate to have been in this role at an exceptionally exciting and active period in the history of WIPO. Indeed, the change that I have witnessed and participated in these last two years has been nothing short of remarkable.

“I had a privilege, an honour and the responsibility to chair two series of General Assemblies, one extra-ordinary session of the General Assembly (December 2012) and a number of informal consultations and regular meetings with the regional coordinators. I was also privileged to witness and participate in the opening of the New Building and the laying of the foundation of the new conference premises. It was indeed an intensive but most gratifying experience.

“The *Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances* of 2012 was the first successful conclusion of a treaty in WIPO for several years and as such, heralded a rekindling of the important normative side to the Organization’s work. The *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled* this year carried forward this important momentum.

“These Treaties will deliver important benefits for performers, the blind, the visually impaired and the print disabled. They are our collective achievement and contribution to the future. It has been one of the most gratifying aspects of my time as Chair to have witnessed and participated in this living spirit of compromise and this willingness for advancement. I would like to extend my congratulations to all delegations for making these possibilities a reality. It is my sincere hope that this spirit will permeate several other processes currently maturing in the course of Member State negotiations.

“I also believe it is important not to lose sight of the background against which these developments have taken place. The period since 2011 witnessed the continued effects of the largest financial crisis since the 1930s. The fact that WIPO has not only weathered this storm, but managed to do so while growing its income base is highly commendable.

“At the same time, I am very pleased to note that WIPO as an institution has continued to embrace necessary reforms required for it to meet future challenges. There has been no clearer demonstration of this than the Strategic Realignment Program (SRP) launched by the Director General in 2009. I have personally witnessed the change the SRP has wrought in the processes and working culture of the Organization through my many interactions with staff at all levels. This certainly bodes well.

“Looking ahead, allow me to highlight that for me WIPO stands as a symbol of modernization through its imperative search of harmonious and balanced promotion of innovation, protection of intellectual property rights and making the fruits of the global progress available to all and utilized by all in an equitable manner. This, I believe, marks WIPO now and in the future.

“I also believe that a key and constant challenge for all Intergovernmental Organization is managing their relationship with their Member States. I believe the key consideration in this regard is transparency. In this context, I would like to pay tribute to the close and extensive engagement which the Director General and the Secretariat has maintained with Member States throughout my time as Chair. The Director General has fostered an atmosphere of openness, responsiveness and accessibility that has been the cornerstone of the success registered across so many different areas. Indeed, WIPO stands as an example in this regard in the Geneva International. I wish to underline that in my experience as the Chair, transparency and will to cooperate both on the part of the Member States and the Secretariat are the keys for the responsible and responsive Organization.

“A necessary component of transparency is provided by the establishment of a solid foundation of audit, oversight and ethical principles for staff. In my assessment, WIPO’s audit and oversight architecture remains sound and the engagement between the Director General and the Secretariat with this structure is abiding and constructive. I have also been very pleased to note the considerable progress that the Organization has made in filling out its ethics architecture – with the establishment of a Code of Ethics and a Whistleblower Policy. I would encourage the Organization to continue with and build upon these very positive developments.

“In closing, I would like thank all WIPO staff, directors and the whole Senior Management Team for the most dynamic, effective and pleasurable cooperation over the two year period. In particular my gratitude goes to Mr. Naresh Prasad and Mr. Sergio Balibrea.

“I would not have been able to carry out my tasks without great cooperation by the representatives of all Member States, and in particular, the Regional Coordinators. We worked hard and well. We achieved a lot and I am confident that certain issues such as the criteria for the election of the officials, including the Chair of the GA, will be soon resolved with the assistance of my successor. I wish to thank you all. Needless to say, special appreciation goes to my regional group – CEEBS.

“I enjoyed marvelous, efficient and most friendly cooperation by the first Vice-Chair, H.E. Ambassador Alfredo Suescum of Panama. I also thank the second Vice-Chair, Counselor Makiese Kinkela of Angola.

“Mr. Director General, Francis Gurry: During the last two years, I have enjoyed a very close and productive association with you in the execution of the responsibilities the GA has entrusted to me. Indeed, my working relationship with you, Francis, has made all the difference in easing my tasks and enabling me to effectively engage with the Organization. More broadly, I would like to acknowledge your leadership, vision and hard work as the Executive Head of WIPO. I am convinced that this has been vital to not only protecting our Organization in challenging times but to providing it with a stable foundation upon which it has continued to grow and further develop. Francis, I certainly wish you well for your future endeavors in WIPO.

“Thank you and I wish you all the very best for your forthcoming deliberations.”

ITEM 2 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS

9. Discussions were based on document A/51/INF/1 Rev.

10. Introducing Agenda Item 2 on the election of officers, the Legal Counsel said that there had been informal consultations with the Group Coordinators, and he was pleased to announce that there was agreement on the election of the bureau in respect of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee. He said that it was proposed, for the approval of Member States, that the Chair of the General Assembly to be elected was Her Excellency Paivi Kairamo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva. With respect to the Vice Chairs of the General Assembly the proposals were, first Vice Chair, His Excellency Mikhail Khvostov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UN in Geneva, and the second Vice Chair, Mr. Mokhtar Warida, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN in Geneva. In respect of the Coordination Committee the proposals were for the Chair, His Excellency Fodé Seck, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the UN in Geneva, and the two Vice Chairs would be first Vice Chair, Her Excellency, Virág Krisztina Halgand, Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN in Geneva and for the second Vice-Chair, Ms. Alexandra Grazioli, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva.

11. The Assemblies of the Member States elected Ambassador Päivi Kairamo (Mrs.) (Finland) as Chair of the General Assembly and Mr. Mikhail Khvostov (Belarus) and Mr. Mokhtar Warida (Egypt) as Vice-Chairs. They also elected Ambassador Fodé Seck as the Chair of the Coordination Committee and Ambassador Virág Krisztina Halgand (Hungary) and Ms. Alexandra Grazioli (Switzerland), as Vice Chairs, on September 23, 2013.

12. The newly elected Chair made the following statement:

“Let me wholeheartedly thank all of you and the whole Assembly for the trust and confidence that you have rendered to me and to my country Finland. Let me assure you that in this position as the Chair of the General Assembly I will be at your disposal, and I look forward to cooperating with all the delegations in order to ensure a smooth run up of this Assembly during the days ahead, which I assume, will be very, very busy. But I thank you again for the trust, and hope to work very closely with all of you.”

13. Following informal consultations among Group Coordinators, the list of officers for the Assemblies and other bodies that appear in document A/51/INF/4, were elected on September 25, 2013.

ITEM 3 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14. Discussions were based on document A/51/1

15. After due consideration, each of the Assemblies and other bodies concerned adopted its agenda as proposed in document A/51/1 (hereinafter referred to in this document and in the documents listed in paragraph 2 above as “the Consolidated Agenda”)

ITEM 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

16. The Director General's Speech is recorded as follows:

“Your Excellency Ambassador Päivi Kairamo, Chair, WIPO General Assembly, Honorable Ministers, Your Excellencies the Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

“It is a pleasure for me to extend to all delegations a warm welcome to this session of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). I am deeply grateful to the Member States for their commitment to the Organization, which is so apparent in the presence here of such a large number of delegates, over 1,000, I believe.

“At the outset, I should like to thank the outgoing Chair of the General Assembly, Ambassador Uglješa Zvekić, for his dedication and service over the past two years. Ambassador Zvekić has been committed to working to achieve agreement amongst the members and has been very effective in bringing this about. We are indebted to him for his skilled diplomacy and professionalism.

“I congratulate the new Chair of the General Assembly, Ambassador Ms Päivi Kairamo, upon her election and I look forward very much to working with her to advance the multilateral agenda at WIPO in the coming period.

“The twelve months since the last Assemblies have seen many positive results for the Organization. I have described them in some detail in a Report that is being made available this morning and so I shall mention here only selected items from those results.

“Financially, the Organization is in a very sound position. We ended the year in 2012 with an overall surplus of 15.7 million Swiss francs. In consequence, our reserves stood, at the end of 2012, at 178.2 million Swiss francs, some 58 million Swiss francs above the level set by the Member States as a prudent safeguard against downturns or other adverse impacts on our operating revenue.

“As you will have observed, work on the construction of the new conference hall has progressed well and should be finished in April or May next year, allowing us to hold the 2014 Assemblies in the new facility. We also expect to complete the project within budget.

“Our Global IP Systems, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Madrid System for the international registration of marks and the Hague System for the international registration of designs, continued to experience growth levels that out-perform the world economy. We are also witnessing a strong and consistent expansion in the geographical coverage of the systems, particularly the Madrid and Hague Systems. All three systems, which have memberships of 148 (PCT), 91 (Madrid) and 60 (the Hague), respectively, are on the way to becoming truly global in their reach, even if at different speeds.

“Great progress has been made in a number of ways in relation to the technical infrastructure that underlies the operation of the IP system worldwide. This infrastructure provides the interface between IP Offices and their users; it connects the IP Offices of Member States to each other and to our Global IP Systems; and it provides for the public

a window onto the rich collections of data that are generated by the IP system and that are increasingly important sources of passive technology and business and economic intelligence.

“Our programs in this area are now extensive and are attracting very positive interest from the Member States, users of the IP system and the general public. This is the area in which we are experiencing the greatest demand for technical cooperation from the developing and least developed countries. The number of Offices using WIPO-provided IT systems grew from 61 to 72 and the list of outstanding requests is long. Likewise, demand for assistance in establishing Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), which offer a means of spreading access to technology across the whole community, is high. Thirty-six projects have been launched in this area, covering 320 TISCs worldwide.

“The highlight of the year, however, was the successful conclusion of a new multilateral treaty, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. I should like to extend our thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the outstanding arrangements that it provided for the Diplomatic Conference and for the very warm and generous hospitality that the Government and people of Morocco extended to all the delegates. I also congratulate the Government of Morocco and the President of the Conference, the Honorable Mustapha Khalfi, Minister for Communications, on the successful outcome.

“The success in Marrakesh resulted from the extraordinary engagement and commitment of the Member States. Five meetings and open consultations were held in the six months immediately preceding the Diplomatic Conference, as well as innumerable other informal meetings. The negotiators worked day and night. The outcome was a wonderful result for visually impaired persons, for intellectual property, for the capacity of the international community to develop a consensus around an effective solution to a clear need, and for the Organization.

“The Marrakesh Treaty built upon the success of the Beijing Treaty in 2012. The hope expressed by all the delegations at Marrakesh was that the constructive cooperation that led to those two successes would find expression in the future normative agenda of WIPO. We have two main items in this regard on the agenda for this meeting.

“The first is the proposed design law treaty for which work is nearing completion. The proposed treaty would provide simplified and more accessible procedures for obtaining protection for designs. The Government of the Russian Federation has generously offered to host the diplomatic conference. It is very much hoped that this exercise can proceed with a positive decision to build upon Beijing and Marrakesh.

“The second item concerns the way forward for the shared objective of providing effective protection for traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and intellectual property in relation to genetic resources. It is of the utmost importance to bring this work to a satisfactory conclusion. The process has been long and arduous. It is hoped that the Member States can find an expression for the new mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee that can be embraced by all. One of the main priorities of the coming year will be to progress this work to a good outcome.

“Looking beyond our immediate agenda, it is clear that the tendency for intellectual property to move from the periphery to the center of the economy continues. The rise in value of intellectual capital and intangible assets, the recognition of the fundamental

economic and social role of innovation and the ubiquity of the Internet, devices for accessing it and, in consequence, of entertainment and creative works are all contributing to this movement. In previous years I have spoken about the innovation part of the movement. Please allow me to say a few words now about the creativity and creative content part.

“Our studies across 40 countries with developing, transition and mature economies indicate that, on average, the creative industries account for some 5.2% of GDP and some 5.3% of total employment. In some cases, these figures rise to 11%. Huge economic value is generated by the creative industries, in addition to their cultural and social contribution.

“The past 20 years has witnessed the steady migration of creative works from analogue formats and physical distribution to digital technology and distribution over the Internet. This has been a classic process of creative destruction. It is a normal part of any such process that value shifts. But what has been worrying in the transition from analogue to digital is the seemingly avoidable and inappropriate loss of value to creators, performers and the creative sector. A multiplicity of studies have been undertaken to measure this phenomenon and discussion, if not arguments, abound about methodology and magnitude. What is clear, however, is that the impact of illegal downloading is significant and negative. While the value of digital sales has been rising, they have not been rising at the same rate as analogue sales have been falling and value is being lost.

“This loss is of enormous concern to governments and the creative industries worldwide. The solution is elusive. Nevertheless, there is increasing recognition that a large part of that solution is the creation of a seamless global digital marketplace. By dint of technology, we already have a seamless global digital marketplace, but it is an illegal one. The task is to establish a legal seamless global digital marketplace. It should be as easy to get content legally as it is to get it illegally.

“The creation of such a marketplace is an extremely delicate and complex process, not the least because most of the building blocks have to be put in place by the enterprise sector and not the public sector. There is, however, reason for optimism, compared to ten years ago, that this is happening, even if slowly.

“The seamless global digital marketplace will function on data, more specifically metadata. It is data that will connect consumers and creative works via a diversity of platforms behind which will operate mechanisms for clearing the rights to use the works and for payment.

“There is an unprecedented opportunity in these developments for making the developing and least developed countries part of the global digital marketplace. The developing world has traditionally been content rich and distribution poor. It is home to some of the finest creators and performers in the world, but the opportunities for these creators and performers to get their works and performances into global markets have been limited. Now, the Internet is a global stage. The world record for the number of hits on YouTube, for example, is held by the Korean singer Psy for “Gangnam Style”, which has been viewed 1.8 billion times. Worldwide, there are 2.7 billion people online. In the developing world, Internet penetration will reach 31% by the end of 2013. In addition, more and more content is being delivered through mobile platforms and there are, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), 6.8 billion mobile subscriptions, 5.2 billion of them in the developing world.

“To take advantage of this emerging world, we have two projects that we believe will help the process of connecting creators and performers in the developing world with the nascent global digital marketplace. They both relate to data management in the broad sense, since data will be the basis of the marketplace for creative works. The first is seeking to develop a new voluntary quality assurance standard for collective management organizations, which are the entities that hold data on creative works in order to manage those works. The aim is to provide guidance and support for collective management organizations to achieve high performance levels of transparency, accountability and governance of the benefit of the rights holders they represent. The second project aims to enhance the IT system for management of data by collective management organizations, putting them in a position to be able to join the global market for creative works. These projects offer exciting prospects for contributing to a vibrant and truly global marketplace for creative works and for assisting the developing world to translate its cultural and creative assets into commercial assets in that marketplace.

“For the Organization to make its mark and to contribute to the increasingly complex and sophisticated world in which intellectual property operates, it needs first-class staff. I should like to express my gratitude to the women and men of the International Bureau who have contributed so much to the successes of the Organization in the past twelve months. I should like also to express my gratitude to the Member States for their unceasing engagement, commitment and support.

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

17. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 117 States, one intergovernmental organization, and four non-governmental organizations made statements concerning Agenda Item 5: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), International Video Federation (IVF), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) and Third World Network (TWN).

18. All speakers congratulated the Chair on her election to office. They also thanked the Director General for all his work and untiring efforts in the cause of IP, together with the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the Assemblies meetings.

19. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), stated that it recognized the advantages of the proposed design law treaty for all countries and supported the negotiation process leading to its adoption. In order for the Treaty to have a positive outcome for GRULAC members, the instrument must contain an article addressing the issue of technical assistance. Once such an article had been negotiated, users within the region would be able further to enhance their respective capacities and thus benefit greatly under the new system. The Delegation highlighted the importance of the IGC for GRULAC members. At the meeting of the IGC in July 2013, GRULAC had tabled a road map proposal for the future work of the Committee. The Group wished to see an extended and improved mandate for the IGC and called on those present to convene a diplomatic conference on the IGC during the 2014/15 biennium. In that regard, the Delegation requested the Assemblies to approve the convening of an ambassadorial meeting the week before IGC 26 in 2014, with the aim of setting the political tone of future discussions within the IGC and avoiding the regurgitation of views which had previously been tried and tested. The Delegation announced that the procedure adopted concerning the establishment of WIPO external offices had attracted GRULAC's undivided attention and the Group hoped that a positive conclusion on that issue could be reached during the present Assemblies. The Delegation reiterated the region's legitimate expectation to be added to the five proposed new offices for the 2014/15 biennium. The dynamism of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding IP and innovation, which generated 30 per cent of the demand of the global IP system, deserved no further delay with respect to the establishment of an office in the region. The General Assemblies were called upon to establish a Working Group open to all Member States, which would propose a framework for the establishment of future WIPO external offices. The Delegation considered the contribution of the WIPO Academy to be vital to efforts to shape the national development strategies of GRULAC members. Indeed, GRULAC members should receive the requisite assistance aimed at enhancing the Academy's educational and training programs on matters related to IPRs. The Delegation wished to see the Academy continue its work on increasing knowledge of IP within the region. WIPO was praised for supporting the implementation of the 45 recommendations of the Development Agenda (DA) and the Delegation highlighted the value of the projects of the Development Agenda for Intellectual Property (CDIP). Notwithstanding GRULAC's numerous requests concerning issues related to the geographical distribution of WIPO staff, the Group considered that the proposed strategy of HRMD had not adequately resolved the issue and felt that nothing had been done to change matters in that regard. As a result, GRULAC remained at an unenviable disadvantage. GRULAC also placed a high degree of importance on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), seeing a clear link between them and the level of innovation. The Group would like to see a standard program in WIPO on SMEs and the implementation of a system which would effectively monitor and strengthen that program over the 2014/15 biennium. GRULAC also supported the idea of a regional coordinator within the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Sufficient funds should be allocated from WIPO's budget to cover such a post. The Delegation urged all groups to engage further in discussions on how to improve the functioning and mechanisms of WIPO, including the appointment and rotation of officers within the Assemblies. The Delegation also considered the selection process of the Director General to be very important and expressed confidence in the transparency and inclusive nature of the up-coming process. On the matter of development expenditure, GRULAC called for an effective index to evaluate efforts made by WIPO to bridge the knowledge and technology gap between developed and developing countries. On Global Challenges and Intellectual Property, the Delegation understood that, for that Program to be effective, its activities must be reported to Members in the appropriate Committee, such as the CDIP, so as to engage countries in participating. The Delegation considered that, given the volume of work before the Assemblies, the WIPO Forum 2013 should not take up too much time.

20. The Delegation of Poland, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), welcomed the success of the diplomatic conference that had resulted in the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The CEBS Group attached great importance to the balance and

effectiveness of the international IP system and considered IP an important tool for sustainable growth and wealth creation. Assistance provided by WIPO needed to be tailored to the needs of countries at different levels of economic development and with different IP needs. Following the economic and financial crisis, many countries in the CEBS region had considered IP key to their recovery and that had led to a more systematic approach to IP and demand for national IP strategies would continue to grow. SMEs in the CEBS region were beginning to supply goods and services in IP-intensive industries. For that reason, WIPO's normative initiatives would facilitate business and create new opportunities for SMEs. Industrial designs in particular were a form of protection accessible to all countries regardless of economic status. The development of harmonized procedures for industrial design law in the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) was particularly valuable. The adoption of a design law treaty would benefit countries at every stage of economic development. The CEBS Group considered that the draft treaty text had reached maturity and that the diplomatic conference could be convened in 2014. The Delegation welcomed the offer by the Russian Federation to host the conference. Two copyright treaties had been concluded in the previous two years and the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) should focus in future on formulating a proposal for a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations with a view to convening a diplomatic conference on that topic. Several countries in the CEBS region attached great importance to the protection of geographical indicators. The Delegation commended the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (Appellations of Origin) for approving the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a revised Lisbon Agreement in 2015. There was a need to build respect for IP and the Delegation looked forward to the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE). The CEBS Group recognized the importance of the work of the IGC, and looked forward to discussing the Program and Budget for the 2014/2015 biennium.

21. The Delegation of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the African Group, noted that scientific and technological changes and the innovations they implied had a positive impact on the international community as a whole. On the strength of that observation, the Group wished to reaffirm its commitment to the three requirements stemming from WIPO's mandate. The first was the special importance it attached to the promotion and adoption of public IP policies. The second priority for the Group in the common quest for capacity-building was the promotion of new standards designed to foster mutually advantageous cooperation and development, as well as broadly-shared progress. The Group's third expectation concerned technical assistance to help cope, in the spirit of solidarity, with the negative impact of the differing development levels of African Group members. If those three needs were met in a committed and sincere fashion by each of the members, then that achievement would not fail to have a positive impact on all negotiations conducted under the auspices of WIPO. Moreover, it was precisely that kind of spirit that had made it possible to reach agreement in Marrakesh on the main objectives set in terms of exceptions and limitations for the visually disabled. The Group welcomed the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Hopefully, the success of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty would inspire future negotiations, in particular those conducted within WIPO's IGC to ensure the protection of such resources and knowledge. While welcoming progress made throughout the year, the Group hoped that WIPO would be in a position to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of one or more international legal instruments on those issues, which were of particular interest to the African continent. The Group was understandably concerned by the lack of political resolve displayed by some of its partners when it came to efforts to finalize the work of the IGC. As the General Assemblies prepared to renew the IGC's mandate for the 2014/15 biennium, the Group highlighted the need for the adoption, by the end of that mandate, of one or more legally-binding instruments for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The three texts which had emerged from the IGC's thematic sessions must serve as the basis for the continuation and conclusion of negotiations. With a view to accelerating and finalizing those efforts, the Group recommended the adoption of a clearly-defined mandate, combined with a deadline for the convening of a diplomatic conference during the 2014/15 biennium. As for the work program on exceptions and limitations

adopted at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the SCCR, the Group welcomed efforts which had led to the establishment of an ambitious work program on exceptions and limitations to benefit educational and research institutions and libraries and archives, aimed at defining of one or more international legal instruments. In view of those significant developments, Member States were urged to display a constructive attitude, so as to ensure the success of those negotiations. Finally, with regard to industrial designs, the Group reiterated its commitment, expressed during the previous Session of the SCT, to drive forward negotiations on a draft treaty for the international registration of industrial designs, by submitting proposed wording to balance the draft. In the Group's view, such a balance would be struck through the drafting of legal provisions, within the framework of the proposed instrument, covering the provision of technical assistance to reduce the cost of implementing the treaty and build capacity on the African continent in the field of industrial designs. The Group was prepared to work with all Delegations to strike such a balance and achieve consensus on the adoption of the draft treaty. With regard to the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, the WIPO Member States were called on to adopt the Secretariat's proposal to open two external offices in Africa during the 2014/15 biennium. Africa was the only continent with no WIPO representation whatsoever, and required at least two external offices to promote its innovation and creativity and to meet its IP needs and aspirations. Once approval had been secured for the opening of those two offices, the Group would start internal consultations to determine their location. The Group felt that WIPO must pursue its efforts to mainstream development into all of its programs and activities, while reforming and stepping up technical assistance and capacity-building for the African countries. The Group also hoped to see better allocation of budgetary resources to development activities, noting that such allocation could be improved by applying a new and more precise definition of development expenditure, as proposed by the Chair of the PBC. Efforts to follow up the 2009 General Assemblies decision on the coordination mechanism had to be pursued, with a view to improving the quality of reporting and ensuring that the PBC and the CWS contributed to the effective implementation of the DA recommendations. The Group deemed it important to step up consultations with Member States on the issue of governance. In that respect, it recalled the proposal concerning the improvement of governance at WIPO put forward at the last PBC Session, and hoped that it would be examined by the General Assemblies with a view to launching a formal process for the discussion of all of the proposals submitted by Member States on the topic and to submitting a report to the General Assemblies in 2014. Moreover, there was a need to draft a more effective human resources strategy to ensure balanced and equitable regional representation. In conclusion, the Group welcomed the results obtained by the Organization over the past year, which were largely due to improved communication channels between Member States. The efforts made by the Director General of WIPO ran along similar lines, namely, the establishment of a particularly fruitful dialogue based on respect, trust and a constructive attitude.

22. The Delegation of India, speaking on behalf of the Asian Group, congratulated all concerned on the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty in June 2013 as a successful follow-on to the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (BTAP), and hoped that implementation of the Treaty would soon follow. The Delegation explained that the region placed high importance on IP as an important contributor to socio-economic growth and technological development. PCT filings were increasing in the region and two members of the Group, Saudi Arabia and Iran (Islamic Republic of), had joined the PCT system in 2013 while India had acceded to the Madrid Protocol. The Delegation endorsed the objective to seek greater balance in IP through safeguarding the rights of innovators as well as the needs of users. The Delegation saluted steps taken by WIPO to enhance the development orientation of the organization's work and to mainstream the DA, stressing the importance of contextualizing IPRs in the wider development framework to ensure that IP regimes in different countries were appropriately tailored to foster socio-economic development. The Delegation expressed satisfaction at WIPO's sound financial status at the end of 2012 and took note of the reports by the Internal Audit and Oversight Division (IAOD), the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) and the External Auditor, and looked forward to action being taken on their

respective recommendations. The Delegation urged rapid finalization of the revised definition of “Development Expenditure” and a decision on discussions of WIPO Governance issues. The Delegation stressed the importance for developing countries of the work undertaken by WIPO in the area of Global Challenges under Program 18 on IP and Global Challenges, focusing on Health, Food Security and Climate Change, and sought a proper discussion in a WIPO Committee for Member States to remain up-to-date on that work, so as to guide the Program where required and to benefit from Program output in national contexts where possible. On the issue of WIPO external offices, the Delegation noted the Group’s attention to the ongoing debate and that several Member States, including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Jordan and the Republic of Korea had expressed interest. With respect to the pertinent proposal of the Secretariat for the next biennium, the Delegation expressed concern at the lack of transparency in the selection process and stated that the outcome of debates at the PBC demonstrated the need for a Member State-driven process to develop guidelines for establishing new external offices. With this in mind, the Delegation was willing to work constructively with all parties to resolve the issue. Addressing the normative agenda, the Delegation hailed the considerable progress made in the three texts on genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), while noting that further work was still required supporting the renewal of the IGC’s mandate for the 2014/15 biennium with a view to finalizing the text of an international legal instrument for protections in these domains. Following the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, the Delegation looked forward to discussions on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions and persons with other disabilities, and for libraries and archives. The Delegation was similarly encouraged by the progress made on the Broadcasting Treaty and hoped to arrive at closure in the negotiations based on the 2007 General Assembly mandate for the protection of broadcasting organizations on a signal-based approach. The Delegation noted the progress made in negotiations for a draft design law treaty, but considered that further work was still needed to address drafting of articles and the provisions for technical assistance and capacity building, and declared its willingness to engage constructively on the issue.

23. The Delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of Group B, commended the Organization’s work on the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, acknowledged the achievements of the Strategic Realignment Program (SRP), and appreciated the regular reporting Member States received in that area. WIPO was different from other United Nations (UN) bodies and specialized agencies. Since approximately 93 per cent of WIPO’s income came from fees paid by businesses seeking to protect their IP, those businesses should be more involved in the Organization’s activities. The meeting with game-changing innovators during the current Assemblies should be seen as a first step towards a more comprehensive approach to industry within the WIPO framework. Group B welcomed the Human Resources Report and Strategy. Human resources were important to the Organization not only in terms of cost but also as a vector for further improvement in WIPO’s normative and technical activities. It would be interesting to hear the views of staff on that topic. While Group B had been disappointed by a lack of consultation on WIPO’s proposal for new external offices, it supported the establishment of a working group and was ready to engage with other Member States on the basis of clear principles and a sound business case. The Delegation expressed satisfaction with the programs approved for 2014/15 during the last two sessions of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) and looked forward to further cost-efficiency measures, but noted with concern the significant increase in the draft budget. Group B attached great importance to the activities of WIPO oversight bodies and acknowledged the good cooperation between those bodies and the Secretariat. The Delegation looked forward to the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a design law treaty, and welcomed the progress made in the context of the IGC.

24. The Delegation of China gave a brief account of the country’s progress in IP development over the previous year. It indicated that it was the fifth year since the promulgation and implementation of China’s National IP Strategy, and the country’s capability to create, use,

protect and manage IP kept improving during the five years. The Delegation stated that China was taking stock of the experience and lessons of these years with the aim to laying a solid foundation for future work. In the area of IP legislation, its patent law and copyright law were undergoing another round of amendment, and the revision of its trademark law had just been completed. In respect of application figures, it reported that the first eight months of 2013 saw over 449,000 patent applications filed, an increase of 23.3 per cent over the same period of 2012; a total of 13,800 PCT applications were received, an increase of 13.8 per cent. In the first seven months of 2013, some 1,016,000 applications for trademark registration were filed, increasing by 7.1 per cent. The Delegation further reported that the number of copyright registrations recorded in 2012 reached 688,000, 49 per cent more than in 2011. The Delegation mentioned these figures to highlight the fact that IP was going through a period of rapid growth in the country, which explained the eagerness with which China was anticipating to host WIPO's external office. It expressed its willingness to provide all necessary support for that purpose. In addition, it was open to consideration by WIPO of establishing, circumstances permitting, external offices in countries that had expressed the interest. The Delegation expressed its deep appreciation for the speech given by the Director General, noting the Organization's outstanding achievements in the previous year. It further congratulated the Organization on the successful adoption in June 2013 of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, as well as on the major progress made in the negotiations on the design law treaty and the international legal instruments on the protection of TK, GR and folklore. From the Director General's speech, the Delegation had taken note of the offer by the Russian Federation to host the diplomatic conference on the design law treaty, for which it expressed its support. The Delegation continued with a report on the deepening of the sustained cooperation between China and WIPO over the previous year. In 2013, joint efforts by the two sides resulted in the acceleration of China's process of joining the Hague Agreement. It also recalled the important events jointly organized by the two sides, including the Roving Seminar on the Protection of Industrial Designs, the Advanced Roving Seminar on PCT, and the WIPO Roundtable on the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. The Delegation availed itself of the opportunity to extend its gratitude to WIPO for the friendly support and assistance given to China over the years, and reaffirmed its commitment to further broaden and deepen its cooperation with WIPO in the future. The Delegation then shared its observations on three relevant issues within the framework of WIPO. It first underlined the need to allow full play to as well as expand the important role of the PCT as an existing international patent application system, and the need to make the system more efficient, with adequate attention given to the needs of MSMEs. The Delegation then called for full attention to the concerns of developing countries on the DA, and emphasized the need for continued and adequate human and financial resources to ensure the implementation of the DA recommendations. It further highlighted the need to advance the work of the IGC, and expressed the hope for an early conclusion of legally binding international instruments through further consensus building. Before concluding its statement, the Delegation stated that, as a responsible developing country, China would continue to support the work of the General Assembly and other WIPO committees, while deepening the cooperation with other countries and with WIPO, making its contribution to the improvement and development of the international IP system. As regards the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, the Delegation announced that, to fully promote IP trading, Hong Kong, China set up a Working Group in March 2013 to formulate relevant policies and measures, as well as to start the work on the standardization of international IP trading. The State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) and the Intellectual Property Department of Hong Kong, China had joined hands to promote IP trading. It referred to a forum held in Hong Kong, China in 2012 on the global development trends of IP trading, which attracted more than 1,400 professionals and leading business persons from all over the world. The Delegation concluded by extending an invitation to attend the 2013 forum that would take place on December 5 and 6 in Hong Kong, China.

25. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), said that the Group appreciated the sustained efforts made by WIPO to develop the system of protection of IPRs. The activities of WIPO assisted in

the implementation of modern mechanisms that were aimed at strengthening the capacity and capabilities of national patent offices. In that regard, the Group actively cooperated with WIPO and the patent offices of countries from other regional groups. The Group called upon the Secretariat to continue placing special emphasis on capacity building programs as an essential part of overall development. The Group stressed that the activities of WIPO in the field of development and capacity building should be balanced in nature and, in particular, should meet the needs and requirements of countries with emerging economies; aim to modernize infrastructure and overcome gaps in knowledge and technology; and help provide access to specialized databases. The Group noted that, in recent years, WIPO had implemented a range of successful projects to provide technical assistance to countries from the Group. It highly appreciated those projects and expressed the hope that fruitful cooperation in that field would continue. Significant progress had been made by the SCT on the draft design law treaty that was intended to simplify registration procedures. Given the progress achieved, the Group supported the proposal to convene a diplomatic conference to adopt a design law treaty in 2014. In that connection, the Group emphasized that one of its member countries – the Russian Federation – had offered to host the conference. The Group greatly valued the work of the ACE as a forum for the exchange of information on IPR enforcement between countries from different regions. Cooperation and coordinated efforts to tackle the global phenomenon, particularly among law enforcement bodies at the national, regional and international levels, was of primary importance. The continuation of work in the field through mechanisms such as expert missions, visits, seminars and practical training was both appropriate and very useful. The Group also appreciated the work of the SCCR and welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. In the view of the Group, the mechanism for cross-border exchange of published works in accessible formats, provided for in the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, would allow the harmonization of limitations and exceptions and increase the overall number of accessible works by eliminating the duplication of work and making exchange more effective. The Group also supported further work on the draft treaty on protection of broadcasting organizations in order to soon be in a position to make a decision on convening a diplomatic conference to conclude the treaty. The work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) was welcomed and it was hoped that the Committee would continue its work through a balanced program that aimed to further the development of the international patent system for the benefit of all Member States. The CDIP was also thanked for its work. The Group supported the work of the IGC and appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat to prepare international documents for its consideration. Regarding the immediate challenges facing WIPO, the Group stressed the importance of opening new external offices, including in Moscow, for the effective work of the Organization. The Group supported the proposal by Ukraine that the State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine (SIPS) should be awarded status as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the PCT. In conclusion, the Group expressed its deep gratitude to Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and to the Secretariat for their excellent cooperation with the Group, constant readiness to offer any assistance required and overall dedication to the protection of IP. The Group said that it looked forward, in the coming years, to the development of active cooperation under the auspices of WIPO.

26. The Representative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) said that IP and innovation were an integral part of the economies of ASEAN member states as they increased their commitment to higher value-added activities and continued to make progress in creativity and innovation, as reflected in the Global Innovation Index 2013. ASEAN had been one of the fastest growing markets for the previous three years. Those achievements would not have been possible without WIPO's assistance in shaping a balanced global IP agenda and the capacity-building programs of the WSO. ASEAN recognized the importance of WIPO-administered treaties to helping businesses and rights holders to obtain IP protection while bearing in mind the developmental and social dimensions of IPRs. Following the accession of Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines to the PCT and the Madrid Protocol, respectively, ASEAN included eight PCT and three Madrid Protocol Contracting States. ASEAN member

states were committed to acceding to WIPO-administered treaties as part of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan. Brunei Darussalam would soon deposit its instrument of accession to the Hague agreement, making it the second ASEAN member state after Singapore to do so. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had also committed to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement at the time of its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Thailand were working towards accession to the Madrid Protocol by 2015. ASEAN member states were proud to have participated in the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Member States commended the adoption of the Treaty, which cemented their commitment to the disabled, and provided a framework for delivering information to the world's most marginalized citizens in the digital age. Within ASEAN, copyright exceptions and limitations for the visually impaired and persons with disabilities were a key issue for the ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation (AWGIPC). Indonesia would sign the Treaty during the current WIPO Assemblies. ASEAN member states looked forward to ratification of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The first meeting of AWGIPC and WIPO was held at the time of the 2012 Assemblies. Areas of priority for WIPO's engagement with ASEAN, and activities under the ASEAN IPRs Action Plan 2011-2015, had been discussed. WIPO had worked with AWGIPC and jointly hosted with Thailand the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications. WIPO was working with AWGIPC to assist ASEAN member states with IT infrastructure modernization. ASEAN lauded WIPO's cooperation with the Philippines in the deployment of an Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) for patents and trademarks. WIPO had also supported ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC), a regional work-sharing arrangement. ASEAN member states had agreed to join the Centralized Access to Search and Examination (WIPO-CASE) system. In the area of capacity building, the WSO had in place over 50 programs to train and equip IP practitioners from more than 23 countries in the area of IP management and protection, including programs on copyright exceptions and limitations for the visually impaired, and the administration of collective management organizations. ASEAN had planned further activities in collaboration with the WSO and the Brands and Designs Sector. At the 41st AWGIPC Meeting, WIPO had offered a suite of services in areas such as capacity-building for trademark and patent examiners, technology commercialization centers, and IP awareness and education. In addition to regional support, ASEAN noted that WIPO had country-specific bilateral programs in place in the region. WIPO had also assisted ASEAN member states with national IP strategies and policies. The Director General had visited Myanmar to discuss new areas of IP cooperation, and Thailand to attend the General Assemblies of the World Blind Union (WBU) and International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment. WIPO had assisted Indonesia with the deployment of the IPAS. The Director General had also visited Singapore to address the Global Forum on IP held during IP Week @ SG. Workshops and an Appropriate Technology Competition had also been organized in Viet Nam. WIPO and ASEAN had held recent meetings and ASEAN was pleased to continue collaboration with WIPO through annual exchanges and at AWGIPC meetings. Good progress had been made since the last Assemblies and ASEAN reiterated its support for WIPO's work to improve IP systems in developing countries.

27. The Delegation of Lithuania, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), stated that EU member states accounted for over a third of WIPO filing revenue and attached great importance to the creation, maintenance and improvement of a balanced and effective international IP system. The impact of IP on the economy was increasing and sustainable innovation, creativity, growth, jobs and a secure environment for investment in scientific and industrial research and the fostering of innovative products and services all required a smooth global IP framework. The Delegation of the EU therefore reiterated its support for WIPO in its global mission to promote creativity in all countries. The Delegation welcomed the meeting with game-changing innovators that would take place during the General Assemblies and that would provide a greater sense of purpose. The Secretariat was encouraged to facilitate more interaction with innovators and creators in the work of WIPO, an approach which would reflect the Organization's unique nature and funding structure. The Delegation reaffirmed the support

of the EU and its member states for the appropriate implementation of the DA recommendations and noted that, for optimal added value, WIPO's technical assistance and capacity building in the field of cooperation for development should be based on transparency, good governance and best practice. Negotiations relating to the protection of broadcasting organizations were of great importance to the EU, and, although much work remained to be done before a diplomatic conference could be convened, the progress achieved in discussions in April 2013 was encouraging and further progress should be made given the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The EU aimed to exchange ideas and best practices that all WIPO Member States could take into account when implementing limitations and exceptions in their national legislation. The Delegation highlighted the need to start reflecting on the future work program of the SCCR, where WIPO could play a leading role on a number of issues. Regarding the SCT, work on the draft provisions on industrial design law and practice was welcomed by the Delegation. A design law formalities treaty was considered to be within reach, since there had been sufficient time for discussion and impact studies had been carried out. There was a recognized need to provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing and least developed countries (LDCs) for the successful implementation of a design law formalities treaty and the EU and its member states had, in response to requests, put forward a draft article for discussion and withdrawn their proposal for a resolution on the matter. It was clear that the remaining minor issues would only be resolved with the impetus provided by a timetable and that the time had come to set a date for a diplomatic conference in 2014 for the establishment of a treaty on design law formalities. The EU and its member states recognized the importance of the work carried out by the IGC and remained committed to negotiations on TK, TCEs and GRs. While the Delegation looked forward to establishing a reasonable and pragmatic work program, the financial implications of holding extra meetings and the goal of managing meetings more efficiently should be kept in mind. The Delegation reiterated its understanding that any international instruments created should be non-binding, flexible and sufficiently clear. It highlighted the fact that no decision had been reached on the nature of the instruments to be adopted, and that their nature could only be determined once the IGC had established clear and consolidated texts. The agreement on future work at the 19th Session of the SCP was welcomed and the EU remained keen to advance the work of the Committee for the further harmonization of international patent law. Regarding the PCT Working Group, the EU and its member states strongly supported its valuable work, which would benefit all users, and welcomed the outcome of its sixth session. The procedures of the PCT system could be further streamlined and the Delegation stressed that the Working Group should focus on the more effective functioning of the PCT system, so that it could deliver results that met the needs of applicants, Offices and third parties in all Contracting States, with the aim of facilitating innovation. The EU and its member states greatly appreciated the work of the ACE and looked forward to the Committee's ninth session. Intensified efforts would allow the Committee to build a shared understanding of the effects and impact of IPRs infringement and would enable Member States to adopt effective prevention and enforcement strategies. Given the extent and scale of global counterfeiting and piracy, it should be possible to hold fruitful exchanges of information and views in order to combat the phenomenon. In conclusion, the Delegation stated that the EU and its member states were convinced that positive and balanced results could be achieved for all issues arising during the General Assemblies and called upon all WIPO Member States to approach the meeting with a similarly positive attitude.

28. The Delegation of Brazil, speaking on behalf of the Development Agenda Group (DAG), stated that its 19 country members considered the implementation of the 45 recommendations of the DA to be a priority. After six years of studies and discussions, Member States were still being urged under DA Recommendation 18 to accelerate the IGC process. A decision must be taken during the current General Assemblies to accelerate the process towards a diplomatic conference. The Delegation said that discussions on WIPO governance had regularly appeared in the PBC agenda, although they had been unproductive. In prior sessions of the PBC, the African Group had presented a proposal for discussion that could form the basis of a formal process of consultations on the subject and the Delegation urged all other Delegations to

engage constructively in a formal consultation process to draft a policy that would render WIPO activities more efficient, participation and transparent. The Delegation recalled that, as a specialized agency of the UN, WIPO needed to be member-driven. However, Member States were limited to three minutes each for general statements, while a parallel ongoing event would stall discussions for two hours. The Delegation felt that, although these events were important, they should not affect substantive discussion among Member States without a decision on the subject. Governance issues were not only present in the organization of the General Assemblies, but also in other areas such as the implementation of a SRP that had not been mandated by Member States. The role of the Member States was to re-assert that the service orientation of WIPO should be aimed at meeting their requests. The HRMD needed to reformulate its strategy in order to promote diversity, as more than 50 per cent of WIPO staff came from one region and there was no strategy in place aimed at bridging the gap. Turning to the decision on Program 18, IP and Global Challenges, the Delegation urged Member States to approve a reporting mechanism to the CDIP to inform and allow countries to provide guidance to the program and its activities. This would not only increase the transparency of the initiative, but would also engage Member States in its implementation. The Delegation referred to a new definition of development expenditure related to the Program and Budget and pointed out the importance for Member States of using an appropriate index to identify budget allocations aimed at bridging the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries. On the implementation of the CDIP mandate, the Delegation regretted that the coordination and monetary mechanism had no oversight concerning the CWS and the PBC. The development dimension was an integral part of discussions on standards and budget. Some delegations still hindered the full implementation of the CDIP mandate related to the debate on IP and development. On discussions on a Design Law, the Delegation reiterated its position that capacity building and technical cooperation needed to be addressed properly in an article forming an integral part of the instrument.

29. The Delegation of Benin, speaking on behalf of LDCs, noted with satisfaction that WIPO had carried out significant activities within the framework of the noble objectives of its SRP. In that regard, among other things, WIPO had made significant progress in terms of the following: the more strategic use of information technology (IT); the modernization of the human resources regulatory framework and the strengthening of capacities and of knowledge-sharing among staff members; the implementation of improved systems; increased visibility for WIPO within social networks; and, the mobilization of the external offices in order to ensure improved provision of services. The Group had expressed its appreciation concerning the value of the impact of those activities on development. In particular, the Group welcomed the cooperation activities between WIPO and LDCs. Said cooperation activities had made it possible to: establish TISCs in LDCs; strengthen the technical competences of public and private sector stakeholders; provide legal assistance concerning the drafting of policies and strategies in the field of IP and innovation; facilitate access to research concerning development and to specialized information on patents; and, create marks and commercialize products of interest to LDCs. The Group was in favor of the adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, 21 per cent of which was accounted for by development issues. Said Budget would make it possible to implement important projects that were designed with LDCs in mind and that were linked to the main areas of action of WIPO identified during the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), held in Istanbul in 2011. The Group congratulated the Director General on all the initiatives and efforts undertaken during his time at the head of WIPO and praised his leadership. The Director General had committed WIPO to pursuing and intensifying work focusing on LDCs in order to improve their participation in the international knowledge economy, as well as to encouraging the inventors, researchers, entrepreneurs and other innovators in those countries to seek out appropriate solutions to the scientific and technical problems existing at the national level. As to copyright, the Group recalled the important results achieved at the end of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Group encouraged the Member States and the Secretariat to spare no effort with regard to accelerating the entry into force and effective implementation of the

Treaty. The Group highlighted the importance of the work carried out within the SCCR concerning the protection of broadcasting bodies and limitations and exceptions in favor of the promotion of teaching and research. Appreciation was expressed for the constructive approach adopted by various Delegations within the IGC, an approach which had made it possible to make significant progress. The discussions in question were of particular importance to LDCs and those countries encouraged the Assembly to give the IGC a mandate to accelerate its work with a view to the adoption of an international legal instrument or instruments that would guarantee the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. With regard to industrial designs, the Group felt that a high level of consensus had been achieved concerning the draft articles and supported the convocation of a diplomatic conference for the conclusion of a treaty. The Group was also in favor of the opening of external offices which would carry out activities to strengthen the use of IP, intensify cooperation concerning development and increase the visibility of WIPO activities. In conclusion, the Group called for a spirit of compromise on the part of all the delegations, in order to ensure that the work of the General Assemblies was crowned with success.

30. The Delegation of Ghana supported the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. WIPO was to be commended for its work concerning development and employment-creation and the Delegation acknowledged efforts made to prioritize development activities in recognition of the role of science, innovation and technology as key elements for improving competitiveness and economic growth. Ghana had followed with keen interest discussions on the role of the IP system in the economies of developing and LDCs and appreciated the interest shown regarding development as an ultimate aim of the global IP system. Where the WIPO Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium was concerned, it was also pleased with the steps taken to improve transparency and enhance the participation of Member States. Hard work had led to the successful outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and the signing of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Ghana attached great importance to the work of various Standing Committees, in particular that of the SCP, and looked forward to the continuation of its work, with an agenda that took into account the needs of all stakeholders while supporting the goals of the DA. It was critical that work to improve the trademarks and industrial design system should be pursued and that the process should resolve issues concerning the protection of country names and related aspects of the international domain system. Progress in the IGC had resulted in the development of a draft legal text and the Delegation was convinced that the IGC mandate would be prolonged and its work successfully concluded, hopefully leading to the convening of a diplomatic conference and the adoption of an international legal instrument. Ghana was actively pursuing a favorable climate for innovation and, in that regard, would launch its IP policy in November 2014. Ghana had also reviewed its Trademarks Act and Industrial Design Act, with a view to incorporating specific provisions on counterfeiting. Ghana had benefitted from various activities and technical assistance programs and was encouraged by the impact of WIPO's capacity-building activities at the national level, including its cooperation activities with development partners. In that regard, Ghana was eager to strengthen cooperation activities with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) and extended its gratitude to other Member States, namely, Canada and the Republic of Korea, for their support and assistance.

31. The Delegation of Japan welcomed the historic success of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty in June 2013, following the adoption of the BTAP in 2012. The Delegation stated that the creation, protection and utilization of IP were currently all critical drivers for the worldwide economy and global society. WIPO's global application and registration systems, such as the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System, the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks and the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, formed the basis of WIPO's activities and were also an important tool for all innovators. Despite the difficult global economic situation, the number of applications filed in Japan within the framework of the PCT and the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks had increased by 12.7 per cent and 37.5 per cent respectively compared to the previous year. That

simple fact proved that, alongside the globalization of the activities of Japanese companies in the field of IP, the WIPO Japan Office was achieving positive results through its promotional activities. At the same time, citizens, industries and academies worldwide eagerly awaited the international standards activities of WIPO, in particular the improvement of the IP systems. In that context, the Delegation hailed the real progress made by WIPO concerning the drafting of a treaty on industrial design law, which would make it possible to harmonize procedures in that field. The Delegation was firmly convinced that the creation of a regulatory framework to safeguard the economic value of industrial designs would benefit not only the large companies of the developed countries but also SMEs and all individual and independent creators throughout the world. The Delegation wished to take the opportunity to report on the cooperation activities carried out by Japan in conjunction with WIPO. Through the use of the Funds-in-Trust deposited with WIPO, Japan had contributed, and continued to contribute, to the improvement of the IP system in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa and other regions home to developing countries. Referring to training, the Delegation stated that Japan had welcomed 4,000 foreign examiner interns. As to development in Africa, a conference had been organized in the United Republic of Tanzania in March 2013, at which African ministers had discussed the importance of IP policies for the development of Africa. During the current year, the Government of Japan would substantially increase the amount of its trust funds deposited with WIPO by some 5.9 million Swiss francs. With regard to WIPO's commitment in the field of IT, the Delegation considered that, in view of the fact that the number of patent applications filed was rising sharply, it had become vital to find a solution to what was a common challenge worldwide and to carry out examinations in an efficient manner in both developed and developing countries. In that regard, the Delegation welcomed the efforts made by WIPO concerning the implementation of a technological platform called "WIPO-CASE" that would allow small and medium-sized IP offices (IPOs) to obtain results as a part of searches and examinations. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) had created the "One Portal Dossier", which enabled the world's five largest IPOs, known as the "IP5", to obtain search results in those fields. WIPO and the IP5 were currently working together to develop the 'Global Dossier', which would become the IT basis for all the international IP systems. Furthermore, Japan also intended to actively take part in the discussions on the quality of PCT-related products and results, and wished to contribute to improvement in that regard. The Delegation concluded its statement by referring to Japan's "Abenomics" growth strategy. The year 2013 marked a fresh impetus for Japanese IP policy. At the meeting of the Council of Ministers in June 2013, the Government of Japan had adopted the "Japan Revitalization Strategy – Japan is Back". Accordingly, by making the best possible use of the flexibility and creativity of the Japanese people, the Government had decided to make a general effort to respond to the four following challenges: the implementation of an IP system designed to improve Japanese industrial competitiveness; the provision of support to SMEs and new companies in order to better master IP; the improvement of the IP environment in order to adapt to the intelligent digital network; and, the strengthening of creativity. In order to tackle those four challenges, the Commissioner of the JPO had stated that he was determined to strengthen the examination system, in particular the quality-management system; improve the environment for research into the state-of-the-art abroad; and, define a new objective of less than "20 months" for the final action, the aim being to make the JPO the office with the world's highest quality and the fastest patent examinations.

32. The Delegation of India expressed pleasure at the successful conclusion in 2013 of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, and reported that India's accession to the Madrid Protocol on April 8, 2013 had come into force in July 2013. This positive development indicated India's commitment to creating an investor-friendly environment by reducing transaction costs for entities seeking trademark protection in India. The Delegation reported that international search/preliminary examination under the PCT would be operational in India from October 15, 2013 and it requested Member States to utilize the facilities of the Indian Patents and Trademark Office. The Delegation confirmed India's willingness to sign the Marrakesh VIP Treaty as soon as internal formalities had been finalized. Observing that India had a

well-developed legislative, administrative and judicial framework for the safeguard of IPRs which met its international obligations while utilizing the flexibility of the international regime to address its developmental concerns, the Delegation described India's IP regime as continuously evolving to meet the needs of a dynamic economy. India had declared 2010-2020 as the Decade of Innovation, and a National Innovation Council had been set up to formulate and implement appropriate policy interventions to stimulate innovation, while the India-Inclusive Innovation Fund set up with Government cooperation aimed to incentivize innovation. In order to encourage industrial R&D through international cooperation, the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) had been established, while the International Innovation Foundation had been set up for scouting and sustaining grassroots innovations in the aim to make India an innovative and creative society. Noting that the objective of the TRIPS Agreement was that the protection and enforcement of IPRs should contribute to technology transfer and dissemination, the Delegation observed that while States were mandated to protect IP, technology transfer at the industry level was largely unregulated. It was therefore desirable to have a norm-setting regime on technology transfer to provide structure and enable better governance of technology transfers between parties. The Delegation recommended that WIPO, under its mandate to promote IP as a means of achieving economic development, include this issue as part of its norm-setting agenda. The Delegation commented that as manufacturing had increasingly to become innovation-based, high-technology patents thus needed to be incentivized, and that the patent regime should concentrate on genuine research and development (R&D), rather than on litigation and defensive patent acquisitions. The Delegation confirmed that India supported the finalization of an international legal instrument for effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs and sought to convene a diplomatic conference in the 2014/15 biennium. It urged Member States to engage constructively on the issue and to agree on a work program fitting the mandate given to the IGC by the General Assembly in 2009 and 2011. The Delegation reported that India had hosted an international conference of experts involved in the IGC process in January 2013 and that with similar initiatives being taken by other developing countries, this process was proving helpful in identifying and debating the concerns of different sides and was conducive to the overall negotiation process. The Delegation also noted the progress made in the SCT in respect of the design law treaty and, while believing that national-level flexibility was essential and should be allowed, expressed its readiness to engage in the issue with an open mind. On the issue of external offices, the Delegation felt that clear guidelines to govern their set-up would ensure transparency in the selection procedure, and reiterated India's interest in receiving such an office.

33. The Delegation of Chile said that the year which had gone by since the 2012 General Assemblies had been very positive, both for WIPO and for its country. The greatest achievement for WIPO and all of its Member States had been the signature of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. That agreement had marked a "before" and "after" in multilateral negotiations on IP and represented a turning point in the balanced relationship that must exist between the IP system and the fundamental rights of citizens, in the case at hand, access to information and culture. The Delegation stated that the Treaty represented the most concrete example of how WIPO had incorporated the development dimension into its activities, and it paid tribute to the key role which several delegations had played since the beginning of the negotiations. The Delegation expressed satisfaction at the fact that its country had contributed by submitting a proposal on exceptions and limitations for persons with disabilities, libraries and educational purposes in 2004. The fact that the Marrakesh VIP Treaty had been adopted barely a year after the BTAP showed that, where there was a will, it was possible to reach agreement in the multilateral sphere, even on such complex topics as IP. The Delegation congratulated WIPO on those achievements. At the national level, Chile had declared the year 2013 to be the Year of Innovation, and continued to make major efforts with regard to IP, both in the administrative and legal fields and in terms of capacity-building. By way of example, the Chilean National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) had consolidated its online service platform as a channel for communicating with users: only one year after the introduction of the Internet-based platform, more than 60 per cent of all applications and documents relating to trademarks and patents

were received online. Ongoing efforts were being made to strengthen the INAPI *Proyecta* platform, an initiative for the dissemination and transfer of knowledge designed to open up opportunities to branch out, innovate and create through IP use and management. With the help of WIPO, efforts were being made to introduce that project into other Latin American countries. Work was also underway on a draft law to replace the Law on Industrial Property, introducing simpler, cheaper and shorter procedures, modernizing the system and improving aspects linked to compliance. On the multilateral level, the Delegation noted that, notwithstanding all the progress made in the past few years, participants were faced with an appetite for IP during the current challenging Assemblies. Firstly, agreement must be reached on the Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, a goal which could only be achieved if an equitable solution concerning the establishment of new external offices were found. Secondly, as far as industrial designs were concerned, there was a need to confirm that a diplomatic conference would be convened in 2014. Given that the draft design law treaty did not seek to modify substantive aspects of IP, it should be possible to reach a consensus in that regard without giving rise to controversy. Finally, there was a need for decisive action to draft an international legal instrument within the near future that would ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. In the Delegation's view, the challenges listed had to be tackled in accordance with the recommendations of the DA, which must continue to serve as a roadmap guiding efforts in all of WIPO's substantive areas of activity. In conclusion, the Delegation noted that INAPI had been appointed as an ISA and IPEA under the PCT in 2012, and once again expressed thanks for the trust placed in its country and in INAPI. Considerable progress had been made with regard to minimum documentation, quality control systems and the capacities and number of examiners. INAPI took its commitment very seriously, and would begin operating as an ISA and IPEA in October 2014.

34. The Delegation of Ethiopia endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation noted that the Marrakesh VIP Treaty represented a significant advance in international norm-setting and hoped that its spirit would imbue the rest of WIPO's normative agenda, notably the international protection of GRs, TK and folklore. It informed the meeting that Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan was aimed at increasing the country's economic competitiveness, with the cooperation of WIPO, and included measures on the establishment of innovation systems, technology transfer and the development and strengthening of the national IP system. The Delegation welcomed the activities of WIPO and the support extended to Ethiopia in previous years to develop IP infrastructure, build capacity, draft national IP policy, establish a TISC and automate the domestic IP system. The WIPO Academy and the development cooperation activities of its LDCs Division were also appreciated. Ethiopia looked forward to extending its cooperation with WIPO to include the implementation of projects on the transfer of appropriate technology. The conclusion of an international instrument on IP and GRs, TK and folklore was a major priority for WIPO. The Delegation commended the unstinting efforts of the IGC to find consensus on the matter, and urged Member States to redouble their efforts, since significant commitment was required from all sides. A diplomatic conference should be convened in the 2014/15 biennium and the mandate of the IGC renewed.

35. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) supported the statements of the DAG and the Asian Group and declared its conviction that human creativity and innovation, through their constructive role in economic development, improved the quality of life and therefore deserved the protection of IP regulations. The Delegation observed that fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of IPRs and their utilization to bridge the technological gap between developed and developing countries must be considered, and noted that Iran supported a developmental approach towards the IP system, believing that fair access by countries to inventions and IP achievements could foster a creative global society. The Delegation mentioned the active role that Iran had played in the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, and stated that in line with the public policy of countries and the limitations and exceptions of the IP system, the Treaty provided an important example of development-oriented norm-setting. The Delegation hoped

that the spirit of cooperation would be present in the substantive work on copyright and related rights that included limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives as well as for educational and research institutes. While supporting the progress made, the Delegation firmly believed that high priority should be given to development-oriented norm-setting achievements rather than to the activities of the Committee and that the establishment of a coordination mechanism was thus of high importance. With respect to revisions of the Lisbon Agreement, the Delegation supported substantive procedural amendments to the agreement with a view to making it more attractive for countries, and welcomed the adoption of one single instrument covering both origins and geographical indications (GIs) with the provision of high- and single-level protections in both domains. Iran (Islamic Republic of) hoped that a diplomatic conference would be held very soon. Turning to the IGC, the Delegation believed that after 13 years of negotiations and research, and considerable time, energy and expense, the time had come to finalize the legally-binding instruments and convene a diplomatic conference. The Delegation believed that the PCT Working Group and the SCP should also give high priority to the DA in all its aspects, noting in this connection that Iran (Islamic Republic of) had become a party to the PCT and believed that its full implementation would enhance the country's domestic patent system while also creating incentives leading to qualitative and quantitative growth in patents. The Delegation pointed out that it was evident that optimal use of the system depended on the domestic availability of scientific and technical training and the capacities and infrastructure for implementation. In this respect, the provision of technical and capacity-building assistance by WIPO for the transfer of experience of Member States, as stipulated by the PCT, could play a valuable role. Regarding the draft text of the design law treaty, the Delegation felt that, before achieving progress on the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building facilities and the resolution of outstanding issues, it would be premature to convene a diplomatic conference. The Delegation further reported that Iran (Islamic Republic of) had taken effective measures to strengthen its IP system and that these included: revising the processes for registration of industrial property; expediting the provision of services to applicants; improving the e-filing infrastructure and conducting all industrial property registrations electronically; organizing several national seminars and training workshops on different subjects; organizing training workshops on industrial property rights for several neighboring countries, including one still pending in response to a recent request. Regarding the question of external offices as an important matter of policy, the Delegation believed that their establishment should be based on the principles of non-discrimination and transparency, and therefore, taking account of Iran's IP and scientific capacity, proposed establishment of an office in Tehran.

36. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its support for the statement made by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B. The adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty would enhance access to copyrighted works for visually impaired and print-disabled persons across the globe. In April 2012, President Obama had expressed the commitment of the United States of America to a treaty that "ensures that copyright is not a barrier to equal access to information, culture, and education for persons with print disabilities." The successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty was a major step forward in terms of achieving that objective. The United States of America, which was in the process of implementing the Treaty, looked forward to its entry into force at the earliest possible time. Although Member States had come together in a truly collaborative manner to resolve significant differences, thus paving the way for the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, the same could not, unfortunately, be said about the discussions in the ICG. The Delegation confirmed a willingness to continue the discussions, but recognized the need first to identify principles and objectives around which Member States could coalesce. Despite the diligent efforts of the IGC, Member States were far from an agreement on even the most fundamental provisions in the texts. Only after agreement was reached on objectives, principles and fundamental provisions of the texts would Member States be able to consider other challenging issues, such as the administration of interests, exceptions and limitations, the exercise of interests, transitional measures and consistency with the general legal framework. Consideration of a diplomatic conference was premature and the United States of America was opposed to any decision of

the General Assemblies that would set any specific timeframe or date for a diplomatic conference on any of the three IGC draft texts. The Delegation encouraged the Secretariat to make the WIPO Forum an annual occurrence. The Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012 - concerning the implementation of the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) and the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs – had been signed into law by President Obama on December 18, 2012. The instrument of ratification for the PLT had been deposited on September 18, 2013. On December 18, 2013, the PLT provisions of the Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2013, would become effective and the United States of America would become a member of the PLT, increasing the number of Contracting Parties to 36. The Treaty would benefit not only United States patent applicants and patentees, but also those of all PLT Contracting Parties looking to protect their inventions efficiently and cost-effectively. The Delegation outlined the significant progress made concerning the implementation process and the draft United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) rules with regard to the accession of the United States of America to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. Hopefully, the instruments of ratification would be deposited with the Director General early in 2014. The first-inventor-to-file provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) had come into effect on March 16, 2013. Implementation of that provision was the last major component of the iterative reforms set forth in the AIA. The Delegation expressed its disappointment that the recent PBC meeting had not been able to recommend the proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium for adoption. Several obstacles to the issuing of such a recommendation had arisen, namely the highly-politicized debate over new external offices and the Secretariat's proposal to abolish Program 30 on SMEs and Innovation. Said proposal had, disappointingly, been presented as a *fait accompli*. Nevertheless, the United States of America remained willing to work hard with all Members to solve those outstanding issues, in order to reach a consensus on the Program.

37. The Delegation of Sri Lanka supported the comments made by the Asian Group and on behalf of the DAG, and expressed interest in ratifying the Beijing and Marrakesh VIP Treaties while endorsing the SRP. The Delegation observed that the strategic development of IP policies contributed enormously to the socio-economic growth of Member States and agreed that well-managed mechanisms for protecting IPRs played a crucial role in enhancing the development of a nation. It opined that the world was looking beyond 2015 for a comprehensive DA in which IP would be instrumental in enriching the lives of vulnerable sections of humanity and creating greater opportunities for growth and prosperity. The Delegation added that Sri Lanka was striving to achieve its true economic potential and was constantly reminded of the need for equitable and sustainable development to benefit everyone. The Delegation believed that as a tool for innovation and creativity, IP was an important catalyst for economic and social empowerment of a wide spectrum of the population. Sri Lanka was thus keen to benefit from such policies as WIPO Re:search and WIPO Green to address its need for equitable and sustainable development. The Delegation stressed the importance of the work carried out by the IGC and its efforts to formalize international legal instruments to offer protections for human and natural resources that could be enormously beneficial to the people of the developing world. It supported the call for a diplomatic conference to finalize the IGC negotiations and called on Member States to endorse the urgency of reaching a successful conclusion. The Delegation added that recent amendments proposed to Sri Lanka's IP Act would facilitate a voluntary depository system for copyright owners. Sri Lanka was also taking positive steps to introduce new provisions to national laws under GIs to protect products such as Ceylon tea and cinnamon in addition to the protections provided under Certification Marks. The Delegation appreciated the assistance extended by WIPO in organizing information sessions and for sending expert missions to Sri Lanka in 2012 and 2013 after which a working committee was set up to propose new measures and also to consider the possibility of accession to the Lisbon Agreement during 2014. With respect to industrial designs, the Delegation stated that Sri Lanka had been following the Locarno Classification and would consider whether to introduce new provisions to

its national laws to accept utility model applications. The Delegation was also pleased to announce that Sri Lanka had started to implement the TISC project as recommended by the WIPO DA and the country was upgrading its laws to protect GIs under the existing IP legal framework so as to enhance protections for export commodities.

38. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed a wish to see a date set for a diplomatic conference on the designs formalities treaty in 2014, believing that that treaty would bring real benefits for Member State businesses wishing to operate abroad. Costs and bureaucracy linked to exporting could be significantly reduced by simplifying and aligning application procedures, thus rendering the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs more effective. The Delegation welcomed the commitment made within the SCCR to continue working towards a comprehensive treaty on broadcasting rights and looked forward to progress under the new mandate of the IGC. The Delegation believed strongly in judging each potential treaty's readiness for a diplomatic conference according to the maturity of its draft text, and would not like to see any artificial links being made between progress in unrelated Committees. International regimes currently in place could not be neglected. The Delegation was glad to see progress being made in terms of improving the PCT, as that was an area where widespread impact on the global patent system could be achieved relatively quickly. The agreement recently reached concerning the implementation of a number of PCT improvement proposals was welcome news, as was the fact that the associated amendments would go before the PCT Assembly during the current week. Hopefully, further progress could be made in the coming year in other priority areas, including collaborative searching. The Delegation had also been encouraged by the continued growth in the membership of key WIPO systems over the preceding 12 months and announced that the United Kingdom intended to contribute to that growth. Although the United Kingdom was a signatory to the Hague Agreement as a member of the EU, there was a provision in the IP bill currently going through Parliament that would allow the country to become a member in its own right. The Delegation believed that that approach would allow national businesses greater flexibility at home and abroad with regard to the choice of coverage for design rights and suitable business strategies. As to business and innovation, the Delegation welcomed the idea of the WIPO Forum 2013 event. The time was right to bring another perspective - that of the users of the IP system - to WIPO. It was hoped that the Forum would encourage increased engagement from enterprises in countries at all stages of development, so that WIPO could tailor its approach to have the most effective impact. The Delegates present represented the users and consumers of the global IP system and it was hoped that increased output from those stakeholders could serve to remind Delegates of the important work carried out by the Committees in creating and reforming international IP regimes and agreements. It was imperative that those Committees be allowed to work on issues of substance in a constructive manner. External offices had been the subject of much debate in the recent past and the Delegation felt that they constituted an important issue. It was crucial to have clear and transparent guiding principles for those Offices. A strategically planned network of external offices could play a key capacity-building role and raise awareness of WIPO's global IP services. The Delegation hoped that significant progress could be made in that regard during the current week within a Working Group. The Delegation turned to the subject of finance and was encouraged by a strong set of results. Future financial challenges must be addressed, in particular the long-term financing of after-service health care insurance. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue to explore means by which those liabilities could be assessed and managed, while looking at investment strategies to improve returns on the available assets. Forward planning, the use of projected cash flows and forecast balance sheets were essential in managing long-term liabilities, as well as being vital to sound financial management. The Delegation welcomed the Capital Master Plan as a first step and urged the Secretariat to consider moving towards accrual-based budgeting, thereby improving financial governance by allowing for easier comparison with actual results. The United Kingdom was willing to provide support. Opportunities to improve the financial position through efficiency, savings and the analysis and adoption of the best financial management practices currently being implemented across the UN system should be explored.

39. The Delegation of Brazil stated that WIPO had produced concrete and positive results over the past few years, including the recent conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The new Treaty represented a historic milestone, not only for WIPO, but for the international community as a whole. Through the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, the WIPO Member States had managed to get a forum of a commercial nature to respond in an effective manner to the challenge of the “book famine”. The Member States had also laid solid foundations that would allow visually impaired persons equal access to written material, as well as enabling them to enjoy the right to culture, work, knowledge, information and education. With the conclusion of the Treaty, a new phase had begun that would perhaps be more challenging and would certainly be more important. The Member States must now begin to implement the Treaty and meet the expectations and requirements of its beneficiaries. Three crucial tasks must be dealt with as a matter of priority: the promotion, as quickly as possible, of the entry into force of the instrument; the allocation of adequate human and budgetary resources concerning the implementation of the Treaty; and, the facilitation of international cooperation in order to ensure that cross-border exchange of accessible format copies could take place in an efficient manner. The effective and cross-cutting implementation of the DA must be a shared objective for the entire membership of WIPO. Efforts to strengthen and render more legitimate and effective the international IP protection system depended on the integration of the development dimension into the work of WIPO. In that regard, the Delegation expressed its concern at the difficulties currently being experienced in terms of the process of implementing the DA, in particular with regard to the work of the coordination mechanism approved by the General Assemblies in 2010. Member States must renew their commitment to that process, in order to ensure that the decisions on which the process of implementation of the DA depended were not delayed and that those mandates which had already been approved were respected. Compliance with and due implementation of decisions taken by the Member States constituted a central element in terms of strengthening the climate of trust required if WIPO’s work were to progress, including in areas other than that of the implementation of the DA. Important issues that must be addressed included the renewal of the mandate of the IGC and the adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium. The IGC had been discussing those issues that fell within its mandate since 2001. There was a clear and urgent need to establish rules protecting GRs, TK and TCEs from misappropriation. Work effectively to fulfill the mandate bestowed upon the IGC by the General Assemblies and Recommendation No. 18 of the DA must be accelerated. Therefore, the Member States must make a constructive commitment. The renewal of the mandate of the IGC during the current General Assemblies constituted an important test for the Member States. The moment had come for the Member States to confirm their commitment to the objectives of the IGC and to the demands of its main beneficiaries, the indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities. The discussions of the Member States must result in a robust mandate, reflecting the concern with which WIPO viewed the serious problem of the theft and misappropriation of GRs, TK and TCEs. As to the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, particular attention must be paid to those issues which had still remained open in the draft examined during the most recent sessions of the PBC. A balanced solution must be found that took into account the concerns and interests of all, while respecting those decisions and rules already in force. The Delegation highlighted the concerns already expressed by various delegations with regard to the current working method for Program 18, for which reporting to the Member States was neither satisfactory nor based on the mandates approved by those Member States.

40. The Delegation of Algeria said that, in a changing world, where the impact of the knowledge and skills economy was supplanting the tangible economy, and where IP had become a generator of growth and development, WIPO sat at an unavoidable intersection of the global economic system. IP would remain the vehicle of progress and socio-economic advancement as long as development was the strategic priority for WIPO. In that regard, Algeria had made numerous efforts to bolster its institutional base and strengthen its legal framework for IP so that development, innovation and research became the motors of domestic economic growth. Those efforts included the following: developing a national IP strategy based

on the priorities of Algeria regarding IP, higher education, public health and the protection of cultural heritage; establishing several TISCs and the pending implementation of a national IP academy; organizing the second regional consultation meeting on IP and technology transfer, whose recommendations would guide WIPO in its decisions on technology transfer in the African region; and, finally, the recent ratification of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), which showed the commitment of Algeria to combating counterfeiting and piracy in all its forms. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and the spirit of compromise that had prevailed throughout the Diplomatic Conference. Algeria, as coordinator of the African Group, had played a central role in the success of the conference and had spared no effort to find consensus on the elimination of obstacles to access to information and economic and social development for a significant section of the global population. In that regard, the positive and constructive attitude that had led to the adoption of the treaty should guide the work of WIPO and ensure fair treatment of all the issues considered, in particular the exceptions and limitations for educational and research establishments, libraries and archives. A similar spirit should also reign in the work of the IGC to produce similar advances with regard to instruments on GRs, TK and folklore. The Delegation also welcomed the progress achieved by the SCT, and hoped that the Committee's work would lead to a balanced and fair international instrument that met the expectations of all Member States, particularly developing countries. Note was taken of the progress achieved in implementing the DA, which had led to the adaptation of WIPO activities and had allowed the different levels of development of Member States to be taken into consideration. The Organization should, nonetheless, demonstrate further commitment and ambition with respect to development, for example by requesting that WIPO bodies should report on their contribution to the implementation of the DA, as provided for in the coordination mechanism adopted by the General Assembly in 2010, or by introducing more inclusive and transparent working procedures within WIPO to guarantee good governance and ensure that WIPO remained a specialized agency of the UN system that was guided by its Member States. In conclusion, the Delegation highlighted that Algeria attached great importance to the opening of new external WIPO offices in Africa. It therefore supported the proposal to establish two external offices in Africa, which was part of the 2014/15 Program and Budget, with the understanding that WIPO could consider the establishment of offices in the region at a later date. In that connection, Algeria reaffirmed its willingness to welcome one of those offices in order to help African countries bridge the technological divide and promote IP.

41. The Delegation of the Philippines said that WIPO had been a strong partner ever since it had joined in 1980. WIPO had provided support especially in the areas of capacity-building and technical assistance. The time was ripe for a stronger partnership given the rapid growth of the Philippine economy, which was one of the two fastest-growing economies in Asia. The biggest challenge was to use the IP system to strengthen and sustain that economic performance and promote socio-cultural development. The IPO of the Philippines was the first in Asia to use the latest version of IPAS, thus improving the processing of patent and trademark applications. That was timely given the recent accession of the Philippines to the Madrid Protocol. The number of educational and research institutions supported by the Innovation and Technology Support Offices (ITSOs), a local version of WIPO's TISCs, had risen to 67, thereby bringing the patent system closer to its users. The copyright laws in the Philippine Intellectual Property Code had been amended and updated, and a Bureau of Copyright had been established in the IPO. The amendment included provisions on secondary liability, technological protection and rights management that complied with the WCT and the WPPT. The Philippine IPO had acquired an enforcement function, a first among IPOs in Southeast Asia. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms were promoted as an alternative to long and costly litigation processes. The Philippine IPO was the only one in Asia offering two ADR mechanisms, namely, mediation and arbitration. In light of its experience in IPR enforcement, ADR, and IP administration, the Philippines was in a position to provide assistance to other Member States in

the Southeast Asian region. The Philippines was taking stock of goods and services that might be eligible for protection under the GIs and TK regimes, and intended to open a registration system for GIs. The Philippines was home to diverse flora and fauna and unique tradition and artistry, and had a role to play in those emerging areas.

42. The Delegation of Pakistan supported the statements delivered on behalf of the DAG and the Asian Group and commended WIPO's progress in 2013, building on the Beijing spirit to successfully conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Delegation affirmed Pakistan's abiding interest in the development of a flexible, balanced international IP system catering to the diverse needs of Member States at different levels of development, while simultaneously promoting innovation and access to knowledge. The Delegation reported that Pakistan continued to enhance its national IP system through further functional improvements to its IPOs and enhanced IP protections, and said it would welcome pertinent assistance from WIPO in developing IP expertise and a *curriculum*. The Delegation strongly endorsed the importance of the DA and encouraged WIPO to seek in particular the cooperation of developed countries to sustain its continued relevance, given the spirit of compromise and cooperation demonstrated in recent times. The Delegation was therefore disappointed at the postponement of the international conference on IP and development. Observing that for all Member States to benefit from the IP system, it was critical for the Organization to bring IP development issues to the table at the highest level to obtain the expertise of global experts and find ways to further the action of IP as an effective tool for development. The Delegation thus urged WIPO to accelerate work on identifying flexibilities under the WIPO-WTO agreement and the relevant DA recommendations, adding that WIPO was mandated to provide this assistance to developing countries. The Delegation had followed the debate in the PBC on establishment of external offices and urged Member States to consider the criteria, the mandate and cost-effectiveness of such offices in a transparent, inclusive Member State-driven process in order to formulate a coherent policy. It opined that external offices should continue to provide technical assistance and not merely focus on promoting WIPO's services, noting that while those services required by Pakistan were best provided through the WIPO headquarters in Geneva, it reserved the right to seek an external office for Pakistan in the future. While thanking the Secretariat for explaining the geographical representation of WIPO personnel, the Delegation noted it would call on the Organization to make greater efforts to improve balance therein and to safeguard UN principles in that regard, and would ask WIPO to provide an updated list of improvements made. The Delegation strongly supported the early conclusion of the IGC's discussions and convening of a diplomatic conference as this area was of immense importance to developing countries. Early conclusion of a diplomatic conference would generate goodwill and strengthen the confidence of countries in the developing IP system. The Delegation affirmed that Pakistan remained committed to constructive engagement with WIPO, which it felt to be working in the right direction, and called on Member States to continue in the spirit of cooperation.

43. The Delegation of Monaco supported the statement made by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B, and stated that the 12 previous months had been intense for WIPO, marked in particular by the adoption of a Treaty that would facilitate access to printed works for person who were blind or print disabled. The Member States would continue to be busy with other topics over the coming weeks, in particular the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. Said treaty had been under discussion for more than a decade and there was a need to resolve the issue quickly. Furthermore, draft documents concerning GRs, TK and folklore, as well as industrial design law and practice would require the constructive commitment of all. The upcoming year would therefore be just as crucial, its high point being the process of selecting a new Director General, a moment that was always special and often decisive. In order to tackle all those challenges in a calm manner, a collective and all-out effort would be required to make the ongoing General Assemblies a success. In that regard, the Delegation of Monaco hoped in particular that solutions would be found during the current Assemblies for those issues which it had not been possible to resolve during the previous session of the PBC, and that the Program and Budget for the next financial period could be

adopted. At the national level, the Principality of Monaco had recently completed an overhaul of its industrial property title management system. Thus, the Monegasque Office was henceforth equipped with a high-performance software package capable of managing industrial designs, marks and patents simultaneously. From the start, the package had been designed and built to take into account the constraints linked to a small Office. The new system simplified the collection and processing of information on industrial property titles, thus giving officials more time to improve reception and advisory services for users. As the owner of the source codes, the Monegasque State also had complete freedom with regard to their dissemination or adaptation to new needs. Alongside the overhaul of its management tool, the Government had launched a major drive to modernize its legal instruments. Thus, a draft law on marks had been submitted to the National Council in December 2012. The main aim of that draft law was to ensure that Monegasque legislation was in line with the relevant international standards. Future implementing legislation was being examined and a working group would be set up in the very near future in order to study the law on patents. Finally, a web site specifically dedicated to intangible assets was currently being set up and should be ready by the end of 2014. The aim of the web site was to promote industrial property, disseminate information and simplify research, filing and registration procedures.

44. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that, in view of low employment and stalled economic growth, the move to a creative economy, aimed at enhancing the economic environment through creativity and innovation, the facilitation of quick start-ups and the creation of new markets and jobs, was a priority. The Republic of Korea viewed the IP ecosystem as a policy tool enabling such an economic paradigm change and requiring strengthening to enhance the value chain from idea to business activity. The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) had adjusted its examination model to focus on improving examination quality and shortening pendency periods. Aiming to facilitate development of high-quality IPRs, the Republic of Korea sought to raise the overall quality of each IPR administration process, from the application stage through examination to registration, and had furnished KIPO with a smart search system, strengthened dialogue with applicants, and simplified correction procedures. A medium-term plan to shorten examination pendency periods to 10 months for patents and three months for trademarks by 2015 had led to the enhancement of examination capacity through new examiner recruitment, improved IP training, and a patent system upgrade. Participation in work-sharing efforts, such as the PCT-Patent Prosecution Highway (PCT-PPH) and collaborative search and examination under the PCT, had also increased. In order to strengthen the commercialization of IPRs and foster quick start-ups, the Republic of Korea had implemented a financial support system to ease financing for companies with outstanding IPRs, and the Delegation suggested that Member States should join forces to develop a method of IP evaluation that would precede any activation of IP financing. The Delegation commended WIPO for its activities under the SRP and agreed that the opening of new external offices was important to all Member States. The Delegation hoped that the issue would be addressed in a constructive manner at the General Assemblies, and declared its willingness to make further contributions in that area. Referring to norm-setting, the Delegation hoped that the cooperation demonstrated in the recent copyright treaties would carry over into discussions on the design law treaty and the Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT), which remained at a stalemate despite potential benefits to industry. WIPO's global IP services should be user-driven, and WIPO should establish a mechanism to engage user groups in policy formulation in that area. In order to bridge the IP divide between Member States, the Republic of Korea would continue to support the implementation of the DA, in particular through projects conducted under its Funds-In-Trust at WIPO.

45. The Delegation of Colombia praised the dedicated, efficient work of the Director General and, above all, his commitment to IP protection and promotion policies. The Delegation highlighted the latest diplomatic success of the Organization and Member States in the form of the recent adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which met the vital needs of a large share of the population. With regard to the work of the IGC, the Delegation reiterated the request of GRULAC for the renewal of the Committee's mandate so that it could press on with negotiations

leading to the adoption of legally-binding instruments that would ensure the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. However, the Delegation viewed with concern the feeling of frustration that had emerged in recent deliberations and negotiations, which had begun over a decade ago, sufficient time in which to have an exchange of views. In the Delegation's opinion, the time had come to muster the requisite political will to take the definitive step that would make it possible to reconcile diverging positions and thus specify adequate means of protection. It was incumbent upon the Member States to keep moving ahead in the discussions on all topics in each of the different Committees. Regardless of the different positions that might emerge, it was necessary to keep trying to find shared solutions through constructive dialogue and continually to take into consideration issues relating to cooperation and technical assistance. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's support and cooperation in ensuring the appropriate and effective implementation of the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, which had entered into force in Colombia a little more than one year previously. The Delegation also highlighted the positive impact of joint dissemination activities. It also expressed appreciation for WIPO's valuable assistance to the Industrial Property Office concerning the drafting of strategies for the strengthening of IP-related services, as regards both processes and technological modernization and treaty administration. In that regard, the Delegation urged WIPO to continue to endeavor to improve the services of the treaties it administered, given that the effective functioning of those services was vital to efforts to increase their use by the developing countries. The Delegation felt that there was a need to pursue strategies aimed at encouraging companies to use the PCT system and the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. The agenda for the current series of meetings of the Assemblies contained outstanding matters of great importance, such as the approval of the budget for programs for the next biennium. As was only logical, the issue of the budget had a cross-cutting impact on all WIPO activities and had implications for the way in which the mandates of the different Committees and Working Groups developed. After recognizing the Organization's efforts with regard to program budget planning, the Delegation called for due consideration to be given to the various requests submitted by GRULAC, requests which should be incorporated.

46. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Working Group on IP cooperation of the ASEAN Group, hailed the contribution of the WIPO Singapore Office (WSO) and its WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (AMC) to the growth of a vibrant IP ecosystem in the ASEAN and Asia-Pacific region and noted that in the previous year, through technical assistance programs, seminars and government consultancy work, the WSO had rendered assistance to 23 countries. The WIPO AMC in Singapore had heard significant cases across jurisdictions and had fostered an environment encouraging IP settlements through ADR. As a responsible member of the international IP community, Singapore played a facilitating role in those efforts and, in 2013, had invited the global IP community to IP week. IP week was held together with international partners including WSO, the French National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), the USPTO, the JPO and the European Patent Office (EPO), and had welcomed over 1,000 delegates from 36 countries. The varied issues discussed reaffirmed the important role of IP in driving innovation in a knowledge-based economy. As a small country with limited natural resources, it was crucial for Singapore to recognize the value of ideas, intangibles and innovation, while increased IP activities in Asia and beyond necessitated the development of robust IP infrastructure and capabilities. Three significant developments had taken place in Singapore over the previous year: cooperation with more than 10 IPOs worldwide and international organizations such as the INTA, which had led to Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) aimed at enhancing interoperability with international and regional IPOs; the strengthening, in May 2013, of Singapore's patent examination office, alongside the move from a self assessment system to a positive grant system that was expected to raise the quality of patents granted in Singapore and reduce the costs and time frame for businesses filing patents there; and initiatives to introduce IP financing schemes that would enable companies to value and monetize IP and would improve access to capital, since companies were expected to own greater proportions of intangible assets in a knowledge economy. The

Delegation noted that WIPO was an invaluable partner and confirmed Singapore's commitment to collaboration in the highest level of intellectual debate on IP, while fostering a business-friendly, growth-oriented IP ecosystem.

47. The Delegation of Thailand aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, and by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN, and observed that, while IP had long been seen as a useful tool to promote economic interests, it could also have a broad impact on development and public-interest issues, from biodiversity to public health to education. WIPO should therefore strike a balance among such interests such that rights holders and users alike might enjoy the benefits of creativity and innovation. The Delegation commended the Secretariat's efforts to translate WIPO's DA into practice, transforming the way the Organization operated by better attuning it to the broader development goals of the UN system, and making it more Member State-driven, inclusive, transparent and accountable. The Delegation said the DA should continue to be mainstreamed into all WIPO activities and looked forward to the review during the Assemblies of reports from WIPO bodies on their implementation of the agenda. WIPO's role as a forum for IP discussion and norm-setting had been underscored by the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Thailand noted the necessity of timely ratification by Member States and the provision of technical assistance to both Member States and stakeholders to ensure implementation, while anticipating that the positive momentum evident in Marrakesh would also carry forward other agenda issues. Thailand attached particular importance to the work of the IGC, and had organized an informal meeting in Bangkok to facilitate negotiations in those areas, but Member States should engage in the IGC in a spirit of cooperation with a view to finalizing the text and convening a diplomatic conference within the upcoming biennium. On the issue of WIPO governance, Thailand supported the ongoing review to improve the efficiency of current structures, intensify Member States' oversight and enhance transparency and fairness. The Delegation supported the proposals made by the DAG and African Group and looked forward to further discussions. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its support for the development of Thailand's IP system, including preparations for accession to the Madrid Protocol and the Hague System, and for co-hosting the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications.

48. The Delegation of Italy supported the statements made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU, and by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B. Italy welcomed the applications filed in 2012 with the national IP offices in WIPO's system. In the Delegation's view, such a trend confirmed the innovation and creativity that were leading factors in achieving competitiveness, economic growth and social progress. Furthermore, IP remained central to government policy and business strategies. However, innovation did not flourish without the protection of IPRs. WIPO therefore had a crucial role to play in promoting awareness of the benefits arising from IP, strengthening the capacity of the international IPOs and providing essential services to the business community. Italy wished to join the other Member States in commending the Director General and his staff for their work in maintaining WIPO in its rightful place as the global IP authority and for the remarkable results achieved by the Organization, such as the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and the BTAP and the adoption of important internal reforms through the SRP. The Delegation expressed its interest in a wealthy, responsive and efficient WIPO, also noting with approval the Secretariat's intention to pursue sound, transparent and accountable management, as well as "customer-oriented services". Italy attached great importance to the human resources management reforms and was confident that the new HR Strategy 2013-2015 would play a vital role with regard to the Secretariat's efforts to secure the necessary skills in the context of significant cost pressures and the need to contain personnel costs. The Delegation expressed appreciation for both the Secretariat's engagement to adopt cost-efficiency measures and the fruitful collaboration between WIPO's oversight bodies, the Secretariat and Member States. Looking at the 2014/15 biennium, Italy renewed its support for WIPO activities and efforts to increase the use of IPRs by SMEs, which were a source of innovation and a driver in terms of economic growth and job creation. In that respect, Italy welcomed the re-establishment in the proposed Program and

Budget 2014/15 of the specialized program for SMEs and innovation. Italy favored a consensual outcome of discussions on the opening of the WIPO external offices and was not against WIPO maintaining a small network, provided that those Offices effectively supported the attainment of the Organization's strategic objectives. The process chosen by the Secretariat had left too little time for the Member States to provide guidance on the issue. More effort was required and the Delegation supported the idea of establishing a Working Group to define a guiding framework. The Delegation expressed its thanks to the Director General for his reassurances that the opening of new external offices would be dealt with separately from the issue of WIPO's "redundancy capacity". The conclusion of the Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties had restored confidence in the multilateral process, and had demonstrated the capacity of WIPO's membership to resolve outstanding issues in the international IP normative framework. Italy sincerely hoped that agreement could be reached on the harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration formalities and procedures, and on the protection of broadcasting organizations, and considered that the adoption of a treaty facilitating and making less expensive the registration of industrial designs would prove advantageous to all of WIPO's members. Industrial design drove economic progress and social change, as exemplified by Italy's exhibition of innovative designs, hosted in WIPO's New Building. The Delegation thanked the Director General for supporting the initiative and invited the delegations to attend the opening of the exhibition. Italy hoped that the discussions on the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs would be conducted in a reasonable and constructive spirit, making possible a long-due compromise on such matters. Italy deemed that the revision of the Lisbon System for the International Registration of Appellations of Origin was currently achievable and expected the Assembly of the Lisbon Union to approve the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement in the next biennium. Said revision process represented a unique opportunity to allow for the accession of International Organizations to the Union, as well as to make the Lisbon system more attractive to producers from both developed and developing countries that used GIs to achieve competitiveness and to exploit their traditional knowledge. Such was the rationale behind Italy's promotion of an ambitious solution, which did not undermine the current level of protection granted to appellations of origin but rather extended it to all other GIs. Agreement was required concerning the organization and simplification of the industrial design procedures. The adoption of a treaty that facilitated and lowered the cost of industrial design procedures would be of benefit to all WIPO Member States. Industrial design was important for social change.

49. The Delegation of Argentina associated itself with the statements made by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC, and by the Delegation of Brazil, on behalf of the DAG. It expressed satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty which, together with the BTAP adopted in 2012, helped to maintain WIPO's credibility as the leading forum for IP issues. The Delegation said that it would continue working to strengthen the Organization and promote standard-setting activities with a view to establishing a balanced international IP system that would encourage innovation, creativity, investment and transfer of technology, thereby promoting economic development and safeguarding the public interest. In order to achieve those goals, the specific needs of developing countries and the challenges they faced had to be given priority. Accordingly, Argentina attached great importance to the DA, which mainstreamed the development dimension into WIPO's activities through 45 recommendations. The Delegation recognized the efforts made to implement the recommendations of the DA, but much remained to be done to ensure that development took on a cross-cutting dimension at WIPO. It welcomed the excellent work done with the WIPO Academy and the regional Bureau for Latin America with regard to cooperation and technical assistance, in particular support for various initiatives in the region. In that respect, it noted that April 2013 had marked the start of the first edition of the regional master's degree in IP, which was offered jointly by the Universidad Austral, WIPO and the National Industrial Property Institute of Argentina (INPI). That degree was crucial for training human resources in the field of IP, not only for Argentina but for the entire Latin American region, thanks to the WIPO and INPI scholarship system that enabled candidates from Latin America to enroll. The Delegation

hoped that that initiative would continue to gather momentum in coming years. In conclusion, it reiterated Argentina's willingness to work with WIPO and the Member States to address the challenges faced by the international IP system.

50. The Delegation of Georgia said that it appreciated the continued efforts to develop the IPR system. Georgia actively cooperated with WIPO and the patent offices of various Member States. The Delegation welcomed the progress made in the area of development. Many technical assistance projects had been implemented in recent years. The Delegation supported WIPO's ongoing development activities intended to reduce the knowledge gap and facilitate capacity building, infrastructure modernization and access to specialized databases. The Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (Appellations of Origin) was currently discussing the Draft Revised Lisbon Agreement and the corresponding draft regulations, constituting a single instrument providing equal protection for appellations of origin and GIs. The Delegation welcomed the review of the Lisbon system to render it more attractive to users and prospective Member States and also supported the convening of a diplomatic conference in 2015 to adopt a revised Lisbon Agreement. The Delegation highlighted the substantial work of the SCT, in particular its activities to harmonize and simplify design registration procedures and draft a balanced text on industrial designs that should include provisions on technical assistance. The Delegation remained flexible regarding the locations of any external offices established under the proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, but was concerned about the lack of clarity in the Secretariat documents regarding the mandate and territorial coverage of the prospective offices. Cooperation with WIPO had enabled Georgia to organize various national and international IP events.

51. The Delegation of New Zealand noted the active participation of New Zealand in the work of WIPO and recognized the importance of innovation as a catalyst for economic growth. As part of the Government's Business Growth Agenda, New Zealand was committed to the Building Innovation work program, which was focused on improving the innovation ecosystem. Emphasizing that IP was an essential part of the innovation ecosystem because it provided firms with an incentive, the delegation explained that New Zealand was establishing effective IP settings to create an environment where businesses could create, manage, utilize and commercialize IP. The Patents Act 2013 would modernize the patent regime through the introduction of examination for inventive step and absolute novelty and would bring it into line with both New Zealand's major trading partners and accepted world standards. The improved examination service was a key contribution to the Business Growth Agenda and would act as a platform from which to seek corresponding rights in overseas markets *via* the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the PCT. At present, the Patents Regulations were being drafted to provide an effective regulatory regime for patentable inventions. In December 2012, New Zealand had implemented the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol), which would help to increase exports, in line with the Business Growth Agenda, by making it easier to protect brands in overseas markets and reducing costs for overseas businesses in New Zealand. The benefits of using the international trade mark system were already evident in the use of the system by businesses and the delegation wished to thank WIPO for its ongoing support and technical assistance. The Trade Mark Regulations had been updated to implement the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT) and the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), which had led to an improved regulatory environment and reduced compliance costs for businesses by enabling IP applicants and owners to protect their brands and conduct legal proceedings through the New Zealand Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ). The delegation welcomed the support of WIPO for the IP work program under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. Two key work programs in 2013 had included: the IP Public Education and Awareness Community of Practice inaugural meeting and strategy development workshop, held in Thailand in May, and the Ideal Patent Examination Training Model Brainstorming Session, held in Malaysia in August. New Zealand Government agencies would continue to work with WIPO and ASEAN members

to enhance cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and the delegation confirmed the willingness of New Zealand to work with WIPO and the Member States to address the challenges and opportunities related to the international IP system and to promote innovation and development across all economies.

52. The Delegation of Panama expressed its gratitude to the Bureau for Latin American and the Caribbean for its constant support and endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC. In Panama, IP had become a priority issue in all spheres. That explained the country's high level of interest in implementing a national strategy, with WIPO backing, that would allow for: the coordination of all efforts and resources with a view to promoting the protection of IPRs; and, the implementation of projects for the promotion of creation and innovation in Panamanian educational institutions, companies and R&D centers. With regard to copyright, the Delegation welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, the objectives of which were very important for Panama. The Delegation also thanked WIPO for its support in organizing the annual International Book Fair of Panama, which was a great success with national and international authors and readers. At the end of 2013, two TISCs would be inaugurated, and steps were being taken to establish another such center in universities in the interior of Panama. As a result of the entry into force of the PCT in Panama, the first two PCT applications had just been received from national applicants. Moreover, the necessary amendments to the Law on Intellectual Property had been introduced, along with provisions relating to the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT). In addition, national producers had been briefed on the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration, and the possibility of accession to that agreement was being examined. With regard to the Budget and external offices, the Delegation highlighted its great disappointment at the way in which the creation of those Offices had been handled. In that regard, in 2006, Panama had formally applied for the creation of an External Office. To date, said application had not been taken into account, even though action had been taken concerning other applications submitted at a later date. The Delegation reiterated its country's interest in hosting a WIPO External Office, given the real advantages which Panama offered as a business center, a logistics platform and the site of a UN office. Moreover, the country's ideal geographical location would ensure efficient coordination in the region. Panama was prepared to participate in a genuine process of consultation, so as to ensure that its application would be considered on an equal footing with other applications. The Delegation reiterated its country's commitment to strengthening and supporting the Organization's strategic initiatives.

53. The Delegation of Israel associated itself with the statements made by members of Group B and noted that, as leading stakeholders in WIPO that represented the main body of its service users, special attention should be afforded to the views of Group B. The Delegation said that, despite Israel's relatively small population, in terms of the number of PCT applications filed by country of origin, in 2012 Israel had been ranked 16th in the world, and 19th at the EPO, which was a rise of four per cent in applications originating from Israel that were filed with the EPO. Such extensive use of the PCT system was an indication of the technological innovation of the marketplace. The Global Innovation Index ranked Israel first in the region and 14th globally; Israel had therefore maintained its global innovation position of previous years. The Israeli Patent Office (IPO) considered itself part of that success by facilitating the IP system and broadening its use. One example of that was the successful launch, on June 1, 2012, of the IPO as an ISA and IPEA under the PCT. The Delegation reported that the majority of Israeli applicants had shown their appreciation of the IPO's capabilities by designating the IPO as the ISA/IPA over any other option. It added that such heavy use of the IPRs system would not have been possible without the continued support of WIPO and its Member States. The Delegation wished to reiterate the importance it placed on the collaborative efforts led by WIPO in the standing committees and the measures put in place to improve, innovate and streamline infrastructure and standards, in addition and in parallel to the impressive promotion of normative

frameworks, as exemplified by the Beijing and Marrakesh VIP Treaties. In conclusion, as a country that worked with WIPO and Member States, Israel was committed to disseminating its newfound experience by sharing it with other offices and authorities as part of the DA or other efforts.

54. The Delegation of Australia advised that the Government of Australia had nominated the Director General for a second term, noting that he had an excellent record of implementing institutional reforms; improving the delivery of WIPO's global systems; and putting the normative agenda back on track. The 2012 BTAP and the 2013 Marrakesh VIP Treaty both showed that the multilateral system could provide solutions at the international level, with the support of Member States and a well-functioning organization. Australia welcomed improvements to internal capacity at WIPO. Ongoing reform and improvements in governance were bearing fruit. The SRP had brought focus to the organization's culture and had improved efficiency and structural alignment. The Delegation looked forward to further progress on design law, greater protection for broadcasting organizations and the IGC. There had also been developments in the information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, such as the WIPO-CASE system. The Delegation welcomed continued growth in WIPO's international registration systems in spite of a fragile global economy, and commended the positive budget result of 15.7 million Swiss francs. Assistance to developing countries and LDCs through country-driven IP strategies continued to be important. The Government of Australia, WIPO and recipient member states had worked together through Australia's Funds in Trust (FIT). Australia had supported initiatives such as "WIPO Re:Search" on research into tropical diseases. With the support of ASEAN and WIPO, Australia had been working on the pilot program for regional patent examination training in Asia-Pacific and Africa. On the domestic front, the IP Laws Amendment (Raising the Bar) Act 2012 had been Australia's biggest IP system overhaul in 20 years.

55. The Delegation of Paraguay said that, as far as its country was concerned, the current series of meetings had special meaning, as the WIPO Member States had achieved an historic result in July 2013 with the signature of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. In the Delegation's view, the success of those negotiations confirmed that the Organization's objective was to promote the economic, social and cultural development of all countries, through a balanced and effective international IP system. With the entry into force of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, 300 million blind and visually impaired persons - most of whom lived in developing countries - would enjoy simpler and more effective access to books, a development which would enhance their opportunities for education, training and leisure. Although the goal had been achieved in Marrakesh, it was useful to take a look at the ground covered, the obstacles along the way, and the determination of all - developed and developing countries alike - in order to ensure that those successful negotiations could serve as an example for the international community. Paraguay renewed its firm commitment with regard to the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, the World Blind Union (WBU) and WIPO, to ensure that, in the near future, the tangible benefits of that initiative, which had been proposed and supported from the start by Paraguay, could be felt. There was a need to capitalize on the impetus provided by Marrakesh in order to move ahead in other areas of the Organization's work, such as the DA or negotiations on GRs, TK and TCEs. In the Delegation's view, those were priority issues, and it appreciated the efforts being made by all the Delegations to make progress on the different topics. Tangible results that were appropriate for their needs would be visible once negotiations moved ahead on the technical level. One of WIPO's functions which complemented the negotiations and treaties signed was the efficient work done by the Secretariat. All Member States could benefit from the knowledge of the highly-trained staff when it came to following up the cooperation and technical training projects implemented by WIPO. The Delegation's country appreciated the Organization's support in recent years with regard to the national IP strategy and WIPO's IP automation

system, as well as legislative assistance with specific projects. The Delegation reported that Paraguay had appointed new authorities in August 2013 and had established a new National Directorate for Intellectual Property. The existing political momentum and the establishment of a specialized institution reflected the importance which Panama attached to IP.

56. The Delegation of Greece declared in respect of the DA that it attached importance to the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building upon equal and transparent terms, and noted that good governance and best practices would allow for a controlling mechanism ensuring the appropriate implementation of declared goals. The Delegation emphasized that the need to provide technical assistance and capacity-building should not hinder efforts to improve the IP system, and considered the draft text of a design law formalities treaty sufficiently developed to be submitted to a diplomatic conference in 2014. The Delegation further stated that although progress had been achieved in the IGC, certain issues awaited resolution while further examination of the elaborated texts was required. To this end, the Delegation supported the establishment of a realistic work program for the next biennium, bearing in mind the cost of meetings. The Delegation added that Greece strongly supported the international harmonization of patent laws and looked forward to further discussions in the SCP on the basis of the agreed work program. The Delegation also supported the work of the PCT working group as continuous improvements were needed to respond to the changing needs of all users. The Delegation reported that Greece had followed the recent sessions of the PBC and expressed concern over the many unresolved issues. It thus looked forward to discussion of the agenda issues and expressed Greece's willingness to work in the spirit of cooperation towards equitable solutions for the benefit of all.

57. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the statement it had already made as the Coordinator of GRULAC. With the IP successes of the preceding two years, the international community had entered an era of hope. The IP environment could achieve convergence and there was hope that the forthcoming negotiations in the IGC and the SPLT would come to a beneficial conclusion. In Trinidad and Tobago, the enhancement of IP capacity continued to be a primary focus as confirmed by a WIPO study following an IP Audit and the development of an IP Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. Enhanced public outreach activities would address awareness but the creation of capacity and other business support systems would take that further into strategic use and management of knowledge assets. Trinidad and Tobago was grateful for WIPO's support as it continued to develop its IP strategy. It was also appreciative of the assistance and guidance received from the WIPO Academy in the establishment of a national IP academy. A project on building respect for IP had been integrated into the work of the IPO. Accession to both the Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement would take place in 2014. To facilitate accession, a new Trademarks Act and Regulations would soon be presented to Parliament. The range of national initiatives and needs in the Caribbean region meant that the Caribbean Unit in WIPO needed to be further equipped to provide strategic guidance. In light of the vital role of WIPO external offices, the Delegation called for an expansion of discussions on the establishment of another regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean. The IGC had already made great progress, and in view of the importance of its work to developing countries, its mandate should be renewed so as to pave the way for a diplomatic conference by 2015.

58. The Delegation of Germany aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B, and that made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU. Germany supported the idea of a small, limited, strategically-positioned and geographically-representative network of WIPO external offices, which brought true added value to the work of the Organization. It would have been preferable to have had a more transparent and inclusive procedure concerning the establishment of new offices. Nevertheless, discussions would continue on the establishment of five new offices, as foreseen in the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium. It was in the common interest of the Organization and its Member States to establish a clear set of criteria and procedural mechanisms for a possible

future extension of that network. The Delegation was in favor of a transparent, inclusive and rule-based decision-making process. Any such extension of the network of external offices should be undertaken only in the wake of consultations with all regional groups and of a decision of the competent WIPO bodies on the location of such offices. The Government of Germany considered IPRs to be essential economic assets for enterprises. Such rights constituted a complex issue that was the subject of passionate discussion worldwide and widespread media coverage. WIPO faced the challenge of providing an adequate response in that regard and, furthermore, of fulfilling its mission of promoting and protecting IP effectively in order to create sustainable development and wealth. One important and delicate task was that of refuting allegations that WIPO favored certain groups, as well as continuing to demonstrate that WIPO always worked to find the optimal balance between rights holders and various segments of society, including in the context of health and the environment. The Government of Germany supported a robust and appropriate international IP framework that balanced different interests and concerns, encouraged innovation and fostered the development and transfer of technology. Stakeholders, including IPOs, would benefit from a simpler and more harmonized international framework, including substantive provisions, on issues including copyright law, patent law and trademark law. As the guardian of global legislation and harmonized practices, WIPO should keep such harmonization of legal concepts on its agenda. As the deliberations within the SCCR demonstrated, the international harmonization of legal concepts in the field in question was a complex task, which required time and dedication on all sides. However, if Member States worked together, in a spirit of consensus and with the firm intention to strike a fair balance between all the interests involved, WIPO would continue to provide the framework within which positive results could be achieved. Germany took note of the success of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Inspired by that success, WIPO should keep other areas on the agenda with regard to the international harmonization of legal concepts. Germany was committed to improving the protection of broadcasting organizations and was dedicated to reaching a consensus on an international treaty. The protection currently on offer needed to be up-dated and existing and emerging technological issues in that field must be addressed with as much urgency as that accorded to questions affecting authors and other rights holders already protected by international treaties. Germany would therefore actively support the work of the SCCR in order to advance text-based work on an international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. Ever since the beginning of international IP cooperation and the founding of WIPO as international agency for IP, patent law had been of core importance, both from a theoretical and a practical point of view. Users of the patent system around the world were calling for the further development and improvement of the patent system – a call that should be heeded by WIPO and the SCP. Germany recognized with satisfaction the SCP's continuing work on important issues. However, the Committee should remain true to the principle of a balanced agenda, in order properly to reflect the various demands for discussions to be held. Germany was particularly eager to continue work on issues of patent quality, including opposition systems and the confidentiality of communications. Further work in that area would be beneficial for all countries irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. Working within the SCP, Germany had also been focusing on the topic of patents and health and would continue to do so. However, the efforts and activities that had been undertaken in that context by other WIPO Committees and Geneva-based international organizations should also be recognized. The issue of exceptions and limitations to patent rights was also one of importance, although an appropriate balance between the interests of rights holders and the general public should be maintained in that regard. Finally, the SCP should, in future, avoid lengthy debates on agendas and procedural matters in order to concentrate on matters of substance. The most recent figures on the development of application numbers under the PCT demonstrated the core importance of the PCT system with regard to innovation and wealth creation. The PCT remained the most important tool in terms of efforts to promote a functioning patent system in an ever-more globalized world. As a highly patent-active state, both at the national and the international levels, Germany was grateful for a

well-functioning PCT system. In 2012, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) had processed 4,491 international applications (an increase of more than 50 per cent compared to 2011), about 80 per cent of which had been filed by applicants from outside Germany. Thus, Germany was committed to any further necessary developments concerning the PCT system and encouraged all WIPO Member States to take advantage of that system. The recent PCT Working Group had, in the view of the Delegation, made good progress in dealing with the necessary adjustments to the PCT rules. Germany also welcomed the recommendation to review the criteria and procedures for appointment of an Office as an ISA and IPEA under the PCT. The Delegation expressed appreciation for the progress made within the SCT concerning the drafting of articles and regulations on industrial design law and practice with a view to harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities and procedures. A multilateral agreement would consolidate the protection of designs, strengthening innovation and creativity and contributing to market order worldwide. The Study on the Potential Impact of the Work of the SCT on Industrial Design Law and Practice was considered to be sufficient and should not be kept open. Therefore, the Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference on a design law treaty in 2014. In the event that no agreement was reached in that regard, the Delegation would be in favor of postponing further meetings of the SCT. Prior to the up-coming discussions, Germany would already like to note that the decisions which had to be made should not in any way be interlinked. In particular, decisions concerning the future work of the SCT and the IGC should be made separately, as any link might lead to the discussions and negotiations slowing down or even being postponed. The protection of designs was becoming increasingly important for creative businesses in highly-competitive markets. It was essential for enterprises trading across borders in a time of globalization to achieve sufficient design protection for their products through the easy and cost-effective registration of industrial designs under the Hague system for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs had done much to simplify the system even further. The Delegation looked forward to further efforts concerning the modernization of the Hague system, including a discussion on ways to focus solely on the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The Delegation noted the broad consensus among Member States concerning the continuation of work within the IGC. Germany therefore supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC and the continuation of the work on text-based negotiations in order to achieve the aim of reaching consensus on a *sui generis*, non-binding legal instrument that took account of the vested interests of holders of TK, GRs and TCEs. Such an instrument should not, however, harm the functioning of the international IP system and there might be some way to go in that regard. Germany called on all those present to commit to efficient and concentrated participation in future sessions, to cooperate in a constructive and transparent manner and to make use of the results of the facilitators' process. Nevertheless, the quality of a future *sui generis*, non-binding legal instrument, or instruments, was of far greater importance than the mere speed of its development. The issues at stake in the IGC were too important to ask for a quick outcome rather than a well thought-out solution. The time for further steps had not yet come and the milestone of seriously considering the adoption of a legal instrument had not yet been reached. Germany remained fully committed to further progress in the field of development and welcomed the implementation of the 45 WIPO DA recommendations in a balanced and consensus-driven way. Over the previous year, progress had been made concerning several projects led by the CDIP. The DPMA had continued its successful cooperation with other IPOs and IP-related organizations and was still running PCT-PPH pilot programs with the following six IPOs: the JPO, the USPTO, KIPO, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), the Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom (UK-IPO) and SIPO. The purpose of the PCT-PPH was to improve the efficiency of the patent examination procedure by sharing work results. In 2013, two of the PCT-PPH pilot programs had been extended for another two years. In addition, the DPMA had received further requests from other IPOs to initiate new PCT-PPH pilot programs. The DPMA had kept up its tradition of patent examiner exchanges with its partner offices in Japan, Republic of Korea,

China, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Brazil, Australia and the United Kingdom. The DPMA and the SIPO had entered into a data-exchange agreement to improve and enhance the search activities of their respective patent examiners and to allow the public to have access to IP information from both offices. Discussions were also ongoing concerning the implementation of a cooperation agreement with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS). Furthermore, the DPMA was planning to host a number of events over the course of 2013, including an advanced training course on patent search and examination in the field of biotechnology and a roundtable on supplementary protection certificates. Germany supported the approval of the Financial Statements 2012 as recommended by the PBC. The audit of the Financial Statements 2012 confirmed WIPO's sound financial position. The implementation of the Program and Budget for the 2012/13 biennium showed that WIPO's high expectations with regard to revenues had more or less materialized, with a positive outlook for the rest of the biennium. The Delegation welcomed the productive interaction of the WIPO Secretariat with the IOAC and the Member States, as well as the transparency of the audit and evaluation reports. Germany was willing to pursue further discussions on governance and the definition of development expenditure, with a view to achieving acceptable lasting solutions. Germany welcomed the comprehensive Annual Report on Human Resources, as it further increased transparency in that regard, and was confident that the Secretariat would take appropriate action regarding concerns over rising staff costs and their long-term effect on the financial sustainability of the Organization.

59. The Delegation of Costa Rica said that it was a real honor for its country to have been selected to host the Third Ministerial Conference for the Central American Region on IP Management, Creativity and Innovation, which would take place in San José in October 2013, and thanked WIPO for its support in that respect. The topics that would be addressed were: the implementation of national IP strategies; the development of TISCs; the establishment of a Central American program on IP training for trainers; and, finally, the generation of the necessary cooperation in the subregion to encourage Central American small and SMEs to use IP. The Delegation thanked the WIPO Director General for participating in such an important event, his presence reflecting the Organization's commitment to cooperate actively to strengthen mechanisms for IP enforcement and disclosure in the region. Two side events would be held on the occasion of the Third Ministerial Conference. The first event would be a seminar on promoting respect for IP in Central America, which would address counterfeiting and piracy and their social and economic impact, as well as anti-counterfeiting/piracy mechanisms. Thanks to the support provided by WIPO, experts in the field would be attending the conference. The second event was the Central American Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair, which would be attended by inventors and businessmen from the region, with a view to showcasing their innovative products and discussing the importance of IP as an incentive for growth in economically-active sectors. The Delegation stressed its Government's efforts to establish coordination between public and private institutions with a view to the effective implementation of the IP strategy adopted in 2012. To that end, it had set up committees to tackle concrete subjects, such as, *inter alia*, enforcement and precautionary measures ordered by administrative authorities. In that connection, the Delegation welcomed the input of an expert from WIPO's Enforcement and Special Projects Division, who had worked with Costa Rican specialists in the field of dissemination to ensure effective communication. The Delegation referred to the work of the Costa Rican Academy of Intellectual Property, which had organized major workshops and seminars that had taken up various IP-related issues, consolidating the Academy's role as a key center for the storage and dissemination of IP culture. The Delegation expressed the commitment of its Government to continue to facilitate access to knowledge and culture without any distinction being made. That was why efforts were being made to ratify the Marrakesh VIP Treaty as soon as possible and the Delegation urged other WIPO Member States to undertake to do the same. The Delegation expressed an interest

in continuing to participate actively in the various WIPO Committees, given that the fruits of their work had translated into benefits in terms of the management of the various national institutions active in the field of IP. The Delegation reiterated its country's commitment to continue to make progress in the fields of innovation, creativity and protection of IPRs with the support of WIPO.

60. The Delegation of Belarus expressed its satisfaction with the efforts taken by WIPO to maintain and strengthen the position of the Organization as a global authority on IP, and thanked it for its cooperation in building an effective domestic IP system. The Delegation said that, since Belarus had made innovative development a priority, greater importance was given to the role of IP in its scientific and technical, commercial and industrial, and socio-cultural development. During the reporting period, the Government of Belarus had made significant efforts to improve the domestic IP system, in particular: the Law on Commercial Secrets had been adopted and had entered into force; work on the new draft of the Law on Patents for Plant Varieties was nearing completion; work had begun on the new draft Law on Trademarks and Service Marks; and a proposal had been developed to improve legislation on the protection of copyright and related rights on the Internet. By way of preliminary measures, the Government was implementing the national strategy on IP up until 2020, which had been developed in cooperation with WIPO and focused on integrating the IP system into the national economy. All that work was intended to ensure the balance of rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders in the use of intellectual resources. In order to use the international IP system more effectively and establish higher standards of protection in Belarus, accession to the BTAP and the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs was being considered. To demonstrate the successful strengthening of IP capacity in Belarus, the Delegation wished to provide the following brief data: in the previous five years, the number of applications for protection of inventions filed annually by domestic stakeholders had grown by 50 per cent, the number of domestic stakeholders' trademarks protected in Belarus had doubled, the number of applications for the protection of trademarks abroad filed by Belarusian stakeholders under international procedures had increased eightfold, and the number of deals registered in relation to industrial property had more than doubled. The Delegation acknowledged the assistance of WIPO in launching and operating IPAS for trademarks, which allowed the optimization of technical processes for handling applications for the registration of trademarks, reduced the time frame for their consideration and simplified the process of exchanging data with WIPO. As part of the implementation of the national IP strategy for 2012-2020, and efforts to make it easier to use the IP system, there were plans to organize and hold events in Belarus over the coming years. In particular, events on technology transfer and IP training, seminars for SMEs and seminars on the procedure for filing an application under PCT, which were intended to encourage a rise in the number of applications from domestic applicants that were filed under the procedure. In conclusion, the Delegation thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work and said that it was confident that the agenda items for the current session would assist in the effective resolution of the challenges facing national IPOs.

61. The Delegation of Guatemala endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC, and recognized the key role that IP played in countries' economic development. It was essential to ensure the continuity of the ongoing processes concerning the drafting and implementation of national strategies leading to the use of IP systems. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's standard-setting work and its efforts to establish forums for international negotiations, with a view to the drafting and implementation of legal instruments that addressed the concerns and met the needs of States with regard to new IP-related issues. One example of such an instrument was the Marrakesh VIP Treaty adopted in June 2013. The Delegation thanked WIPO, through its Director General, for its support and cooperation with regard to technical capacity-building, the formulation of projects and continuous training, both at the National Intellectual Property Office and in the different national sectors working on various IP-related topics. The Delegation reiterated its willingness to keep endeavoring to reach the goals and targets which WIPO had mapped out for the next biennium.

It looked forward to the debates in the Assemblies, hoping that it would be able to contribute constructively to the finalization of concrete agreements that would benefit millions of people who believed in and relied on IP.

62. The Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda expressed its appreciation to WIPO for having coordinated several meetings and workshops over the previous year and for the excellent administrative and technical support that had been provided, ensuring success at all levels. It looked forward to WIPO's continued support concerning Antigua and Barbuda's endeavors and commitment to creating a modern and stakeholder-driven industrial property registry. Antigua and Barbuda was aware of the importance of the development of IP for goals and aspirations, and during the previous year, the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office (ABIPCO) had experienced growth and expansion. In particular, the increase in the automation of its registry would revolutionize the way in which business was conducted, and would bring stakeholders into the eCommerce and eGovernment environments. It was expected that, by the second quarter of 2014, its registry would be fully automated. As a small developing nation, Antigua and Barbuda was exceedingly proud of that accomplishment and remained hopeful that, with WIPO's assistance, it would have all the necessary units installed. The multidisciplinary committees of Antigua and Barbuda continued their dialogue with stakeholders to ensure a greater appreciation and understanding of IP throughout all sectors, particularly for matters of enforcement (an approach of particular importance for "black pineapple" as a collective mark). To mark World Intellectual Property Day 2013, ABIPCO and the Ministry of Education had hosted a very successful secondary and primary school essay competition, in conjunction with the Office's main corporate sponsor, Scotiabank. The Delegation stated that, while the creative and artistic nature of the people of the Caribbean was well-known and documented, in the past their IPRs had not garnered the type of protection they deserve, due largely to the lack of knowledge concerning protection. Given the range in scope of national initiatives and IP development in the Caribbean region, it should be apparent that the region took IP-related issues seriously. The Delegation expressed appreciation for WIPO's sensitivity and understanding in recognizing the developing needs of the people of the Caribbean, who wished to harness their IP assets. However, WIPO support for efforts in the region had become critical and an increase in terms of the technical and staff resources of the Caribbean Unit of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean would be necessary in order to ensure that the unit could support further the growing aspirations of the Member States concerned. Furthermore, the Delegation stressed the importance of Caribbean States attending and participating in higher-level regional meetings. The Delegation pointed out that, as outlined in the DA, WIPO's work must incorporate the needs of the developing world if the broad parameters for addressing IP issues were to be agreed upon. The Delegation therefore urged that recommendations concerning implementation should be adopted with all deliberate speed, particularly in the fields of technical assistance and capacity building, technology transfer and norm-setting, which were areas in which the developing world was in greatest need of assistance. The Delegation commended the work of the SCCR, the SCP, the SCT and the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks.

63. The Delegation of Nepal associated its statement with the statements made earlier by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, and the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's initiative to align innovation and the IP system with the development needs of the countries and people that were most in need of assistance. For LDCs like Nepal to reap benefits from their vast wealth of IP, there was a need for human and institutional capacity building and technology transformation. Those countries' needs and concerns were finding growing space in WIPO's programs and activities. WIPO's recent initiatives in establishing technological and innovation centers, training human resources with a focus on technical skill development, building and modernization of national IP institutions, transformation of the informal sector and enterprise development had been of great importance to LDCs. The Government of Nepal had already completed a draft national IP policy with the

objective of protecting all IPRs. There were also efforts to modernize IP infrastructure and legislative frameworks. The Government was working to establish a National Intellectual Property Protection Office (NIPPO). With the support of WIPO, Nepal would establish TISCs and further WIPO assistance was expected in the areas of productive capacity building, human and social development, agriculture, and trade and technology with a focus on providing youth employment opportunities. Support measures should go beyond a project-based approach and address deeper structural weaknesses, in particular through support for the digitization of Nepal's TK, GRs, folklore and other forms of TCEs, and branding of the products of SMEs. Opportunities existed for collaborative partnership between WIPO and regional organizations of which Nepal was a member. The Delegation commended the adoption of important IP instruments, including the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, and called for an early conclusion to negotiations on the text relating to TK, GRs and folklore. The Delegation hoped that the Assembly would extend the mandate of the IGC to allow for the intensification of negotiations and facilitate the conclusion of a binding treaty.

64. The Delegation of South Africa supported the statements of the African Group and the DAG and acknowledged the progress made to address the imbalance between private and public interests. It believed IP had a significant impact on developing countries and sustainable development and encouraged WIPO to take bolder steps to mainstream the DA to accelerate the social, cultural and economic development of certain countries. The Delegation noted that the adoption of this Agenda constituted a watershed and that South Africa urged more work in this area, believing that more resources should be allocated to development activities to enable participation of Member States in programs. South Africa applauded the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and hoped to see the spirit of Marrakesh infuse other negotiations such as those under the IGC and to see more progress on IGC texts with a view to concluding discussions and convening a diplomatic conference in 2014/2015. The Delegation observed that the substantive progress had been made to support text-based negotiations for such a conference as proposed by the African Group. The Delegation declared its active interest in the treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations as discussed in the SCCR and urged Member States to work towards an early diplomatic conference. South Africa fully supported the flexibilities of the IP system, particular in respect of exceptions and limitations. The Delegation declared South Africa's emphatic support for the establishment of external offices in Africa and supported the Secretariat's proposal. As the fastest growing region in the world, and the only region without an office, Africa was in need of such capacity-building activities and technical assistance to better participate in the world IP system. The Delegation was convinced that improved governance at WIPO would lead to greater efficiency, predictability and transparency. South Africa also welcomed equitable geographical and gender representation among WIPO staff and asked for greater efforts to create a balance both inclusive of and representative of Member States.

65. The Delegation of El Salvador endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC, and expressed interest in the maintenance, expansion and self-sustainability of development programs, which had been strengthened with the inclusion of programs that were of benefit to Member States and complemented national plans designed to strengthen the IP system. In the case of El Salvador, those plans had led to projects and programs developed strategically in accordance with the national agenda. The Delegation expressed satisfaction at the Director General's commitment to the Central American countries, as reflected by his participation in the Second Central American Ministerial Meeting on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Economic Development and the High Level Segment held in El Salvador 2012, as well as the Third Ministerial Meeting and High Level Segment due to take place in San José (Costa Rica) in October 2013. Those events had provided a framework that enabled ministers responsible for IP to develop a "space" in which to discuss topics relating to national IP strategies, as well as the implementation of new IP services that contributed to innovation and economic development. El Salvador was endeavoring to incorporate the benefits of the WIPO-administered IP systems into the dynamics of domestic SMEs, a sector

which enjoyed a new impetus stemming from the value chains of productive national sectors. That, in turn, made it possible to improve the quality of the products and services on offer through the effective use of IP public policy tools. El Salvador was making ongoing efforts, linking all institutions working in the field of IPRs. The country was also strengthening the specialized Intellectual Property Office of the National Registration Center (CNR). The Delegation considered that WIPO could play an important role in alleviating the impact of the global economic and financial crisis by developing and promoting a platform for the transfer of technology and innovation. Accordingly, El Salvador had joined the project to establish a National Network of TISCs. The centers were located throughout the country, and offered users personalized technical assistance concerning the creation, protection, exercise and management of the ownership of their IPRs, encouraging the strengthening and promotion of technology transfer. The Innovation and Quality Directorate of the Ministry of the Economy operated as the TISC coordinating the national network, and served as a basis for communication and cooperation between participating institutions. With regard to the Organization's standard-setting activities, the Delegation congratulated the Member States and the Director General and his team on the adoption, in June 2013, of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. That instrument marked an historic milestone as an international agreement that would improve the quality of life of blind and visually impaired people everywhere. Such individuals would now be able to exercise the human right to benefit from the cultural and literary heritage by accessing knowledge through books. With regard to the IGC, the Delegation said that the majority of Member States agreed that a decision should be taken at the present Assemblies to renew the Committee's mandate for the following biennium. In the Delegation's view, such a decision should cover the following: the content of the mandate; the timetable of thematic meetings to be held and the appropriate technical or political level of said meetings; the suitability of inter-sessional meetings; working documents; and, agreement on the convening of a diplomatic conference "in real time". Given that the presence and active input of El Salvador's experts would be necessary, the Delegation asked that sufficient funds be earmarked to cover the participation of experts from national capitals. With regard to CDIP, the Delegation reiterated its satisfaction at the progress made and called on all regional groups to continue to work together in order to move forward in terms of the WIPO DA. With regard to the PCT Working Group, the Delegation said that, when incorporating amendments from the PCT Regulations into national legislation, Member States must reflect on what had been achieved to date, in accordance with the guidelines on improvement of the PCT laid down in the PCT Roadmap. They should then bear in mind that, before taking the next steps, there was a need to consider the level of development of each individual PCT Member State. As for the work of the SCT with regard to a treaty for the protection of individual designs, the Delegation reiterated its country's commitment to those efforts and supported the recommendation that the General Assembly should convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of industrial designs (design law treaty) in 2014. Notwithstanding the above and the level of maturity of the draft design law treaty, technical assistance and capacity-building work had not yet been completed, which was why the Delegation was calling for a mandate to be given to finalize those efforts. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Chairs of the WIPO Committees and Working Groups for their commitment and leadership concerning the achievement of the concrete goals mapped out by the Member States. Finally, the Delegation thanked the WIPO Director General, the Secretariat and the corresponding Divisions for their efforts to monitor, support and coordinate the activities and projects put forward by the Government of its country. Confidence was expressed in the work carried out by the Director General, who had successfully led the Organization as a provider of services to the global economy and the administrator of international IP treaties. The Organization had now positioned itself as the UN body specialized in IP-related development issues.

66. The Delegation of Benin expressed support for the statement made on behalf of the African Group and LDCs. The Delegation praised the Director General and the Secretariat for the convincing results obtained, in particular in terms of cooperation for development. That extremely fruitful cooperation had allowed the Delegation's country to benefit from the technical,

financial and legal assistance activities organized by WIPO. The most recent activities to date had been the National Workshop on Intellectual Property (IP), Scientific Research and Innovation for Technological Development and the Training Workshop on the Development of a National Network of Technology and TISCs, held in Cotonou from July 29 to 31, 2013. The aim of the workshops had been to facilitate the use of IP tools for the purposes of research, invention and innovation. The Delegation welcomed that support and expressed a strong wish that cooperation between its country and the Organization should be strengthened, given the crucial role of IP in the social and economic development of Benin and of Africa in general. In that regard, the Delegation had highlighted the need to go ahead with the opening of two external offices in Africa during the course of the 2014/15 biennium. Africa possessed significant natural assets and was home to many researchers and innovators, who required easy access to relevant information and improved technology in order for them to be able to promote local products, create wealth and make a useful contribution to the economic rise of the continent. Moreover, the Delegation welcomed the success of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Delegation expressed a wish that the Delegations should demonstrate the same flexibility during the work ongoing both within the SCCR and the IGC. Such flexibility would allow said Committees to move towards the adoption of international legal instruments. Finally, the Delegation reiterated its gratitude towards the Director General for being ready to undertake and support concrete actions in favor of development and encouraged him to continue to work to integrate further the issue of development into the Organization's program of work.

67. The Delegation of Morocco associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation noted that 2013 marked an important step in the history of WIPO, with the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The historic treaty would surely enable WIPO to progressively establish itself as a standards setting organization and would confirm its leadership in the field of IP. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty sent "a clear and strong signal of justice to the entire world, in particular to visually impaired persons", as had been the wish expressed in a message from His Majesty King Mohammed VI, for whom the adoption of the treaty "would be an historic milestone among the most significant developments in the history of WIPO, not only because it represented a new, civilized law, but also because of its great significance for humanity in clearly translating our common will to uphold the genuine values of mutual assistance and human solidarity". The Treaty was the first international document on the books of the Organization to provide for exclusive exceptions and limitations to copyright, thereby allowing blind and visually impaired communities around the world to discover, explore and use copyright protected written works. The Marrakesh Diplomatic Conference, which was so important for the international community and the WIPO family, could not have achieved its work without the firm determination and constructive contributions of all delegations, nor without the exemplary efforts of the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and his team. The commitment made to the blind and visually impaired community should be carried forward by speeding up the processes required for the entry into force of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, in order that the community might benefit from its many advantages. As in previous years, in 2013 Morocco was in a position to continue and increase its cooperation with the Organization in several areas, thanks to WIPO's support policy, active monitoring and technical assistance from its various bodies, including the Arab Bureau, the Copyright Division, the Brands and Design Sector, the Global Infrastructure Sector and the Innovation and Technology Sector. In order to improve its IP system and raise it to the highest level of international standards, Morocco had initiated reforms to its legal framework for IP. It had therefore adopted a bill on copyright and related rights that provided for the preservation and protection of the interests of stakeholders in the creation of cultural and artistic works, and that regulated the right to remuneration for private copying. Morocco had also adopted a bill amending the law on industrial property protection, which provided for reform of the national system for trademarks and industrial models, and a bill making the Moroccan Intellectual Property Office an independent institution. In the context of its international commitments, Morocco had also adopted a number of international treaties in 2013, including the Regulations under the Geneva

Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs, the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification, and the STLT. At an operational level, it had carried out several projects in direct collaboration with WIPO, in particular the entry into preproduction of IPAS for managing invention patents, automation, management of international marks, the promotion of innovation and IT, and boosting training activities and TISCs. Morocco reiterated its commitment to and support for the work on standard setting being carried out in various bodies of the Organization, in particular work aimed at the introduction of a balanced industrial property system that promoted economic, technological and societal development. Given that perspective, Morocco supported further negotiations on the draft industrial design treaty. Morocco welcomed the progress achieved by the SCCR with a view to the conclusion of an international treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation hoped that the ongoing negotiations on the limitations and exceptions for libraries, archive services and educational and research establishments would lead to a satisfactory outcome for all. Having followed the discussions of the IGC with great interest, Morocco reaffirmed its support for the initiative of the African Group that proposed renewing the mandate of the IGC, planning new thematic sessions and, possibly, convening a diplomatic conference during the 2014/15 biennium. The Delegation was pleased to note that WIPO continued to play a major role by contributing to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and by helping developing countries to take advantage of the international IP system. Morocco encouraged the Organization to continue its technical assistance policy and to bolster its capacities for developing countries, in order that development issues should be an integral part of its activities. Finally, the Delegation wished to welcome the constructive commitment made by WIPO to implement the recommendations of the DA with the aim of better integration of the MDGs. Morocco took note of the financial resources allocated to development in the draft budget for the 2014/15 biennium.

68. The Delegation of Zambia requested that, in pursuing their respective mandates, the various Committees should ensure a balanced approach to norm setting, in order to guarantee that the work of the Organization remained relevant to the interests of all, especially LDCs. With WIPO support, Zambia had been able to review its industrial property legislation and had put in place a national policy on IP, which was being implemented. Zambia continued to benefit from technical assistance programs, including staff training and the automation of the Zambian Patent Office. With the upgrade of IPAS, the Patent Office had improved efficiency with regard to the processing of trademark applications and responding to queries. The deployment of the electronic document management system (EDMS) was expected to strengthen further the workflow. The establishment of the first TISC at the Patent Office had been another major milestone. Fitted with state-of-the-art electronic equipment, the TISC was expected to be fully operational in the near future. The Delegation expressed its thanks for the training of Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) staff by WIPO and said Zambia had benefited greatly from the Appropriate Technology Transfer program, under which two projects had been launched to address the issue of providing potable and irrigation water in drought-stricken areas of the country. The Delegation added that Zambia had been selected as one of the countries to host the technology and innovation competition organized by WIPO in collaboration with KIPO. The International Bureau had organized a training session on reproduction rights, which had generated great interest among stakeholders, including publishers and authors. The Delegation called on the Secretariat to continue capacity-strengthening efforts in the area of copyright, especially in LDCs, in order to allow those economies to realize tangible development benefits from copyright protection and enforcement. The Delegation announced that the Government of Zambia had been introducing various instruments at the national level. One of the major initiatives undertaken in the field of copyright had been the introduction of holograms as a security feature for all audio and visual works, the aim being to curb piracy. The Delegation stressed the importance of expediting the text-based negotiations of the IGC in order to adopt a legally-binding instrument for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's continued focus on consolidating and strengthening programs aimed at assisting developing countries and LDCs to make better use of IP as a development tool. In particular,

the Delegation welcomed the change in WIPO's business model, with its greater focus on the delivery of services through information and ICT, the consolidation of the WIPO Academy and the streamlining of efforts aimed at capacity building for MSMEs. The Delegation mentioned the International Bureau's efforts to implement cost efficiency measures, as mandated by the General Assemblies, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue in that direction without compromising the delivery and quality of the Organization's core programs. The Delegation acknowledged the work of CDIP and commended the Secretariat on the progress made in the implementation of DA projects in support of developing countries and LDCs. It looked forward to stepped-up efforts in that area. The Delegation remained committed to giving full support to the realization of the DA objectives and looked forward to the adoption by the General Assemblies of the recommendations made by the PBC in so far as the work of the Committee was concerned. The Delegation ended by stating that members needed to uphold the balance established in the work of the SCP and ensure that tangible progress was made on patents and public health, transfer of technology and exceptions and limitations.

69. The Delegation of Mozambique commended the Director General's report which reflected WIPO's commitment to promoting innovation and creativity in a balanced and effective international IP system. The report gave a clear picture of WIPO's activities geared towards achieving the Organization's strategic goals. The report also highlighted, *inter alia*, the importance of balanced development of the international normative framework; the use of IP for development; a worldwide IP infrastructure; an international source of IP information; and the protection of IPRs. The Delegation underscored the successful outcome of the Marrakesh Diplomatic Conference which resulted in the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Mozambique believed that the conclusion of such an international instrument was a matter of significance. Mozambique had signed the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and was working towards its ratification. Mozambique had deposited the instruments of ratification of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in August 2012. Cooperation between Mozambique and WIPO had included the deployment of IPAS in the Mozambique IPO and a WIPO technical mission was visiting Mozambique. A growing number of universities and other higher education institutes were including IP courses in their curricula. With the support of WIPO, Mozambique intended to establish a national IP academy. In the area of joint training programs on IPRs, Mozambique had played host to a symposium sponsored by WIPO and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) in 2012. WIPO's cooperation activities in Mozambique were aimed at helping society to attain acceptable levels of economic, social and cultural development by unlocking the potential of innovation and IP. The Delegation accorded special importance to the WIPO DA, adopted in 2007 with the objective of mainstreaming the development dimension into all areas of WIPO's work. The Delegation praised WIPO for its role in ensuring that its activities contributed successfully to UN development initiatives, including the achievement of the UN MDGs. The Delegation also emphasized the importance of the joint proposal by the DAG and the African Group on WIPO's technical assistance in the area of cooperation and development. Similarly, the Delegation commended the progress made so far in the consideration of IP and GRs, TK and folklore, and believed in the importance of convening a diplomatic conference to ensure the protection of GRs, TK and folklore, and to promote community development.

70. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire supported the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. The Director General was praised for his foresight and the fresh impetus he had given WIPO, through the implementation of the SRP. The SRP had, in particular, helped to broaden the IP system and reduce knowledge-related inequalities. The developing countries and LDCs in particular had benefitted from the Program, which enabled them to maximize the benefits of innovation and the knowledge economy. Despite the pressing challenges concerning IP in the twenty-first century, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the fact that 2013 had been a very good year for the Organization, with the conclusion of three multilateral treaties. Of those three treaties, the Delegation felt that the best example was the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, adopted in June 2013. With that major historic event, WIPO had shown

with remarkable skill that multilateralism was capable of endowing globalization with a human face, giving back, as it did, new hope to a significant segment of society which would now be able to enjoy the rights and freedoms recognized for all. The Delegation reiterated its gratitude to the Government of Morocco for its generous hospitality and flawless organization. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO gave the Delegation yet another opportunity to reaffirm its country's commitment to the ideals of equality, sharing and equity upheld by WIPO with a view to strengthening IP worldwide through the stimulation of innovation and creativity. On that occasion, the Delegation urged all Delegations to show resolve and a real willingness to cooperate in the negotiations underway on WIPO's main priorities, with a view to achieving satisfactory results. Delegations should also consider the possibility of convening further diplomatic conferences in 2014, in the field of industrial designs, for example. With regard to GRs, TK and TCEs, the protection of which would contribute to broadening the scope of IP, it should be pointed out that several significant breakthroughs had been made after 13 years of intense negotiations. However, many differences still had to be ironed out before a consensus text could be finalized within a reasonable time frame. The Delegation added that its attention had also been taken up by other concerns that were specific to the developing countries and LDCs and were linked to assistance designed to strengthening their capacity to participate in and use the IP system. Such concerns included the narrowing of the digital divide and the factoring in of the needs of SMEs when defining development cooperation activities. There was no doubt that the IP system enabled countries to develop technologically. Accordingly, Côte d'Ivoire had, for several years, been implementing ambitious institutional reforms, with a view to realizing, as far as possible, the enormous potential offered by the sector. For example, with regard to the Ministry of Industry and Mining, a national IP development plan containing a number of actions to be carried out had been adopted. In that context, innovative projects were underway. Such projects included the establishment of TISCs and the establishment of a national committee on GIs and collective marks, to enable Côte d'Ivoire to utilize modern tools in order better to market its products, in particular cacao, of which it was the world's leading producer. In addition, with a view to turning Côte d'Ivoire into an emerging country by the year 2020, the Government was focusing its efforts on creating an efficient industrial sector, particularly in the manufacturing field, which was the only means of generating the structural change capable of creating the wealth and jobs which the country needed. The Ministry of Culture and the French-speaking Community had committed itself to a process of regulating the arts and culture sector with a view to promoting a genuine cultural industry in Côte d'Ivoire. Major projects had been implemented and others were underway with a view to combating fraud and piracy with regard to cultural works and promoting creativity and creating wealth. One example of such an undertaking was a project to establish 2,000 sales outlets for cultural products and services throughout the country. The Delegation also highlighted that the Ivorian Copyright Office (BURIDA), which was being restructured, was working actively – with significant and valuable support from WIPO – to prepare management tools with which to train its staff and members in copyright and related rights. IP was at the heart of the strategic development choices made by the Government, which missed no opportunity to support activities promoting that useful development tool. Yet, those actions, no matter how well-thought-out they might seem, could not be effective without the assistance and support of WIPO. The Delegation took the opportunity to express, on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, its recognition of and thanks to the Director General of WIPO and the Secretariat for their exemplary cooperation and for their choice of Abidjan, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, as the venue for the meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania, from December 4 to 6, 2013. That meeting, which was part of efforts to promote ratification of the two Treaties recently adopted by WIPO, namely the BTAP and the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, provided an excellent opportunity to increase awareness among ECOWAS policy-makers of the useful role that IP could play in States' strategies for economic, cultural and social development. The Delegation concluded by saying that Côte d'Ivoire welcomed that display of trust and undertook to spare no effort to ensure the smooth organization of the event, which it hoped would be a resounding

success. It reiterated its firm desire to promote IP in all development-related activities, with the help of WIPO and the international community.

71. The Delegation of Hungary expressed support for the statement made by the Delegation of Poland, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and that made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU and its member states. The Delegation highlighted the importance of the efforts of WIPO in terms of inspiring national offices and governments to develop national IP strategies and announced that, in August 2013, the Government of Hungary had adopted a national strategy on the protection of IPRs for the period 2013-2016. That strategy was the first comprehensive governmental strategy in Hungary prioritizing IP. The Delegation expected that there would be further development of the strong cooperation between WIPO and Hungary during the implementation phase of the aforementioned strategy. The Delegation announced the upcoming Regional Industrial Design Conference in Budapest on October 2 and 3, 2013, organized by the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) in cooperation with WIPO and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM), focusing on the promotion of design protection as an engine for innovation. The Conference would address the international design law system and its recent developments. The Delegation reaffirmed its strong commitment to the work of the SCT and expressed the opinion that the discussion on the proposed design law treaty had reached the final stage and that the General Assemblies should decide on convening a diplomatic conference in 2014. The Delegation welcomed the consensus of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (Appellations of Origin) and its recommendation to the Lisbon Union - Assembly to approve the convening of a diplomatic conference on the revised Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration in 2015. The Delegation expressed confidence that the revised Agreement would render the Lisbon System more user-friendly, more attractive to non-member countries and would protect economic interests in both developed and developing countries, possibly resulting in a much wider membership of the system. The Delegation also welcomed the work of the PCT Working Group, commenting that the quality of the work of international authorities was an important element of the PCT system. The Delegation understood the need to review the existing appointment criteria and the procedure of international authorities, however, it should be noted that a more effective application of existing appointment criteria should also be examined as a positive solution. The Delegation expressed the view that, even if Contracting States agreed to a positive review of appointment criteria, the appointment of the new international authorities should continue to take place under the current requirements and procedure. The Delegation added that should any new set of appointment criteria be adopted, in order to avoid discrimination and to ensure high-quality service, it must be applied to existing and future international authorities.

72. The Delegation of Burundi supported the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and sought a similar approach to the protection of GRs, TK and folklore. In that regard, the Delegation encouraged the SCT to progress negotiations on the international registration of industrial designs, and encouraged the Assembly to approve the budget for convening a diplomatic conference on the matter. Burundi had received financial and technical assistance from WIPO to modernize its IP law to bring it into line with the TRIPS Agreement, draft legislation and strengthen the capacities of its officials, and had signed an agreement with WIPO on service levels as part of the TISC project. The Delegation would welcome the extension of that cooperation through the development of a national IP policy, technical assistance to take an inventory of agricultural products whose export value could be increased by using an appellation of origin and in other ongoing projects. In order to reach a significant level with respect to IP, LDCs should be able to benefit from strengthened cooperation, improved technical assistance and capacity building. It would therefore be expedient to make a decision on the opening of two external offices in Africa during the Assembly, in order to promote innovation and creativity in Africa.

73. The Delegation of Senegal associated itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. It voiced its satisfaction with the strong positive results produced over the course of the 2012/13 biennium, particularly with regard to the healthy financial situation of WIPO and the conclusion of two new international treaties that extended and strengthened the international IP system, namely the BTAP in 2012 and the Marrakesh VIP Treaty in 2013. The Delegation also noted that several conferences were held, including one in Dakar on the strategic use of IP to develop the sports industry in Africa. The 2014/15 biennium should maintain momentum in order to achieve a number of objectives, in particular to convene a diplomatic conference to conclude a treaty on industrial designs that took due account of the technical assistance needs of LDCs; finalize negotiations in the IGC to conclude one or three instruments on GRs, TK and TCEs for adoption during the 2014/15 biennium; accelerate the work of the SCCR on broadcasting organizations and the limitations and exceptions for educational and research establishments, libraries and archives; open additional external offices, including on the continent of Africa which did not currently host any offices; and revitalize TISCs. A Program and Budget for 2014/15 that included all the above-mentioned elements would receive the support of Senegal, particularly if the bulk of the 21 per cent of the budget apportioned to development was effectively allocated to operational activities. In that regard, the Delegation highlighted the need for a concise definition of development expenditure, noting that the definition proposed by the Chair of the PBC appeared to be adequate. To conclude, the Delegation emphasized that Senegal, which enjoyed a long and rich history of cooperation with WIPO, continued to refine its strategy for the effective integration of IP in its development policy. As part of legal and institutional reform, it planned, for example, to grant artists a certain status and set up a private collective management company. Those measures were aimed at supporting the activities of the Senegalese Agency of Industrial Property and Technical Innovation (ASPIT), which focused heavily on encouraging innovation and the creation of basic technologies that noticeably improved peoples' daily lives and encouraging the private sector to participate more in the global digital market. In that spirit, Senegal was very pleased by its election to the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee and thanked all delegations for the confidence they had placed in Senegal.

74. The Delegation of Cambodia associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN, and the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. It supported a mandate for the IGC for 2014 and 2015, and the holding of a diplomatic conference as a final step towards an international legal instrument for the effective protection of GRs, TK and folklore. The Delegation appreciated the continued support of WIPO in drafting a Cambodian national IP strategy; establishing an IP information center; delivering advisory assistance to the Madrid system; setting up IP asset management programs; conducting study visits for Cambodian officials overseas; the WIPO expert mission on trademark examination; providing translation services; drawing up a document in Khmer English; and the delivery of legal advice on Cambodian IP. The Delegation thanked ASEAN for its support and effective cooperation in those matters. It encouraged WIPO to continue supporting the Cambodian national IP strategy for the achievement of development objectives and economic development goals. In conclusion, Cambodia looked to the establishment of an international instrument for the effective protection of GRs, TK and folklore, and a capacity building system for innovation knowledge and IP development that would serve as an important instrument for long-term technological and economic development. Cambodia remained committed to working closely with all Member States.

75. The Delegation of Indonesia associated itself with the statements made on behalf of the Asian Group and the DAG, and wished to share its experience of cooperation with WIPO. Economic growth could only be achieved if IPRs were in place at the local level and the Government of Indonesia was therefore preparing to accede to the copyright treaties and the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks in 2015. The Delegation hoped that IPAS would not be limited to industrial property, but would

also cover copyright. In order to promote public awareness of IP, Indonesia's first National IP Day would take place on November 22, 2013, and it was noted that WIPO could prioritize public awareness-raising through the translation of various technical documents. The Delegation announced that Indonesia would sign the Marrakesh VIP Treaty during the Assemblies. While the previous meeting of the IGC, in July 2013, had not reached agreement on its future work and the renewal of its mandate for the 2014/15 biennium, Indonesia had hosted a consultative meeting in Bali on the matter that had concluded that a high-level meeting should be held to provide policy guidance for the work of the IGC. The Delegation stressed the importance of the Assemblies agreeing on the modalities for individual mandates. Indonesia continued to support WIPO in its work on the DA and also saw the need for a permanent agenda item on IP and development in CDIP.

76. The Delegation of Turkey hailed the achievement of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and indicated Turkey would sign it once internal procedures were complete, and in the same context endorsed recent further progress on texts from the IGC. The Delegation noted the continued political commitment of the Government of Turkey to enshrine effective IPR protections in its Action Plan, observing that two new draft laws had been prepared on IPRs and copyright. Turkey's Intellectual Property Coordination Board had drafted a National IPR Strategy Paper, to be finalized by the end of 2013, while the Turkish Design Council had completed and launched a National Designs Strategy. The Delegation noted Turkey's appreciation for efforts to convene a diplomatic conference for adoption of a design law treaty. In respect of enforcement, the Turkish police, Customs and judiciary had been increasing their institutional capacities as demonstrated during the Global Congress on Counterfeiting and Piracy organized in Istanbul in cooperation with WIPO, Interpol and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Regarding the creation of IP, the Delegation reported that Turkey had earmarked universities to play greater roles in innovation, and further reported a decree of the Turkish Supreme Council for Science and Technology on developing policy tools to trigger innovation and entrepreneurship in universities, while the draft IP law provided new instruments for commercializing their inventions. The Delegation also reported that a project for disseminating IP knowledge in universities had been launched together with an IP Awareness Campaign. On the matter of IP statistics, the Delegation observed a continuous increase in demand for Turkey's registration services, where patent and design applications had continued to rise above the world average while trademarks continued to top the list. The associated workload had been addressed by institutional reorganization, an enhanced IT infrastructure and new business models. The subsidiary e-tools of WIPO had been instrumental and integration of the Goods and Services Manager successfully completed, while integration to OHIM's TM view extended Turkey's services EU-wide, in line with the objectives of easier access to and dissemination of IP knowledge stated in its Institutional Strategic Plan. Turkey had continued pursuing new partnerships with national offices such as China, France, Spain and Sweden while carrying out its existing projects in the international environment, as with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Delegation declared that future top priorities included IP awareness and education, areas where the region had great need for international cooperation and to which end Turkey had initiated two cooperation programs with WIPO, to establish a national IP academy and launch a graduate program at a Turkish university. The Delegation believed that through revitalization of these initiatives the region would see a dramatic increase in awareness and respect for IP. Turkey would also be pleased to host an external office, and believed that to make optimal, effective use of resources, WIPO and Member States should set up a transparent process with precise guidelines for the selection of future centers.

77. The Delegation of Burkina Faso congratulated the Chair on her election and the way in which she guided the Assembly's work. It also expressed its gratitude to the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for the particular attention he paid to the use of IP as a tool for socio-economic and cultural development, and for his many efforts to help Member States in general, and African countries in particular, to benefit from the advantages of the IP system. The Delegation also thanked the Secretariat for its commendable efforts to prepare the numerous

documents submitted to the General Assembly, as well as its work throughout the course of the year. Burkina Faso warmly anticipated constructive, effective and productive meetings. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. Although the authorities of Burkina Faso had already made efforts to develop IP with the support of various partners, many challenges remained. The Delegation therefore sought the support of WIPO to assist Burkina Faso in drawing up its IP development strategy and establishing a TISC. In the context of a knowledge economy dominated by the widespread use of information and communication technologies, it was essential that WIPO should intensify its modernization programs for IPOs and improve access to IT. In order to contribute to bridging the digital divide in underdeveloped States, Burkina Faso hoped that the donation of computing equipment to States as part of the establishment of TISCs that had in fact been initiated by the Director General of WIPO would continue. In that context, Burkina Faso fully appreciated the efforts made by WIPO to integrate the promotion of development, access to knowledge, technical assistance and technology transfer into its plans and activities. Moreover, the Delegation reiterated its appreciation of the Director General's support for developing countries and the continuation of WIPO cooperation activities with Africa, and encouraged him to speed up the opening of new WIPO external offices. Burkina Faso welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and the constructive approach adopted by Members States, which had allowed norms to be developed in the field of TK. Furthermore, given the place of creativity in the globalized world, Burkina Faso supported the convening of a diplomatic conference on industrial designs. The Delegation was convinced that, over the course of the Assemblies, a positive and balanced outcome could be reached. In conclusion, the Delegation reaffirmed its determination to make a positive contribution to the discussion in order to achieve tangible results, and, in that regard, it counted on a participatory and inclusive approach, which was essential to capitalizing on the diversity of positions.

78. The Delegation of the Holy See noted the efforts made by the Director General and the Secretariat to maintain the global authority of WIPO in the field of IP and highlighted the new Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The process of negotiations and the political will to reach out to visually impaired persons had demonstrated that the way forward for the international community was to show solidarity with persons with disabilities and accept their full participation in the life of society. As post-2015 development priorities were discussed, a successful approach would view humanity as one family and place those most in need at the center of plans and programs. Economic indicators showed that, in the past 20 years, there had been a shift away from land and capital as the main factors in productivity, and therefore the wealth of industrialized nations, towards technology, knowledge and skill. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical letter 'On the Hundredth Anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*' (*Centesimus Annus*), had stated that far too many people had no possibility of acquiring the basic knowledge to express their creativity and develop their potential, and no access to the network of knowledge and dialogue where their qualities would be appreciated and utilized. While knowledge and innovation had been crucial to development throughout human history, in recent decades, technological revolution had seen knowledge emerge as the key driver of competitiveness that was profoundly reshaping patterns of global economic growth and activity. A well-designed IP system must balance the private rights of inventors with the public needs of society, as was reflected in the Objectives of TRIPS, which stated that the protection and enforcement of IPRs should contribute to technological innovation and the transfer and dissemination of technology to the mutual advantage of producers and users, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations. The Delegation emphasized that the primary goal of IP was not the allocative efficiency of the economy, but rather to support a democratic culture, since, as Paul VI had stated in his encyclical letter 'On the Development of Peoples' (*Populorum Progressio*), a human being was truly human only if he was master of his own actions and the judge of their worth, and the architect of his own progress.

79. The Delegation of Zimbabwe supported the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Brazil, on behalf of the DAG. It announced its intention to sign the Marrakesh VIP Treaty during the Assembly. While the Marrakesh VIP Treaty demonstrated what Member States could achieve through political will and the courage to improve the lives of their people, especially the most vulnerable, the Delegation expressed concern at slow progress and the lack of political will demonstrated by certain parties with regard to concluding treaties of interest to developing countries in areas such as GRs, TK and folklore. It added that Zimbabwe had, for many years, asked the relevant committees, including the IGC, to expedite their work and therefore urged Member States to marshal the requisite political will to bring negotiations to an end and pave the way for a diplomatic conference during the 2014/15 biennium. The Delegation of Zimbabwe fully supported innovative approaches such as holding high-level cross-cutting meetings with a view to accelerating negotiations in that area. With regard to the Program and Budget, the Delegation strongly supported the proposal to establish two WIPO external offices in Africa. It reaffirmed WIPO's central role in ensuring that all countries could benefit from IP by using it for economic, social and cultural development and noted that the establishment of at least two external offices in Africa would strengthen the continent's commitments in the field of IP. It looked forward to approval of the initiative and the provision of the necessary financial resources. The Delegation also stressed the importance of strengthening the existing ties between WIPO, ARIPO and African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) for the benefit of Africa and declared that it continued to value the technical assistance provided by WIPO to various IP institutions in Zimbabwe under bilateral programs, expressing particular appreciation of WIPO's steadfast support for the Master's Degree in Intellectual Property hosted at Africa University. The degree program continued to command international respect and African demand for it was rising. The Delegation counted on WIPO's continued support for the degree program, since it was pivotal to the advancement of IP education and innovation in Africa. The Delegation called for increased resources to enable the WIPO Academy to fulfill its mandate.

80. The Delegation of Spain said that it supported the statements made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU and its member states, and by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B. It also congratulated the Secretariat, the Director General and all WIPO Member States on the joint achievements of the past year, in particular the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. It hoped that the so-called "Beijing spirit", combined with the "Marrakesh spirit", would guide the work of the Assemblies and make it possible, among other things, to agree on the convening of a diplomatic conference on industrial designs. The three topics the Delegation had covered in its statement the previous year, namely, multilingualism, efficiency and budgetary prudence, had lost none of their relevance. The Delegation had discussed those topics in detail, stating that multilingualism was a key aspect of the UN system. It appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to ensure and improve their implementation, and hoped that the current Assemblies would adopt a revision of the language policy and gradually extend multilingualism to the rest of the working groups. Efficiency and budgetary prudence were two closely related and vitally important concepts, especially in the current situation of global economic uncertainty. As WIPO was mindful of that situation, it was making major efforts to improve its efficiency and productivity, and those efforts should extend to all parts of the Organization and include reflection on the way in which the Organization managed its many large-scale meetings, in addition to guiding the process of opening new external offices. In the Delegation's view, budgetary prudence remained a key element, despite the recent increase in income, which all should welcome. Notwithstanding that rise in income, the proposed budget represented a significant increase in the Organization's expenditure. When the reduction in expenditure due to efficiency efforts made during the current biennium and the proposal to use reserves were factored in, the level of spending for the next biennium involved an increase of over 6.7 per cent over the previous biennium, a figure slightly higher than the increase in income. The Delegation urged the Secretariat to make the necessary efforts to contain spending, which would also make

it possible to limit or avoid using the reserves. Reserves should only be used under exceptional circumstances, for example in the event of a sharp decline in income. In conclusion, the Delegation hoped that the spirit of the recent agreements would guide the meetings and make it possible to reach agreements that were important for the proper functioning of the Organization.

81. The Delegation of Mexico endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC. The President of Mexico recognized the great importance of innovation and IP development as drivers of economic growth. Accordingly, the National Development Plan for 2013-2018 earmarked 1 per cent of GDP for science and technology, doubling the amount made available under that heading in the previous budget. That decision had been taken with a view to promoting the granting of patents. As GRULAC had emphasized, it was essential to open a WIPO Office in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region whose great potential in terms of innovation and use of the IP system deserved recognition and support. A new Office would ensure that WIPO services reached out further, promoting innovation and regional dynamism. The Delegation hoped that the discussions that would take place during the current week would be constructive and would help to build bridges between Member States, leading to the establishment of new external offices in other countries as a part of a transparent process that included, on equal terms, all the regions represented in the Organization. It was important for WIPO to step up cooperation with developing countries and LDCs, focusing in particular on the modernization of their IP systems, in accordance with their priorities. The Delegation said that the Government of its country welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which would also contribute to compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and that of the BTAP were clear examples of political will. The Delegation hoped that such a spirit would continue to prevail. It also hoped that the General Assembly would shortly convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty to protect broadcasting organizations against signal piracy. Mexico reiterated its commitment to negotiations on the topic of limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, educational and research institutions, and persons with other disabilities. The Delegation also hoped that progress could be made concerning the convening of a diplomatic conference on TCEs during the next biennium. Mexico strongly supported the Mexican non-governmental organization (NGO) "National Association of Appellations of Origin" (ANDO) as an observer and backed WIPO's multilateral agenda, mindful that IP was a valuable tool for the economic, social and cultural development of countries. The Delegation welcomed the fact that informal consultations had just been convened on the topic of external offices. Clearly, that was a priority issue for both Mexico and Latin America and the Caribbean, and would be a determining factor in terms of the ability to reach agreement on other topics. The Delegation hoped that those consultations would begin as soon as possible, so that the topic could be dealt with during the current week.

82. The Delegation of Uganda associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. With technical assistance from WIPO, Uganda was preparing to accede to the Madrid system. The Delegation commended the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Uganda had signed the final Act and Treaty. Uganda required special attention in its efforts to improve the livelihood of its people and WIPO had supported the development of that country's capacity in the area of IP. Uganda aimed to transform itself from a peasant to a modern and prosperous society within 30 years and that goal could not be achieved without the global IP system. The Government's efforts to comply with regional and international obligations included the introduction of a new industrial property act, a GIs act and a trademark act. The Delegation paid tribute to WIPO and other nations that guided Uganda during the benchmarking studies. Support from WIPO had included the DA project on IP and product branding, where Uganda had been one of the pilot countries; the establishment of TISCs; institutional and human resources developments; and the deployment of IPAS in the Uganda Registration Services

Bureau (URSB). WIPO had also provided technical support and guidance in developing an IP policy. The Delegation extended an invitation to the Director General and ARIPO member states, observers and other stakeholders to attend the ARIPO Council of Ministers and Administrative Council in Uganda in November 2013.

83. The Delegation of Togo supported the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. It thanked the Director-General for WIPO's continuing cooperation with Togo and LDCs in general, as well as for organizing the Workshop on Patent Information and Patent Search Techniques and Strategies, which had taken place in Lomé on August 16 to 18, 2012, within the framework of the establishment of the TISC. Indeed, the Center was set up after the Workshop. WIPO's support had also enabled the implementation of an IP development plan for Togo. The Delegation encouraged the Director-General to maintain technical cooperation activities with all Member States and especially LDCs, including Togo. It congratulated the Director-General on the adoption, in June 2013, of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which followed on from the 2012 BTAP. The Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference on industrial designs, which are tools of progress for Member States and LDCs in particular. It expressed satisfaction with the approach adopted by Member States, which had enabled positive developments in the field of GRs, TK and folklore, and was keen for the mandate of the IGC to be renewed. Finally, the Delegation supported the establishment of two WIPO external offices in Africa and invited Member States to reach a rapid decision in that regard. Such offices would be very important for the promotion of IP, which remained an essential tool for the economic and social development of the African continent.

84. The Delegation of Uruguay endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC, and by the Delegation of Brazil, on behalf of the DAG. The Delegation emphasized that the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty represented an extraordinary contribution to both civil society and public policy goals, given that it took into account copyright limitations and exceptions. The Treaty reflected the constructive work and flexibility of the Member States. The Delegation stated that Uruguay attached great importance to the discussions which took place at WIPO and hoped that the cooperation and pragmatism of the Member States would make it possible to reach a consensus on topics which were vital for the developing countries. A balanced solution concerning those topics would benefit all and would have a positive impact on governance within the Organization. The Delegation was satisfied with the decisions adopted at the Twenty-First Session of the PBC, and reiterated its commitment to finding solutions concerning the topics on the agenda at the current Assemblies. The Delegation was confident that the spirit which had marked the Marrakesh VIP Treaty would guide the Member States in their search for solutions. The Delegation was following with great interest efforts to mainstream the development dimension, in particular with regard to technical assistance activities and progress in terms of specific projects. Accordingly, it saw a need to agree on a definition of the concept of "development expenditure", given the comments by the Delegations and the independent examinations of the technical assistance provided by WIPO. The Delegation greatly appreciated the technical assistance it received from WIPO and highlighted the results of the implementation of the TISC project. The TISC project was designed to promote innovation and develop IP services with added value for the benefit of the national innovation system and SMEs. Uruguay had received substantial support from the WIPO Academy concerning the achievement of the national strategic training goals linked to the attainment of a critical mass in terms of IP. Given its importance, the Delegation was concerned about the future of the Academy and wished to receive a full copy of the relevant independent study carried out. The Delegation recalled that one of the goals of the DA was to ensure that balance and transparency were present throughout WIPO. The Delegation congratulated the Member States on the reintroduction of Program 30: SMEs and Innovation, a wise decision given the importance of that sector for the economies of developing countries. The emphasis on development, as one of the Organization's strategic goals, was essential in terms of ensuring that the IP system contributed to development and to the resolution of shared problems.

Accordingly, the Delegation urged Member States to maintain the same level of commitment with regard to the implementation of the DA. The Delegation reiterated the importance of applying the mechanism for the coordination, supervision, evaluation and submission of reports on the DA, as adopted by the General Assembly. The mechanism covered all WIPO bodies in a cross-cutting fashion. In conclusion, the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the VIP Treaty proved that it was not impossible to reach agreements, which was why the Delegation urged Member States to act with similar determination in the search for balanced solutions that would be of benefit to all.

85. The Delegation of Viet Nam stated that the activities of WIPO had contributed not only to the promotion of innovation, creativity and IP protection for the benefit of all Member States but also to addressing global and emerging issues, thus confirming the important role the Organization had to play in the international community. Stressing Viet Nam's support for the work of the Organization in seeking to achieve the objectives set out in the SRP, the Delegation noted with appreciation the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty within the framework of the SCCR and the progress made by the IGC in promoting protection in those areas. In that respect, Viet Nam supported the proposal that the Russian Federation should host a diplomatic conference on the proposed design law treaty the following year. Positive results were also noted in the implementation of projects under WIPO's DA for the benefit of developing and least developed Member States. The Delegation supported the concept of south-south cooperation among Member States and encouraged WIPO to develop projects beneficial to the Member States involved, stressing that Viet Nam was committed to active participation in that process for the common good. Cooperation between Viet Nam and WIPO had changed over time. During the past year, Viet Nam had benefited from numerous projects under the DA, including the distance learning program, the specialized databases and, especially, the formulation of a national IP strategy. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to WIPO for its continued support and the assistance rendered to Viet Nam and looked forward to further enhancing its cooperation with the Organization. In conclusion, the Delegation restated its commitment to working with WIPO in the development of IP for the common benefit of all.

86. The Delegation of Ecuador endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC. With regard to the subject of patent law, the Delegation deemed it necessary to include activities designed to assist Member States with regard to strategies for innovation and technology transfer. In that respect, cooperation was essential to ensure that the developing countries and LDCs could develop programs for internal improvement and consolidate their technical structures, while strengthening their IP legislation. Another key factor which the Delegation supported was the implementation of the planned activities of the program of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, since the technical assistance which WIPO could give countries in that respect would be extremely important with regard to their goals in terms of establishing national arbitration and mediation centers. Moreover, Ecuador attached special importance to the WIPO Academy, as it was the main provider of education and training for development. One must not forget that the WIPO Academy represented one of the few sources for technical IP training to which developing countries and LDCs had access. Consequently, if a decision were taken to withdraw the Academy's support for those countries, they would no longer be in a position to offer Master's degrees in IP. The proposed Budget stated that, in the next biennium, the Academy would act as a catalyst by establishing a virtual network of universities that would provide training in IP and related issues, and that fee reductions would be negotiated with universities in developed countries for participants from developing countries. The Delegation saw a need for capacity-building in developing countries so that their own universities could grant Master's degrees in IP, given the limited number of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean offering master's degrees in IP. The Ecuadorean Institute of Intellectual Property would once again participate as a beneficiary in WIPO's project for the establishment of national IP academies. The Delegation reiterated its support for WIPO's operational solutions and efforts to provide IPOs with platforms for the development of ICT. It emphasized that one of the goals of

the proposed budget was to ensure that IPOs geared their activities towards service provision. Accordingly, its country wished to highlight the request submitted to WIPO to implement IPAS in Peru. In conclusion, as regards external offices, the Delegation noted that the understanding that had been reached through informal consultations was that such external offices would only be established if it were financially feasible for WIPO to do so. In that respect, the Delegation strongly supported the establishment of an Office in the Latin America and Caribbean region during the 2014/15 biennium.

87. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its hope that, through combined efforts and a striving for compromise from the participants of the Assembly, positive and mutually acceptable results would be achieved. The Delegation noted that, in connection with increasing globalization, the mutual penetration of economies and the increased role of innovation activities, it should be borne in mind that the activities of each individual national patent office, whatever its capacity or resources, were insufficient and could not fully and effectively guarantee the required level of IP protection and meet the needs of all applicants and rights holders. WIPO was unique in its capacity as an international body to improve and administrate the international system of IP protection. The weakening of the leadership role of such a body in regulating the international IP system would be unacceptable, since in the conditions of contemporary innovation economies it would inevitably lead to a drop in the level of protection for IP that would, in turn, have a negative impact on the effectiveness of protection for the results of intellectual activity and, in the end, might negatively impact upon the economy of States and the world overall. The Delegation attached great significance to cooperation with WIPO and, given growing globalization, recognized the importance of establishing an effective system for managing IP and developing an intellectual rights market in the Russian Federation with the aim of enhancing competitiveness and the technological modernization of the domestic economy. Under an MoU signed by Rospatent and WIPO, a project to establish TISCs was being successfully implemented. Within a short period of time, 82 TISCs had been established and had entered into operation in 56 regions of the Russian Federation, where they provided innovation companies and inventors with free access to specialized databases and other high-quality IP information resources. The Russian Federation remained interested in the further implementation of the project. The Delegation aligned itself with the position of the CACEEC Group regarding external WIPO offices and fully supported the work of the Secretariat in that regard. The establishment of new external offices – one each in China, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, and two in Africa – would bring the Organization closer to the users of WIPO's global registration system, serve to stimulate an increase in applications and allow WIPO to fulfill its mission in a more appropriate and effective manner. The establishment of a WIPO office in the Russian Federation took on particular significance given the development of integration processes in the region, beginning with the Customs Union and Common Economic Zone of the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and the implementation of processes to harmonize national systems and implement IP policies agreed by the three countries. The Delegation remained confident that opening a WIPO office would provide valuable impetus to strengthen multilateral relations in the region and would help to develop innovative activity in all Russian-speaking areas and promote creativity. Significant progress had been achieved in the previous two years by the main WIPO committees and bodies. The Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh that had taken place in 2013, and which had led to the adoption of a treaty to improve access to published works for visually impaired persons and those who were otherwise print disabled, was a shining example of constructive cooperation among Member States. The success achieved by the Secretariat and all Member States was welcomed and the Delegation was certain that the positive spirits of Beijing and Marrakesh would be maintained by other committees that were tackling some of the most significant draft international documents, including those on copyright and TK, GRs and folklore. Significant progress had been noted in the work of the SCT on the draft Industrial design law treaty that would simplify registration procedures. Given the recent progress made by the Committee, and the high level of readiness of the draft text of the Treaty, the Delegation strongly supported the convening of a diplomatic conference in 2014 to adopt the Industrial

design law treaty. The Delegation called upon all countries to support that important initiative given the maturity of the issue and the need for a treaty for millions of stakeholders. Recalling that the Russian Federation had previously offered to act as the host, the Delegation announced the decision by the Government of the Russian Federation to propose its capital, Moscow, as the site of the diplomatic conference, and said that a note to that effect had already been sent to the Director General of WIPO. Should the proposal be accepted, the Government of the Russian Federation would make every effort to ensure the successful conduct of the diplomatic conference. The Delegation emphasized that the current session of the General Assembly would consider numerous issues that were important to the activities of WIPO, such as the selection of the Director General in 2014 and approving the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium. The Delegation highlighted that it was open to discussions and would make every effort to find solutions that ensured a balanced consideration of the interests of all WIPO Member States.

88. The Delegation of Peru endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC, and thanked the Director General for the valuable technical and financial support which WIPO had provided to its country. Peru intended to remain a leader in the region as far as IP was concerned, with such projects as the Observatory for the Promotion, Protection and Dissemination of Genetic and Traditional Resources, which Peru was developing in close cooperation with WIPO. The Delegation noted that Peru was classified as one of the world's mega-diverse countries and thus valued and fully supported the significant efforts made within the IGC to arrive at legally-binding texts that would ensure the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The IGC had made substantial progress, and it was clearly necessary to continue the discussions with a view to achieving a binding instrument that would ensure adequate protection of resources and knowledge which were important, not only for Peru and the region, but for all humanity. Consequently, it was necessary to renew the Committee's mandate, which included a High-Level Segment and the convening, as other Delegations had requested, of a diplomatic conference during the up-coming biennium. Peru had been one of the major beneficiaries of the project for the establishment and strengthening of a school for competition and IP, which had made it possible to train human resources for the benefit of Peru and the region. Training had included seminars on various IP-related topics. The school had been consolidated at the national level and had initiated regional activities that enabled it to contribute to the promotion of south-south cooperation. The Institute for Consumer Protection and Intellectual Property and WIPO had both played a key role in the abovementioned efforts. The Delegation's participation in the work of WIPO was consistent with the high priority it attached to IP protection as a driver of development. That was why the Delegation recognized the importance of the drafting of public IP policies as a key tool for the economic development of peoples. Peru was in the final stage of the process which would culminate in a national IP strategy that would offer a comprehensive view of those priorities which the country would seek to consolidate in the short, medium and long term. That strategy had to contribute to the country's efforts to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Likewise, and in accordance with the national policy of social inclusion, Peru had strongly supported the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which represented a milestone because it favored better access to print publications for more than 285 million people throughout the world. The Treaty had originated with a GRULAC initiative, which had been shaped by intensive days of negotiation within the SCCR. The Delegation welcomed the decision taken within the framework of the WIPO ACE in December 2012, to approve a Peruvian proposal for studies on the economic impact of piracy and counterfeiting on countries, utilizing objective and impartial parameters, in order to make clear to all the damage such activities caused. Those efforts were but one example of the importance which Peru attached to multilateralism and its commitment to strengthening WIPO's agenda through the inclusion of tangible initiatives. In conclusion, as the Delegation had stated at the last session of the PBC, the establishment of a new External Office in Latin America and the Caribbean was a key objective for the region. Accordingly, the Delegation reiterated the appeal made by GRULAC members calling on the Assemblies of WIPO Member States to take a favorable decision in that regard.

89. The Delegation of Romania associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU, and by the Delegation of Poland, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and affirmed the great importance it attached to priority topics on the WIPO agenda, noting in particular its belief that a design law formalities treaty was the next step to take after the successful conclusion of the Beijing and Marrakesh VIP Treaties. The Delegation stated its view that the current status of the draft provisions on industrial design law and practice showed hope and commented that only political will and a consensual approach were necessary to move to a diplomatic conference. An important objective for Romania was the protection of broadcasting organizations through an internationally binding legal instrument, and the Delegation emphasized that if due attention were paid to the subject, greater progress would be achieved in 2014. The Delegation wished to stress Romania's engagement in continuing discussions in the IGC to establish a pragmatic work program based on a new mandate for 2014/2015. The Delegation confirmed that IPR enforcement continued to represent a high priority for Romania, in WIPO and nationally. The State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and the Romanian Copyright Office had implemented numerous activities for strengthening the collaboration established with the national law-enforcement agencies. Dissemination of information and activities to raise IP awareness had continued to receive special emphasis in the national IP agenda, and the Delegation stated that teaching IP in public school institutions had become a new field of action. Romania shared the view that creativity played a prominent role in the economic growth and welfare of a society and therefore supported an effective international IP system to which WIPO and its Member States could contribute. The Delegation added that a genuine spirit of cooperation among Member States should enable smooth progress on all topics and it underlined the importance of transparent governance by WIPO in all domains.

90. The Delegation of Serbia endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Poland, on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation recognized WIPO's efforts to improve the international IP system, broaden a culture of IP and build capacity in Member States, and commended the historic achievement of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Delegation supported the proposal to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a design law treaty in 2014 and expressed interest in making the Lisbon Agreement more attractive for future members by drafting a new instrument of that Agreement. The work of the ACE contributed to the national and global struggle against piracy and counterfeiting. Serbia had continued its efforts to build an efficient system of IP protection, with a new law on the protection of semiconductor topographies, amendments to the Trademark Law and the Copyright and Related Rights Law, and the promotion of patent protection for R&D work. The IPO had organized over 100 seminars and other activities that had contributed to a six per cent increase in domestic patent applications and a 50 per cent increase in patent filings by institutions and faculties. The study "Contribution of the IPRs-based industry to the Serbian economy" was being finalized and would contribute to a better understanding of the importance of IPRs and lead to greater respect for IP in Serbia. WIPO's pilot project "Integration of IP into Innovation Policy" was aimed at discovering how IP had stimulated innovation in Serbia. The Delegation expressed gratitude for WIPO's efforts to provide user-friendly services, especially the Madrid Goods and Services Manager.

91. The Delegation of Ukraine acknowledged the significant progress made by WIPO in terms of developing a sustainable and accessible international IP system, strengthening the global IP legal protection system and promoting efficient use of IP worldwide by ensuring stable and well-balanced cooperation between different countries and regions. The work carried out by WIPO to encourage the professional development of its employees and to improve the existing system constituted a very important step. Moreover, the number of WIPO publications available in different languages continued to increase. The Delegation was completely satisfied with the results of the fruitful work of all WIPO Committees and supported the proposal put forward by the SCCR concerning the discussion of important issues linked to the following topics: the protection of the rights of broadcasting and cablecasting organizations; limitations and

exceptions for libraries and archives; and, the consideration of the text of the document focusing on the development of an appropriate international legal instrument concerning limitations and exceptions for educational and R&D establishments. The Delegation heralded the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, in June 2013, as a great success. The adoption of the abovementioned Treaty would enable a large number of persons with disabilities to access printed information, as well as to have the opportunity to perceive the world through the existing body of printed literature. Paper and electronic format brochures explaining the advantages of accession to the BTAP and the Marrakesh VIP Treaty should be developed by WIPO. As Russian was one of the official languages of WIPO, such brochures could be translated into that language for dissemination during the course of further public dialogue on the improvement of the protection of the rights of audiovisual performers. The Delegation expressed support for the work of the IGC. In view of the fact that TK was critical for economic development in a number of regions in Europe, it was necessary to continue with activities linked to the development of international instruments which would permit GRs and TK to become important elements of economic relations. Moreover, the Delegation looked forward to further fruitful work in the framework of the CDIP, which served as a platform for global discussions and the implementation of substantive measures concerning the well-balanced development of the IP system. It was hoped that WIPO would support the development of national IP institutions in developing countries and countries in transition, with the purpose of establishing equal partnership between all WIPO Member States. In that context, the Delegation expressed Ukraine's gratitude for the assistance provided concerning the implementation of the first steps in the process of developing a draft of a national IP strategy for Ukraine. It thanked WIPO for its assistance in the organization of joint seminars and conferences and the WIPO Summer School on Intellectual Property was also singled out for praise. The Delegation reported that Ukraine focused in particular on issues related to the improvement in the quality of IP-related education and it expressed the hope that support would be provided for efforts to implement a number of IP educational programs. The Delegation added that Ukraine attached great importance to the appointment of an ISA and IPEA, as that would offer confirmation of skilled human resources and strong technical capacity, as well as high-quality search and examination. The Delegation supported the establishment of WIPO's new external offices, including those planned for the Russian Federation and China. The Delegation praised WIPO for its activities concerning the establishment of a stable, efficient, global IP enforcement regime and the creation and maintenance of a solid platform for productive multilateral cooperation.

92. The Delegation of the Slovak Republic endorsed the statements made by Poland, on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), and by Lithuania, on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. The Slovak Republic attached great importance to the creation, maintenance and improvement of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system, as a part of which WIPO high-quality technical assistance, combined with monitoring mechanisms, offset disadvantages related to different levels of economic development. Patent law had always been a cornerstone of the innovative global economy. Users of the patent system had been calling upon the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) to improve that system further. The work of the SCP enabled Member States to compare legal regimes and administrative processes, and to detect best practices. The Committee should ensure that it had a balanced agenda that reflected the various demands for discussions expressed by developed and developing countries. With regard to the previous Session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, the Delegation was convinced that the differences would be bridged and that a consensus on technical assistance and capacity building would be reached. A multilateral agreement would consolidate the protection of designs and strengthen innovation and creativity. The Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference. Figures on the filing of applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) showed that the world economy was recovering and that the PCT system was vital to the functioning of the global patent system. The PCT Working Group had made good progress with regard to adjustments to PCT rules. The Slovak Republic was committed to continuing the negotiations on genetic

resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions and looked forward to continuing the work of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), as well as other projects agreed on within various Committees. The Slovak Republic placed great importance on the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (Appellations of Origin). The great progress made and the results achieved during the previous year were much appreciated and the Slovak Republic supported the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015. The Delegation highlighted the importance of cooperation with WIPO, and commended the assistance provided to the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic (IPO SR). The presence of a WIPO representative had been highly appreciated at the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the IPO SR, which had been well attended and had received good political and media coverage. The IPO SR had organized numerous activities relating to IP education and awareness, including a special program for elementary schools attended by more than 600 students on the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day. It had also been involved in the program for Researchers' Night, an annual Europe-wide mega-event. A poster exhibition on the subject of design had been held in the premises of the IPO SR, in cooperation with the Technical University in Zvolen. New curricula focusing on IP utilization had been launched, and experts had given lectures on IP topics for academic and business audiences. The IPO SR had organized bilateral meetings with the Minister of Economy and the Minister of Education and common ground had been identified with a view to cooperation in the areas of innovation, support and the education system. A project to raise public awareness concerning IP had been designed, including a recently-launched media campaign.

93. The Delegation of Afghanistan said that there had been very few IPRs under the commercial law of Afghanistan in the past and the Department of Trademarks in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had been in charge of registering trademarks in collaboration with commercial courts. A realistic approach to IP was a new experience for Afghanistan and, with the Constitution guaranteeing the rights of authors and inventors, Afghanistan was able to join WIPO in 2005. The IP Board of Afghanistan had been established in 2007 within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and included representatives of various ministries and institutions. WIPO had organized activities such as workshops, seminars and study visits for IP officials and related private sector representatives, including a study visit to industrial property offices in SAARC countries; and a national IP awareness-building seminar in Kabul in 2013. Certain challenges needed to be faced, including the enforcement of IP laws, an insufficient number of IP experts, little IP awareness and a lack of IP education. Afghanistan required support from WIPO for the establishment of a Technology Innovation Support Center at Kabul University. Afghanistan was a signatory to the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and called for a diplomatic conference on GRs, TK and folklore in the coming biennium. Afghanistan welcomed the proposal to establish external offices on the basis of a transparent procedure and set of criteria.

94. The Delegation of Myanmar aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the ASEAN countries. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Myanmar had ushered in a new era since the formation of the new government 30 months previously and had implemented many key reforms within a short time. With support and cooperation from the international community, Myanmar's goals of democratic transformation, job creation, income generation and poverty alleviation would be achieved rapidly. Enforcement of IPRs would encourage foreign direct investment and stimulate creativity and innovation. The Myanmar Foreign Direct Investment Law had been promulgated in 2012 and with its entry into force, Myanmar was stepping up its efforts to draft a patent law, an industrial design law, a trademark and service mark law and a copyright law. WIPO had assisted with the drafting processes and the establishment of an IPO in Myanmar by sending relevant experts and enabling officials to participate in IP-related activities including meetings and training courses abroad.

95. The Delegation of Albania noted that it had a 100-year history of industrial property and that considerable progress had been made in that field, which was an important component in fair competition and the development of the country. Although Albania was a small country, it possessed over 50,000 trademarks, mostly obtained under the Madrid Agreement, and more than 5,000 protected patents. Albania also had a five-year strategy for IP development, which covered the period 2010-2015, and that was expected to lead to employment levels that matched those in developed countries. The Delegation highlighted the assistance that Albania had received from WIPO, highlighting in particular technical support to introduce an automated registration system for industrial property. During the previous year, the Director General had also lent his support to the Albanian office and the general development of IP in Albania. The Delegation emphasized the serious approach towards agreements to which Albania was party and to all future WIPO initiatives.

96. The Delegation of Switzerland noted that 2013 had been a successful year for WIPO, at both the institutional and normative levels. On the institutional level, the Delegation welcomed the completion of the SRP and the restructuring of the Secretariat, which had permitted the latter to work more effectively. In that regard, the Delegation wished to thank the Secretariat for the information meetings and regular reports that had enabled Switzerland to follow the implementation of the project, which was important for WIPO and its operation. On the normative level, the Delegation noted with appreciation the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which Switzerland had been pleased to sign during the Diplomatic Conference in June. Scarcely one year after the conclusion of the BTAP, the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which had been unanimously welcomed, had provided new evidence of the capacity of the Organization to find solutions to given problems by consensus. Such a result had, however, been difficult to imagine at the start of the Conference. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty was the fruit of successful collaboration between delegations who did not always have the same interests but who wished to find a text that would provide tangible advantages to its beneficiaries. Switzerland hoped that the success would inspire delegations for the other work underway, since further positive results were possible if a similar spirit was shown. The work and challenges faced by the delegations during the week included the convening of a diplomatic conference on the revised Lisbon Agreement. The Delegation had actively participated as an observer in the efforts of the working group and welcomed the direction that the draft revised text had finally taken by introducing the concept of a GI in addition to the appellation of origin, thereby expanding the field of application of the agreement while continuing to offer a system, not just for international registration, but also, and above all, of effective protection of those IP titles. That development would clearly be in the interest of holders of GIs and appellations of origin, who were often small-scale producers of niche items, often the products of traditional ancestral knowledge, who sought to use the system to add value to their local products. That desire to provide a registration and protection system that was both simple and effective should be at the heart of the considerations of the working group on the revision of the existing system, and should motivate members of the Lisbon Union to approve the convening of a diplomatic conference in 2015, in accordance with the recommendation of the working group. The Delegation remained fully committed to renewing the mandate of the IGC during the week, which would provide a real stimulus for the work to come and would encourage intensified interaction between Member States to allow it to finally complete its work in as short a time frame as possible, as had been called for by so many members of WIPO. The Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference for a treaty on industrial designs. The work of the SCT had progressed well and was at a stage that permitted such a conference to be convened. A technical and procedural instrument of that nature would usefully complement the similar instruments in place in the fields of patents and trademarks. The Assemblies had also been presented, during its session, with a recommendation from the PBC to approve the Program and Budget for the next biennium, a recommendation that Switzerland generally supported. The Delegation recalled that, as a service-oriented Organization, it was essential to WIPO that the Registration Unions continued to operate effectively and responded to the needs of users in order to help transform innovation and creativity into a tool for economic development.

Switzerland attached particular importance, therefore, to the allocation of adequate resources to the program on the Registration Unions. The Delegation was committed to finding a resolution on the opening of new external offices during the week and was pleased to participate in the working group that aimed to establish, by the end of the Assemblies, the criteria to be met by those offices that would permit some of them to open over the course of the next biennium. The criteria should apply the idea of providing WIPO with a small network of offices that were strategically placed and geographically representative with a regional focus. Switzerland considered those guidelines to be crucial to achieving the intended objective of providing added value by offering policy and logistical support to achieve WIPO's Strategic Goals in a way that was not possible through operations at the Organization's headquarters. In that regard, the Delegation thanked the Director General for the clarification that the matter of creating new external offices was quite separate from the matter of centers with redundancy capacity. In conclusion, the Delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Switzerland to contributing to a positive outcome from the Assemblies.

97. The Delegation of Bangladesh supported the statements made by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. Although the Report of the Director General to the WIPO Assemblies 2013 had shown that, in spite of the economic woes of the post-2008 financial crisis, IP had grown considerably, that growth had not been uniform in all parts of the world. Developing countries, and especially LDCs, had not been able to benefit to their true potential. In order to mainstream the benefits of IP in all Member States, the IP system had to maintain a balance between rights and responsibilities, as well as establishing the importance of innovation and creativity for social, economic, cultural and technological transformation in LDCs. The Delegation was happy to see that LDCs and WIPO were combining efforts to surmount the prevailing knowledge gap/digital divide. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) had resulted in WIPO taking a number of steps to build the knowledge base in LDCs and assisting LDCs in the step-by-step implementation process. In order to implement the first two deliverables, WIPO was providing assistance to LDCs to formulate IP and innovation strategies and policies. Furthermore, a number of national, regional and inter-regional activities had been undertaken. Actions on branding, promoting and making available appropriate technology were other areas where substantive developments could be noticed. WIPO had introduced a number of plans to make important scientific and technical information available to LDCs free of charge and was helping LDCs to formulate innovation policies and strategies, train human resources and set up TISCs. The promotion of indigenous branding was another area that was extremely important for LDCs. WIPO was working extensively in LDCs on the protection of indigenous resources, culture, knowledge and traditions. An understanding needed to be reached implementing the 'coordination mechanism' by agreeing to a permanent functional modality, as agreed in the CDIP. It was also hoped that the definition of 'development expenditure' would be agreed on by all in the near future. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's active engagement in various projects initiated under different DA recommendations. It welcomed the adoption of the BTAP and the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Delegation considered that the Secretariat should initiate consensus-based preparations for a diplomatic conference on the design law treaty, an event which Russia was ready to host. The mandate of the IGC should be extended as required so that the proposed diplomatic conference on GRs, TK and folklore could be convened in the near future. The Delegation welcomed the decision to open WIPO external offices in different parts of the world. However, the Delegation was aware that that would be an ongoing process and hoped that the facilitation of development and innovation and the strengthening of IP would be the prime considerations for new offices.

98. The Delegation of Egypt welcomed recent achievements by the Organization, notably the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, development of global IP systems and the sound financial situation of WIPO. As a developing WIPO Member State, Egypt looked forward to continued efforts by the Organization for the dissemination and promotion of creativity and innovation, as well as establishment of a balanced and development-oriented global IP system

based on using IP tools and policies to achieve overall economic and social development goals. The Delegation trusted that WIPO, as a UN Specialized Agency, had the capacity, resources and expertise to fulfill expectations and aspirations of developing countries for progress and prosperity. Throughout the year, and in cooperation with WIPO, Egypt launched various modernization and development activities in the field of scientific research, innovation promotion, technology transfer and use of IP policies for development goals. The Delegation praised such cooperation which started to bear fruit, and mentioned in particular: programs for the promotion of creativity and innovation deployed across all sectors of society, including schools, universities and the industry; as well as projects for IP and innovation focused more on immediate needs of society, including modern technology for solar energy, water desalination, alternative energy, food security and public health. National patent applications increased at a steady rate which, the Delegation hoped, would double in future especially following the establishment of the Egyptian Patent Office as a PCT International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authority in April 2013. Trademark registration under the Madrid system realized a 15 per cent increase. Awareness programs contributed to a 10% increase in national registration applications. In addition, through targeted programs, SMEs were made aware of the importance of registering their trademarks. Referring to a MoU with WIPO, the Delegation announced the forthcoming posting of Egyptian trademarks on the WIPO Internet web site. It also hoped that the Madrid system be made available in the Arabic language by WIPO, including the Nice Classification. While reviewing achievements of the year, the Delegation was hopeful and optimistic about the future. Egypt had great interest in the advancement of science, technology and research as they relate to intellectual and industrial property. Such interest was also reflected in the recent nomination of a Special Advisor to the Presidency for scientific research, patents and innovation. Progress was being made in integrating DA Recommendations throughout all WIPO activities and programs. Progress in that regard required more support and cooperation for the benefit of all. The Delegation actively and closely followed new treaty negotiations gaining notable momentum. It hoped that such negotiations focus more on TK, TCEs and GR protection with a view to renew the IGC mandate and convene a diplomatic conference in 2015. The Delegation also referred to initiation of WIPO's activities for south-south cooperation in the field of IP and development, and looked forward to further activities in the same spirit and pace. Aware of the importance of such activities for the Organization, Egypt hosted the Second WIPO Inter-Regional Meeting on South-South Cooperation on Patents, Trademarks, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs and Enforcement, from May 6 to 8, 2013. The Delegation hoped that the project second phase would be approved and necessary resources allocated for developing south-south cooperation as a fundamental part of WIPO's work. The Delegation took note of the WIPO proposal for five new external offices in the next biennium in China (1), Russia (1), United States (1) and Africa (2). The Delegation wished to express Egypt's readiness to host and ensure successful operation of one of those two external offices. Decision on new external offices required the establishment of objective, practical and appropriate criteria. Consultations were also needed to ensure approval of the proposal under the 2014/15 Proposed Program and Budget. In conclusion, the Delegation of Egypt wished to support statements made by the African Group and the DAG Group.

99. The Delegation of the Central African Republic welcomed the efforts made in recent years by the leadership of WIPO to modernize and galvanize its activities to promote IP around the world. The Delegation expressed its appreciation of the leadership of the Director General and the strategic guidance of the African Bureau, and of the Secretariat for their great dedication to their work. The Government of Central Africa welcomed the spirit of consensus that had prevailed among Member States at Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh and that had led to its unprecedented success, namely the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. It hoped that momentum would be maintained for the other draft treaties and legal instruments on track for adoption. Given the value of IP as a motor for economic development, the Government of the Central African Republic had taken courageous and ambitious measures in previous years to integrate IP into its various development strategies and policies. The measures included the

establishment of the National Intellectual Property Council, which was responsible for coordinating activities and drafting proposals for the Government with a view to the best use of IP assets at the national level. Those activities and proposals included, in particular, setting up a national committee on geographical appellations that was tasked with identifying and implementing a procedure for protecting local products in order to promote them, and establishing National Invention and Technological Innovation Fair, whose primary goal was to encourage creativity and promote a culture of technology. Regarding copyright, a draft law that was currently undergoing adoption and included the key provisions of the international treaties in force in the field was aimed at turning literary and artistic property into a development tool for the Government of the Central African Republic. Very much aware of the attention it had continuously received from the leadership of WIPO, the Government of the Central African Republic again expressed its gratitude for the ongoing and sustained assistance it had received, not only to enhance human resource capacity through grants awarded by the Organization as part of IP training for staff, and interregional seminars and workshops, but also in the field of scientific and technical information through the creation of TISCs, technical assistance to draft new legislation on copyright and the National IP Development Plan. The Central African Republic was counting on the continued support of WIPO to maintain its achievements and use IP as a key development tool for economic development, despite the difficulties that it had experienced in recent months. In conclusion, the Delegation associated itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group and on behalf of LDCs, and anticipated real success in the work of the Assemblies.

100. The Delegation of Malawi hailed the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and hoped that the same spirit would prevail if a diplomatic conference were convened in 2014 aiming to adopt a design law treaty. Malawi recognized that the country could not progress and effectively innovate to achieve its growth and DA without a clear and comprehensive IP system. The Delegation expressed satisfaction that WIPO would conduct IP automation training in Malawi in October 2013 in the goal of assessing existing levels of such automation, and to provide training and knowledge transfers to the IPO. The mission would result from Malawi's request to WIPO in 2011 for technical and financial assistance in this area, and the Delegation also expected a WIPO mission in mid-October to provide financial and technical assistance in support of its IP policy. Also with the help of WIPO, Malawi planned to launch in 2013 technology and innovation support centers which would confirm the country's determination and desire to develop a technically driven middle economy, wherein IT and science together would be underlain by a strong IP regime. The Delegation explained that Malawi had always maintained that there was an inseparable link between TK, TCEs and GRs, and declared its support for the statement of the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, that recalled that under Recommendation 18, the IGC was requested to accelerate the process aiming for protections in these domains. The Delegation was pleased that the Assembly would have the opportunity to assess progress on the text of an international legally-binding instrument on GRs, TK and TCEs as transmitted to it by the Committee with a view to agreeing the way forward, especially with regard to the convening of a diplomatic conference. While expressing its gratitude to WIPO for the continued assistance in building Malawi's IP infrastructure and human resources consistent with its needs and development priorities, the Delegation confirmed the Government's support for WIPO and anticipated further financial and technical assistance from WIPO to enable it to modernize its IP legislation and carry out successful IP programs for innovation, growth and development.

101. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and expressed its readiness and commitment to engage with all stakeholders to ensure a successful outcome from the meeting. It emphasized the significance of advancements in WIPO's normative work, particularly the ongoing negotiations in the IGC, which were important to promoting knowledge of such resources and to their exploitation and commercialization. The Delegation urged Member States to demonstrate a sense of urgency by renewing the IGC mandate and setting a time frame to convene a

diplomatic conference. The adoption, in 2012, of the BTAP and the historic adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, demonstrated the ability of Member States to take bold steps for human progress and were welcomed. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty, in particular, was not only a copyright treaty, but a humanitarian treaty, whose human rights values should continue to be taken into account within WIPO. The Delegation welcomed the ongoing negotiations in the SCT and supported the proposed design law treaty that was aimed at simplifying business and cutting costs. It underscored, however, the need to take into consideration the readiness of national systems to comply with the demands of the instrument and remained committed to consulting and collaborating with other Member States to develop a workable plan of action during the Assemblies. The Delegation welcomed the acceptance, in principle, of expanding WIPO's services, including the development oriented services, to more Member States and service users. Given the urgent need in Africa for efforts to promote IP awareness and develop a culture of IP, the Delegation supported the proposal to open two external offices in Africa in the next biennium, citing the wealth of riches in Africa and encouraging Member States to support significant investment to develop IP systems for the benefit of all African stakeholders. The Delegation took the opportunity to present the candidacy of Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, the current Deputy Director General of the Development Sector of WIPO, for the post of Director General of WIPO for the period 2014 to 2020. The qualifications, professional experience and stewardship of Mr. Onyeama in various challenging positions in WIPO over a period of more than 28 years made him well-placed to enhance WIPO's growth and competitiveness and to provide services to Member States. Noting that Mr. Onyeama had the personal and professional qualities to secure the commitment and engagement of Member States to move forward, the Delegation wished to solicit the support of Member States for his candidacy.

102. The Delegation of Brunei Darussalam associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the ASEAN Group. In terms of IP, 2013 had been a successful year and Singapore was approaching its goal of establishing a national IPO with the creation of the Brunei IPO (BrulPO) under the Brunei Economic Development Board and with support from the Attorney General's Chambers. BrulPO had recently merged with the Registry of Trademarks and taken on responsibility for patents, trademarks and industrial designs, and aimed to be administering a plant variety protection system by early 2014. The Delegation hoped that the reorganization of IP administration would lead to improved policy coordination and increased efficiency, thereby enabling the country to use IP as a tool for economic growth. The Delegation noted that, in collaboration with BrulPO, WIPO had organized a workshop and national training seminar on the PCT as well as on-the-job training for patent examiners at BrulPO. In addition, WIPO had sent a follow-up mission on the Integrated Management of IP Administration and a preliminary mission on the Development of a National IP Strategy, while also helping the country to implement an automated industrial property system through the deployment of a technical evaluation mission on IPAS. The Delegation was pleased to announce that BrulPO had automated its business processes for patents and industrial designs with the full deployment of IPAS in September 2013. BrulPO had also collaborated with WIPO to conduct a Training of Trainers Program on the Effective Use of IP by the business community, with the aim of assisting the development of SMEs in Brunei Darussalam through enhancing their knowledge of the use of IP for business. Those missions had allowed it meet the goal of coordinating and developing the global IP infrastructure. The offices responsible for IP in Brunei Darussalam had also played their part in meeting the strategic goal of building respect for IP. In conjunction with World IP Day in 2013, BrulPO had embarked on a national school outreach program to promote IPR protection and had also held a successful video competition, in collaboration with Telekom Brunei and the US Embassy in Brunei Darussalam, where contestants were asked to make a video highlighting the importance of the different forms of IP protection. The Delegation announced that Brunei Darussalam would shortly accede to the Hague Agreement, making it the second ASEAN Member State, after Singapore, to accede to the Agreement.

103. The Delegation of Bhutan noted that the agenda of the Assemblies contained complex and technical issues that had been under discussion in different bodies and standing committees during the previous years. It expressed appreciation for the progress made in the IGC towards developing an international instrument to protect against the abuse and misappropriation of TK and folklore, and for the efforts of the other committees, encouraging them to continue their work. Bhutan had benefited from technical input and capacity building programs under WIPO's bilateral framework and the Delegation announced that amendments to the Copyright and Industrial Property Act were ongoing and would be completed by the end of 2013. The amendments would harmonize the country's legislation with the provisions of international treaties and conventions. The Delegation confirmed that the national IP policy would also be finalized by the end of 2013 and urged WIPO to continue developing programs that addressed development needs, particularly for LDCs so that they were able to effectively use IP for wealth creation and economic development. The Delegation informed the meeting that Bhutan had recently conducted its second parliamentary elections and that a new Government had been formed. Democracy had been introduced in 2008 by popular demand, in the belief that the people should have a say in the affairs and governance of the country and that democracy was the best way of serving their interests. The Delegation attached great importance to discussions on the post-2015 DA, which it recognized as an opportunity for countries to share their experience. Following the High-Level Meeting on Happiness and Well-being, convened by Bhutan at UN Headquarters, approximately 60 academic experts from various countries had worked on the details of the DA and their report would be presented to the General Assembly of the UN. The Delegation hoped that the report and recommendations would contribute to ongoing discussions and the post-2015 DA.

104. The Delegation of the Congo welcomed the good management of the Organization and the continued assistance that WIPO provided to Congo in many forms. It aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. In addition, it noted with satisfaction the efforts made by WIPO to render IP not just a tool for development, but also an effective means of promoting innovation and creativity. The Government of Congo had introduced measures to promote industrial property and innovation that included establishing an invention support fund, founding a presidential prize for best invention and organizing a national fair for inventions and industrial and artisanal products, which had been held for the second time in May 2013. It was also in the process of finalizing, in collaboration with the Organization, an IP development plan that would provide a strategy for strengthening the regulatory and legislative framework and operational capacities, and promoting and encouraging creativity and innovation. Furthermore, thanks to the support of WIPO, Congo had launched a TISC on May 10, 2013, that was intended to meet the needs for training in the fields of human resources and research development. The Delegation hoped that cooperation between the Organization and the Congo would continue and be strengthened in order for the national IP development plan to be approved. The Delegation welcomed the significant advances made by certain committees, such as the IGC; certain aspects of the conclusions of its meetings required more detailed work. Regarding the proposals to amend legislation on industrial designs, the Delegation called upon other delegations to engage constructively, while taking into account the political and technical problems brought to light by certain participants. In that connection, the concerns of the African Group regarding technical assistance and capacity building merited careful attention. The Congo attached great importance, on the one hand to the outcome of the African Conference on the Strategic Importance of IP Policies to Foster Innovation, Value Creation and Competitiveness that had taken place in Dar es Salaam on March 12 and 13, 2013, and the other hand, to the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty that had taken place in Marrakesh from June 17 to 28, 2013. The signing of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty demonstrated the Congo's keen interest in the copyright system.

105. The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation expressed its heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Kenya for the terrorist attack in one of the Nairobi malls and assured the people and Government of Kenya of the solidarity of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Delegation commended the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. That achievement demonstrated that an agreement could also be reached in the IGC, which should be given more time to arrive at a positive conclusion. The implementation of the DA had played a major role in improving the international IP system. The Delegation appreciated the support extended to developing countries, particularly LDCs, in leveraging IP for development. Science, innovation and technology were key to improving Africa's competitiveness and economic growth. The Delegation supported the statement made by the African Group in that respect and recognized WIPO's role in promoting the understanding and adoption of IP policies and laws in Member States with different levels of development, as well as enhancing public policy flexibility. The African Conference on the Strategic Importance of IP Policies to Foster Innovation, Value Creation and Competitiveness had been held in the United Republic of Tanzania under the co-sponsorship of the Government of Japan, WIPO and the United Republic of Tanzania. The conference had brought together ministers from African countries, policy makers, researchers and prominent IP practitioners to improve understanding of the importance of IP for business development and wealth creation. The support provided through the implementation of the DA, in particular technical assistance and capacity building, had been appreciated. WIPO had organized a meeting on the development of the TISC project and innovation support through access to technological knowledge, and a workshop for filmmakers. The office modernization program had continued with two missions to follow up IPAS. Support from international organizations and particularly WIPO would contribute to the national efforts in all areas of IP and further encourage creativity and innovation.

106. The Delegation of Cuba said that the development of Cuba's industrial property strategy was reflected in the broad lines of economic and social policy *via* the strengthening of the industrial property protection policy in Cuba and leading external markets. The national policy to be adopted by the Council of Ministers was determined by the social actors of the national industrial property system, in particular and very importantly, the public health care and agricultural sectors. The main aim of developing an IP strategy was to step up efforts to mainstream industrial property and related activities into science and technological innovation systems, foreign direct investment and foreign trade, primarily with regard to exports of goods and services. As far as Cuba was concerned, it was essential to strike a balance between protecting holders of industrial property rights and safeguarding the public interest. The national IP policy was reflected in domestic legislation, which once again reaffirmed respect for the international commitments undertaken in that area, countered the unfair exercise of acquired rights and safeguarded the rights that help Cuba take the steps required to protect public health, including the right to promote access to drugs, guarantee food security, take up the technological challenges stemming from climate change, and pursue other fundamental goals of overall public policy. The Delegation expressed appreciation for the support provided by WIPO, and the Regional Bureau for Latin American and Caribbean in particular, as regards national capacity-building for the different actors within the national industrial property system, and the IT infrastructure sector where the IPAS had been implemented for patents and trademarks, including the management of international trademarks in which Cuba was designated. In the Delegation's view, the IPAS project had had an impact on the development of the technological infrastructure of national offices, and there was a need to shorten the time required to meet countries' operational needs, by means of capacity-building activities targeting national IPAS administrators. In addition, the Delegation reiterated Cuba's interest in participating in the "IP and information and communication technologies" program on the digitization of industrial property documents. It said that WIPO's DA was one of the cornerstones of the Organization and its Member States. In that regard, it gave high priority to the results achieved in implementing some DA recommendations through projects. It highlighted the importance of

determining how to implement the coordination mechanism and the monitoring, evaluation and reporting modalities of the DA so that the development dimension could be mainstreamed into all WIPO activities. It also recognized the need for Member States to enter into a dialogue on IP and development as part of the third pillar of the CDIP. The Delegation emphasized the need for the Organization to continue earmarking funding from its ordinary budget for the implementation of DA recommendations. It congratulated Member States on the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, and said that the community of nations now faced the challenge and responsibility of implementing that instrument. It was to be hoped that, in the future, a similar outcome could be achieved with regard to exceptions and limitations for the benefit of libraries, archives, research centers, educational institutions and others for persons with disabilities. The renewal of the mandate of the IGC was of vital importance for the finalization of an international instrument that would tie into the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Treaty. In that event, access to genetic resources and related TK had to be subject to the prior informed consent stipulated in mechanisms for access and profit sharing. Likewise, the SCP should in the future focus on continuing with studies on health-care patents as well as exceptions and limitations in the area of technology transfer, endeavoring to list the obstacles to technology transfer that patents could represent. Studies of exceptions and limitations had to take up development-related issues and the conditions for implementing them. Finally, the Delegation endorsed the statements made by the Delegations of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of GRULAC, and Brazil, on behalf of the DAG.

107. The Delegation of Botswana aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and wished to add certain points. The protection of IPRs had been identified as one of the key factors necessary to socio-economic growth, as had long been demonstrated in industrialized economies by the positive dynamics of IP in relation to development. Developing countries were still at the formative stage of IP system development and were not making proper use of the international IP regime. Although progress had been made, much remained to be done to develop and harness IP potential in those countries. It was therefore imperative that, at all levels, the IP policies and laws in place should ensure the participation of developing countries, as well as the effective contribution of IP to socioeconomic development. The Delegation noted that the implementation of the DA recommendations by WIPO Committees, including norm-setting committees, was essential. While developing countries were increasingly taking measures to develop their IP systems, recognition by development partners of their development deficit would be heartening. Discussions on global value chains and their contribution to development continued in different international fora. It was recognized that the integration of developing countries in global value chains could contribute to much-needed economic development and job creation, and particularly the growth of SMEs. The Delegation highlighted that IP protection was necessary for the integration of developing countries and WIPO's support in that regard could not be overemphasized. It was therefore essential that the program on SMEs and innovation should be reinstated in the 2014/15 budget. The Delegation welcomed the opening of WIPO external offices in Africa, which would complement existing arrangements, and emphasized that it was essential to continue strengthening the existing offices of the ARIPO and the AIPO. The successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh should serve as inspiration for concluding a treaty on the remaining outstanding issues on copyright exceptions and limitations. The Delegation called for more constructive engagement in talks underway in the IGC on the adoption of a legally binding international instrument to protect GRs, TK and TCEs in the 2014/15 biennium. The Delegation also expressed its appreciation for the continued assistance it received from WIPO to develop its IP regime, which enabled the country to embark on the modernization of its Industrial Property Office and entailed upgrading IPAS to IPAS-JAVA. WIPO had assisted Botswana in the preparation of its Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) and the country looked forward to further support in developing a national IP policy. Botswana was also drafting legislation to curb counterfeiting with assistance from WIPO. The support of WIPO would enable the fulfillment of Botswana's aspiration to establish a productive

and innovative nation, based on an institutional focus on innovation that would attract local and foreign knowledge and capital.

108. The Delegation of Sudan recalled that its country had recognized IP in early times with a legal system based on one of the precepts of divine rule, namely that “men own what they create”. Equality and justice underpinned that rule which recognized human effort, physical and intellectual alike. With that in mind, Sudan was among the first to join the WIPO Convention in 1974 and currently a Member to various IP-related international treaties, namely, the Paris Convention (April 10, 1984), the PCT (April 6, 1984), the Harare Protocol (April 25, 1984), the Madrid Agreement (May 16, 1984), the Berne Convention (December 28, 2000), the Madrid Protocol (February 16, 2010), the Patent Law Treaty (2000), and the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement (1999). In addition, negotiations were underway for accession to WTO. In Sudan, IP protection was ensured by various authorities, including General IP Registrar under the Ministry of Justice, the Federal Council for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works under the Ministry of Culture, Customs Authority, IP Prosecutor (2004), IPR Tribunal (2002), IPR support organizations, as well as Centers for IP studies. The Delegation explained that the General IP Registrar, under the Ministry of Justice, was entrusted with registration of trademarks, patents and industrial designs; and composed of three Sections. First, the Trademark Section, responsible for registration of domestic trademarks under Law on Trademarks of 1969, with a total of 48,703 trademarks to date. The Delegation recalled that trademark registration dated back to 1899 by virtue of a Declaration published in the Gazette. Further, protection was governed by the Sudan Criminal Law of 1898. The first Law on Trademarks was promulgated in 1931, subsequently repealed by virtue of the current Law on Trademarks of 1969. Trademarks were subject to formal as well as substantive examination. Accepted trademarks were published in the Gazette. The Delegation further explained that the Trademark Section also processed international trademark applications under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol, totaling 7,266 international applications to date. The Delegation mentioned that in order to keep abreast with new international developments, a new draft Law on Trademarks had been elaborated, and was currently in final stages. The Intellectual Property Department was completing digitalization of documents from all Sections. Second, the Industrial Design Section’s work was governed by the Law on Industrial Designs (of 1974). Applications were subject to formal examination, and industrial designs were classified upon filing in accordance with the International Classification for Industrial Designs under the Locarno Agreement. Accepted applications were published in the Gazette. In terms of capacity building requirements, the Delegation explained that the Section looked forward to more training on design registration and classification for staff. Third, the Patent Section, responsible for patent registration under the Law on Patents of 1971. Patents were subject to formal examination. Currently, there were 3,390 domestic patents protected under that Law. Notwithstanding, the current Law on Patents needed to be reviewed in order to be in conformity with international treaties. In addition, the Patent Section received PCT applications. There were currently 511 PCT patents in Sudan. However, the Delegation emphasized the need for technical assistance for Office staff. In the field of copyright and related rights, work of the Federal Council of Literary and Artistic Works was initially governed by the Law on the Deposit of Works (1966), subsequently replaced by the Law on Copyright and Related Rights (1974) which was repealed by virtue of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of 1996 and the Law on Artistic and Literary Works of 2000. The Federal Council was established under the 2000 Law which also included provisions on folklore and collective right management. WIPO’s expertise had been instrumental in such achievements. The Customs Authority was responsible for combating and preventing infringements of IPRs, in collaboration with other competent authorities. In 2008, a specialized IP unit was created within the Customs Authority. The Delegation then referred to Commercial Prosecution, established by virtue of a Decision by the Minister of Justice in April 1, 2003. The mandate of the Commercial Prosecution was subsequently revised to include IPR infringements. The IP Tribunal, established in July 21, 2002 as a unique IP-specialized tribunal in the Arab Region, was competent in criminal and civil IPR cases. In the field of plant variety protection, the Delegation mentioned the Law on

Plant Variety Protection (2012) and the establishment of the National Council for Plant Varieties composed of users, contributors, experts and specialists. Under the 2012 Law, protection was granted for a plant variety that was new, distinct, uniform and stable; had a denomination; and satisfied other requirements as prescribed by the Council. The Delegation also referred to the National Technical Committee on Intellectual Property, established in 2011 and composed of various IP-related departments, including from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Culture, Science, Technology and Industry, Customs Authority as well as scientific research centers. As a focal point for the Committee, the General Registrar for Intellectual Property was responsible for coordinating work among all parties concerned. The Committee initiated work by requesting reports from all parties on the status of IPR protection and any strategic planning in their respective sectors. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would provide assistance in developing a strategy in that regard. Society in Sudan was gaining a better understanding of IP, especially among university students where IP had been integrated in various Law curricula; and IP books and publications made available in libraries. In addition, the Library of Higher Education of the University of Khartoum held many postgraduate research papers in the field of IP. In addition to the IP Department, the Delegation mentioned other entities involved in the dissemination of IP culture, such as the Khartoum IP Academy, the Azza IP Association, the Sudanese Association for IP Protection and Promotion. Looking forward to 2014, the Delegation highlighted the importance attached by the Ministry of Justice to the role of IP as a tool for economic, social and cultural development. In that regard, preparations were underway for the future construction of the IP Department new building. Planning for 2014 would also include: reviewing and modernizing all IP legislation for conformity with relevant international treaties; establishing a database on registered trademarks, patents and industrial designs; disseminating IP culture through media, workshops and IP seminars; as well as developing human resources through meetings, workshops and awareness campaigns. In conclusion, the Delegation looked forward to support from WIPO for a better future for IP in Sudan.

109. The Delegation of Kenya acknowledged, with thanks, the many messages of goodwill received following the terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. The Delegation expressed its support for the statement by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and reported that through the agency of the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) and other institutions, Kenya had addressed in 2013 a number of IP issues with the support of WIPO. The Delegation recounted that in an effort to promote creativity, Kenya had marked World Intellectual Property Day 2013 by presenting awards to the three most innovative enterprises of 2012, as determined by their use of the trademark system, and the Delegation thanked WIPO for providing certificates and trophies for the winners. The Delegation also thanked WIPO for facilitating a stakeholders' validation workshop held in May 2013 at which Kenya's draft Traditional Knowledge Law was presented, and reported that the draft law would soon be forwarded to Parliament. The Delegation explained that following a 2012 upgrade of IPAS system from Centaura to Java carried out with WIPO's assistance, KIPI had experienced some teething problems that were being addressed in the anticipation of further system upgrades to allow for application submissions online. In that regard, the Delegation expressed gratitude for the capacity-building initiatives undertaken by WIPO that had enhanced the capabilities of Kenyan ICT officers. Also in collaboration with WIPO, the Kenya Copyright Board had recently adopted the GDA system for the registration of copyright works, providing thus not only for the registration of works, but also helping to create a database of copyright works in Kenya. Referring to a patent drafting and prosecution workshop organized in conjunction with Strathmore University to strengthen local drafting capacity, the Delegation observed that the amount of interest shown indicated the need to organize more such events. With regard to the TISC projects, work continued on publicizing their use and the University of Nairobi had been the latest institution to sign a MoU with KIPI, to establish a TISC at the University. The Delegation announced that five members of staff had benefited from WIPO Academy training through the WIPO/Sweden Advanced Course on Copyright and Related Rights in the Global Economy, in Stockholm, the WIPO Masters Degree in Intellectual Property (MIP) program in Mutare, Zimbabwe, and the WIPO/BCC Training Course on

Copyright and Related Rights in London. WIPO had also facilitated study tours to Kenya for several countries within the region, thus enhancing south-south cooperation on IP development, and the Delegation thanked Australia for including Kenya in the regional patent training program while looking forward to building on that cooperation. Commending WIPO and the Member States for the successful adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and the great step forward thus made to facilitate access to copyrighted works by persons with print disabilities, especially in developing countries, the Delegation reported that Kenya was working to ratify the Treaty and to domesticate its provisions. The Delegation anticipated positive outcomes in relation to the international protection of industrial designs and of broadcasting organizations, as well as with respect to the limitations and exceptions in relation to libraries, archives and educational institutions. The Delegation also looked forward to a consensus among Member States at the IGC to thus enable the convening of a diplomatic conference to conclude a treaty providing for protections in these domains. The Delegation expressed Kenya's gratitude for assistance offered over the previous year in the form of training and other collaborative activities by such countries as Australia, China, Israel, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America. WIPO was thanked for its support in developing infrastructure in Kenya and providing staff training on IP matters, and the Delegation looked forward to the establishment of two external offices in Africa over the 2014/15 biennium to further build on achievements. The Delegation concluded by pledging its continued support to the organization while calling on the Secretariat to ensure that African Member States are able to receive the attention they merit to strengthen their IP frameworks.

110. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova supported the statement made by the Delegation of Poland, on behalf of the CEBS Group. While acknowledging the limited resources WIPO devoted to technical assistance and capacity building, it underlined that it was essential to continue delivering assistance tailored to the needs of particular countries and regions in a transparent and efficient manner. As a small country with limited human and natural resources, the Republic of Moldova fully recognized the need to base growth on innovation and creativity through the development of a national IP system and was pleased to announce that a National Intellectual Property Strategy had been adopted in November 2012. On November 19 and 20, 2013, the Innovation Conference on 'Innovation and Competitiveness' would be held as part of the INFOINVENT International Specialized Exhibition. Like many other offices in the region, the Moldovan IPO strove to create a favorable climate for innovative investments by providing appropriate legal incentives and improving IP services delivered by the Office. In 2013, the IPO had continued the consolidation of its institutional capacities and, in July 2013, had received ISO 9001 certification for quality management. In order to offer better access to users, on January 1, 2013, electronic filing was introduced for all IP objects alongside a range of facilities including e-payment, improved online access and free access to IP databases. Reducing counterfeiting and piracy was a major priority and in 2012 a public awareness campaign had been launched, entitled 'STOP Counterfeiting and Piracy!'. Furthermore, the first National Report on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova, drafted by the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI) and the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) had been made available to the public in May 2013. The Report gave an overview of the current situation of counterfeiting and piracy in the country and provided statistical and analytical information. National awareness-raising campaigns on IPRs had been launched that targeted various segments of the population – the judiciary, businessmen and students. Moreover, in order to facilitate the settlement of litigation on IPR, mediation was being promoted as a time-saving and cost-efficient dispute resolution tool. A national workshop for mediators would soon be held with the valuable support of the WIPO Mediation and Arbitration Center. The ongoing consolidation of copyright and related rights was a priority for the Republic of Moldova, alongside improvements to the legal framework and work to identify a mechanism that would ensure an efficient, transparent and balanced system for both copyright holders and the users of protected works. The Delegation extended its support for the work of the SCCR, which had demonstrated an ability to identify solutions to challenging copyright issues. In line with the aspiration of the Republic of Moldova to gradually integrate

into the EU, the Delegation announced that an agreement on the validity of European patents on the territory of the Republic of Moldova had been negotiated between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and EPO. The agreement would be signed in October 2013 and the Delegation considered it an important step towards joining the European patent space.

111. The Delegation of Mali expressed support for the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, as well as for that made by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of the LDCs. WIPO was congratulated on the success of the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances held in Beijing and the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Those achievements represented a great victory for IP worldwide. The Delegation supported the principle of the convening of a diplomatic conference on industrial designs in 2014. The Director General of WIPO and all his team were thanked for their support for the efforts made by Mali to develop IP despite the unprecedented crisis that the country had been through. IPRs were currently at the heart of the social and economic development of the country. As a part of those efforts, the Government of Mali had prepared the ground work to convert IP assets into a source of wealth and employment-creation. A number of measures stood out, in particular: the drafting of a national IP development strategy and a more significant role for the Malian Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Property (CEMAPI). In March 2012, CEMAPI had become a central directorate, with greater visibility in terms of the promotion of IP in all sectors of the economy; the creation of a national committee for the coordination and development of IP, responsible for drafting sectorial policies on the efficient use of IP assets; the signing of an agreement establishing a TISC that represented yet more progress in terms of cooperation between WIPO and the Government of Mali; the creation of a national network of technical experts and partners in the field of technological innovation. Said network was responsible for putting forward proposals to the national administration concerning an appropriate framework and a national strategy for the strengthening of the national policy on cooperation and funding concerning innovative enterprises; and, the creation, in the near future, of a national committee on GIs designed to bring more added value to local products. All of those efforts were supported by work to optimize human resources, with staff taking part in a WIPO training program. The national IP development strategy was perfectly in line with the strategic framework to combat poverty, which was currently known as the strategic framework for growth and poverty reduction. Mali had developed a coherent body of policies and programs which covered a wide macro-economic, structural and social range. The policy on industrial development and the national strategy for the development of the agro-food industry stood out in particular and could both benefit from the invaluable contribution that IP could make. That fact highlighted the importance for Mali of the national IP development strategy. The Delegation had supported the establishment of a WIPO external offices in Africa, and invited the Organization to take a quick decision concerning the establishment of the offices. Said Bureau would most definitely represent a major step forward in the promotion of IP in Africa. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its satisfaction with regard to the quality of cooperation with WIPO and stated that it would work to strengthen that cooperation in the interests of the promotion of IP in Mali.

112. The Delegation of Malaysia supported the statements made by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, and the Delegation of Brazil, on behalf of the DAG. The Delegation had taken note of the numerous plans and activities being continuously implemented by WIPO in order to strengthen and consolidate the IP systems in both developing countries and LDCs. WIPO had, since its inception, assisted the IP regime in Malaysia and it was through such support and guidance that that regime was operating at a higher level. Malaysia welcomed the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty in June 2013. The Treaty was a remarkable achievement and an important milestone for WIPO. Malaysia was confident that WIPO would move forward concerning the conclusion of the much-delayed treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation acknowledged the achievements made by WIPO concerning the major deliverables in the Program Performance Report (PPR) for 2012. Despite the uncertain economic climate and financial instability, WIPO had managed to end 2012 with a

surplus of 15.7 million Swiss francs, testifying to its ability to rise above all the odds. The Delegation was pleased to learn that WIPO had also managed to reduce total expenditure by 1.3 per cent compared with 2011, again as a result of prudent financial management. The Delegation acknowledged the cost efficiency measures implemented by WIPO which had targeted a wide spectrum of activities and had not had any major adverse effects on deliverables. Malaysia had been a Contracting Party to the PCT since 2006 and was in the process of amending its Patent Law to enable it to accede to the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and accepting the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement on Public Health. Malaysia was also amending its Trade Mark Law to enable the country to accede to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, in line with its commitment under the Association of South East Asian Nations Intellectual Property Rights (ASEAN IPR) Action Plan 2011-2015. The Delegation expressed gratitude for WIPO's continuous support in those areas in ensuring effective implementation of the international IP system in the ASEAN region. Turning to the proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, development should continue to be a priority for WIPO, as set out in the Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP). The Delegation hoped to see further mainstreaming of WIPO's activities across all substantive Strategic Goals, in line with the DA recommendations. The Delegation acknowledged the work of CDIP and encouraged it to continue its efforts, particularly in the areas of WIPO's contribution to the achievement of the UN MDGs and future work on patent-related flexibilities in the multilateral legal framework. The Delegation also wished to express its support for the start of the International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development and hoped that it would serve as a platform for a balanced discussion on the development of IP among Member States. Malaysia had taken a significant step forward in 2013 with the launch of the IP Valuation Training Module in March 2013, which was a complete, structured and systematic training module for IP valuation. With support from the Government, the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) had been tasked to create a pool of qualified local IP valuers and the first series of IP Valuation Training Programs had been held from March to May 2013. Successful participants had received certificates of recognition. The second training session for IP valuers had begun on September 2, and would end in October 2013. Malaysia would be organizing a Global IP Valuation Conference on November 6 and 7 with the theme "Unlocking the Mysteries of IP Valuation, Developing a Sustainable IP Ecosystem".

113. The Delegation of Guinea took due note of the report by the Director General highlighting the Organization's progress over the past 12 months. It expressed satisfaction at WIPO's sound financial health, on which the Director General had briefed the Assembly, which would surely help the Secretariat in meeting Member States' many needs. Guinea was pleased to have participated in the preparations of the Diplomatic Conference of Marrakesh, which had led to the adoption of a binding instrument for blind and visually impaired persons. The country had also played an active part in the preparations of the Diplomatic Conference that had resulted in the adoption of the Beijing Treaty, which for the first time addressed the concerns of performers within the international copyright system. As far as Guinea was concerned, the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP and Beijing Treaties was an important avenue to be explored by WIPO's Assemblies as they envisaged the organization of a diplomatic conference in the field of industrial designs. With regard to the protection of GRs, TK and folklore, the Delegation was in favor of renewing the mandate of the IGC, as it was convinced that a binding instrument in that field could help WIPO Member States derive greater benefit from their resources. The world had undergone a structural change, characterized by a new direction based on the promotion of innovation and the enhancement of intellectual creativity. Consequently, Guinea supported the creation of new external offices in Africa. However, in view of the Organization's present structure, it needed more diversified staff to ensure its universal character. There was no need to underscore the importance of the CDIP, since its priority had to be promoting IP for the benefit of development. As a result, the WIPO Secretariat needed to develop its system of technical cooperation for capacity-building, for the benefit of its members. Since Guinea had realized that the mainstreaming of IP into development policies and programs was essential, it

had virtually finalized plans to incorporate IP training into university *curricula*. All craftsmen in the country had already been organized into cooperatives. Efforts to identify products that could be protected with GIs were underway. All WIPO assistance programs were backed by the Government, and the results had been conclusive. The number of applications to register IP titles, service marks and products, patents and industrial designs was growing by the day. In addition, a National Intellectual Property Committee with representatives from both the public and private sectors had been set up. Moreover, a TISC had been established, and a national plan of action for IP development had been drafted. In conclusion, the Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the one made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of LDCs.

114. The Delegation of Poland endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. It noted with satisfaction the numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report (PPR). The Delegation appreciated the progress made with regard to the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by the International Bureau, and welcomed the increase in their membership; a factor which would contribute to furthering the global expansion of registration services for the benefit of all users. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the progress in the deliberations within the framework of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) on the proposals for action, and believed that they would lead to concrete results. It regretted the developments in the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), believing that the activity of the Committee was of significance for the whole membership of WIPO. Hopefully, substantive results would be achieved in the near future, based on a balanced work program which would include consideration of the international harmonization of patent law. The Delegation acknowledged the important work carried out by the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), stating that Poland remained committed to continuing discussions and believed firmly that the envisaged international instrument or instruments should be flexible, sufficiently clear and non-binding. With regard to the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), the Delegation welcomed progress concerning the work on the draft provisions on industrial design law and practice. Given the maturity of the draft Treaty, Poland strongly supported the idea of convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a Design Law Treaty (DLT) in 2014. The Delegation recognized the importance of the technical work of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and regretted that no consensus had yet been reached on the organizational and special rules of procedure of that body. The previous two years of hard work within the Standing Committee on Copyrights and Related Rights (SCCR) demonstrated WIPO's ability to provide a successful outcome, proving that it was possible to establish a harmonized level of protection of intellectual property (IP) at the international level. The Diplomatic Conferences resulting in the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled were also proof that the work of the Organization was underpinned by a reasonable and balanced approach that ensured continued respect for copyright and creativity. The Delegation supported the view that, in the near future, the SCCR should focus on reaching a decision to convene a diplomatic conference on the protection, at the international level, of broadcasting organizations. Ensuring adequate protection for broadcasting organizations was a priority, and revisions to bring such protection up-to-date for the twenty-first century were long overdue; Poland was ready to make an effort to establish a road map and then carry on further work in that regard. The Delegation was particularly looking forward to further constructive discussions on the issues relating to the activities of libraries and archives, as well as educational, research and teaching institutions. The work of the Committee should lead to the establishment of recommendations, or any other soft law instrument, on the functioning of exceptions and limitations in both the analogue and digital worlds. Poland greatly valued the work being undertaken to build respect for IP and looked forward to the intensification of work in that regard by WIPO and the Advisory Committee on Enforcement

(ACE). The development of a methodology to measure the social and economic impact of infringements of intellectual property rights (IPRs) should be one of the most important goals of the Organization. In addition to proper legislation and management structures, appropriate enforcement mechanisms were a condition for any efficient IP system. There was an urgent need to support the enforcement of IPRs through various measures, including improved statistics and information about the scope, scale, and impact of counterfeiting and piracy. Such measures should be designed to: improve cooperation through more effective cross-border exchanges of information; improve best practices in enforcement; and, raise public awareness about the growing risks related to counterfeiting and piracy. There was also an urgent need to develop the awareness part of the ACE mandate through the concrete proposal of awareness-raising activities, media campaigns and educational activities. The Polish Patent Office had launched two Patent Cooperation Treaty - Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot (PCT-PPH) projects jointly with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) (in January 2013) and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China (in June 2013), respectively. During the previous year, the Polish Patent Office (UPRP) had undertaken a number of activities to promote IP knowledge, including a seminar in cooperation with WIPO. Furthermore, the UPRP was implementing a systemic project designed to encourage the use of IPRs in the development of the Polish economy by broadening knowledge and improving skills in terms of the practical use of industrial property protection for a wide range of interested parties engaged in the protection and use of industrial property. Program 10: Cooperation with Certain Countries in Europe and Asia of the Program and Budget for the 2014/2015 Biennium would be of great value to Poland, providing the country with new opportunities for expanding its relationship with WIPO.

115. The Delegation of Barbados congratulated WIPO on the conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. WIPO had been constantly enhancing its programs to enrich the knowledge of its Member States concerning IP issues. The Delegation thanked WIPO for the technical assistance provided to Barbados, including assistance with regard to participation in the General Assemblies. The Organization was urged to extend that practice to allow for greater and more frequent participation in the Geneva meetings. The Delegation was encouraged by the increased emphasis placed by WIPO on the development of IP competencies in SMEs. In small countries, such enterprises were often micro-sized enterprises and therefore had a real need for such assistance, particularly in order to secure the benefits of innovative ideas. The Delegation considered that external offices were critical in helping to enhance IP familiarity, build knowledge about IP processes, and increase the understanding of IP standards among businesses and potential businesses on the ground. The Delegation therefore strongly supported the call for a greater number of external offices for Latin America and the Caribbean, urging Member States to approve the relevant proposal. The Delegation also complimented WIPO on the work on TK and TCEs, an important area for developing countries. It trusted that Member States would remain committed to a successful conclusion to the relevant deliberations. The implementation of legal infrastructure to accommodate new treaties and agreements could be burdensome for small states and Barbados therefore continued to welcome assistance from WIPO with regard to the acceleration of that process. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to conduct a greater number of seminars on IP protection in local jurisdictions in order to allow more people to have access to IP-related knowledge. Potential beneficiaries were often unable to attend seminars held in Geneva. WIPO was to be congratulated for having achieved widened access to new national collections of trademark records in 2013. In addition, WIPO's work to facilitate access to R&D databases, as well as to scientific and technical periodicals for LDCs and developing countries could also be beneficial to the local community. Greater outreach efforts would be useful to encourage the use of those facilities. The Delegation commended WIPO on its work over the previous year and, although there were several improvements which could be made, the programs and facilities offered to its Member States could, if properly utilized, be very beneficial, especially to developing countries.

116. The Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic supported the statements made by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs, and the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN. The Delegation welcomed the report by the Director-General on the DA over the previous year and supported his vision concerning the main challenges in the field of IP, as well as the efforts of WIPO to encourage innovation and creativity throughout the world. In particular, the Delegation hailed the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Delegation commented that, as the present century had become known as that of the knowledge-based economy, developing countries required a sound knowledge of IP systems to ensure that they drew maximum benefit from their own innovative and creative capacities. As an LDC, the Lao People's Democratic Republic relied on WIPO's guidance and expert assistance for the promotion of IP. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic recognized the importance of protecting IPRs, promoting local creative activities, and facilitating the acquisition and exploitation of IP for economic development. The Delegation reported that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was developing a national strategy to integrate IP and innovation strategies into the national development policy. In February 2013, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had become a member of the WTO and had committed to the TRIPS Agreement. The Lao People's Democratic Republic also planned to accede to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs by 2015. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's contribution to capacity and infrastructure building, and reported that the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) of the Ministry of Science and Technology had, with WIPO's assistance, organized the translation of the WIPO mandate into the Lao language. A number of activities had been carried out in 2013, including the deployment of IPAS and on-the-job training for trademark examiners. WIPO would also assist the DIP in organizing seminars on the role of IP in economic development and the formulation and implementation of national IP strategies, to be held later on in the current year. The Delegation concluded by thanking WIPO for its assistance in terms of legislative orientation, human resource development, and infrastructure improvement.

117. The Delegation of Angola supported the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. It welcomed the progress made by WIPO in recent months regarding the normative framework and, in particular, the success of the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh on the exceptions and limitations for blind and visually impaired persons, which had opened a new chapter in the contribution of WIPO to humanitarian causes. The Delegation hoped that the success would contribute positively to the advancement of future negotiations on matters that were of particular interest to the continent of Africa and were outstanding under the mandate of WIPO on drafting norms. Angola supported the negotiations within the IGC, with a view to convening a diplomatic conference to adopt one or several legal instruments to protect GRs, TK and folklore. The Delegation urged the Assembly to adopt, under the renewal of the IGC's mandate, a clearly defined mandate with a deadline for the convening of a diplomatic conference during the 2014/15 biennium, in order to achieve the adoption of one or several legally binding instruments for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs on the basis of the three texts produced by the IGC's thematic sessions. With respect to the work program concerning limitations and exceptions adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the SCCR, the Delegation welcomed efforts that had led to the setting out of an ambitious work program on the exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives, teaching and research. It called upon Member States to demonstrate a constructive engagement that would lead to tangible negotiations. Concerning the consideration of industrial designs by the SCT, the Delegation noted real progress in negotiations on the draft treaty on the international registration of industrial designs, with the presentation of a proposed text that aimed to even out the draft treaty. It was ready to work to reach consensus on the adoption of a draft treaty that contained provisions on capacity building for Africa in the field of industrial designs. Regarding the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, the Delegation had recommended that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO should adopt the Secretariat's proposal to open two external offices in Africa during the

next biennium in order to promote African innovation and creativity, and to meet the IP needs and aspirations of that continent. The Delegation had also advocated for the better allocation of budgetary resources for development activities. The allocation of resources could be improved by applying a new, clearer definition of development expenditure, such as that proposed by the Chair of the PBC. The Delegation also emphasized the need to develop a more effective strategy for human resources in order to ensure fair and balanced regional representation. Finally, it stressed the necessity and importance of establishing a dialogue based on respect, trust and a constructive spirit as the key to success in norm-setting programs and future negotiations within WIPO.

118. The Delegation of Sierra Leone aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, in particular regarding the objectives of the IGC. The IGC had produced three texts in the current year and should conclude its existing mandate by arriving at a legally binding instrument. Sierra Leone recognized that WIPO had continued to formulate and implement new strategies in the areas of management and technological innovation in the IP system. The main objective of south-south cooperation was to promote IP through the sharing of experiences and the drawing of best practices from Member States, with the creation of a web site providing IPOs with access to much needed information. In addition to the Copyright and Related Rights Act passed earlier, a new Patents and Industrial Designs Act had recently been enacted in Sierra Leone. For the first time, Sierra Leone would be undertaking the original registration of patents. The Delegation looked forward to the support provided under the PCT for the establishment of patent offices and support for administrative capacity-building.

119. The Delegation of Austria associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B, and the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU and its member states. The Delegation emphasized the ability and actual role of IP in terms of stimulating creativity and innovation and thus contributing to the economic, cultural and social development of all countries. The Delegation congratulated the Director General, the Secretariat and the Member States on the positive and successful outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. In the same spirit, the Delegation noted with appreciation the record of WIPO's activities and positive achievements outlined in the PPR for 2012, highlighted by the conclusion of the BTAP. The Delegation expressed its continued wholehearted support for WIPO's efforts to provide an international forum for in-depth dialogue with regard to all matters related to IP and stated that it looked forward jointly to achieving further progress in developing the respective international legal framework. The Delegation also noted with satisfaction the progress and positive developments with regard to the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by the International Bureau, in particular the PCT and the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, the main generators of WIPO's income. The Delegation encouraged the Organization and its staff to continue, and even to increase, their efforts and activities during the remaining part of the current biennium and into the next biennium - thus maintaining a viable and efficient organization and securing a balanced and effective international IP system. With relation to the proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, the Delegation expressed its support for re-introducing SMEs into Program 30 and remained convinced that workable solutions could be reached concerning issues that were still open, including those related to external offices. The Delegation looked forward to discussing, and finally adopting, the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 biennium, with a view to ensuring WIPO's ability successfully to tackle existing and future challenges and to deliver the results requested by Member States and stakeholders for the next biennium and beyond. The Delegation noted the information about work within CDIP. Particular reference was made to the discussions on the implementation of the recommendations of the DA, the Director General's updated report and the respective reports and documents considered by the Committee. The abovementioned reports and documents demonstrated numerous positive developments and achievements in terms of efforts further to enhance the development dimension within WIPO.

The Delegation noted the results of the deliberations in the SCT and once again highlighted the importance it attached to the topic of harmonization and simplification of design registration and formalities; indeed, a diplomatic conference should be convened with regard to said harmonization and simplification. The Delegation fully supported a decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a design law treaty in 2014. The Delegation noted the report of the latest session of the SCCR and voiced its particular interest in finalizing the remaining work with regard to the protection of broadcasting organizations. As to the report on the work of the IGC, the Delegation noted the progress achieved during the three sessions of the IGC in 2013, during which the Committee had considered and worked on texts to ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. While much had been achieved, the Delegation felt that work still remained to be done, especially as the final stocktaking had not led to any recommendations. The Delegation therefore expressed its preference for considering a renewal of the mandate and for requesting the IGC to continue its deliberations. With regard to the instrument(s) to be developed, the Delegation reiterated its position that Member States should have flexibility to choose the form or forms of protection from among different options in order to satisfy the diversity of possible demands - therefore there should be separate flexible and non-binding instruments. Convinced that a viable and harmonized patent system would be beneficial for all stakeholders, the Delegation noted the report of the SCP and welcomed the agreement concerning future work that could be achieved. Austria had taken active part in the deliberations within the PCT Working Group and gave its full support to the proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations as contained in document PCT/A/44/3 and to the recommendations concerning the future work of the PCT Working Group as contained in document PCT/A/43/1. The Delegation also supported the recommendation of the Working Group with regard to a review of the criteria and procedures for an Office to be appointed as an ISA and IPEA under the PCT. The Delegation shared the view that a continuously developing family of PCT authorities was beneficial to the system and its users, and looked forward to considering the request of the SIPS to be appointed as an ISA and IPEA. With regard to the Madrid system, the Delegation noted with appreciation the progress reports on the Information Technology Modernization Program and the Goods and Services Database. The Delegation stated that use of the latter tool in combination with the translation function was a suitable way both to reduce the number of irregularity notices concerning goods and services in the Madrid system and to simplify proceedings at the national level.

120. The Delegation of Canada stated that, in the previous year, Canada had actively participated in WIPO meetings, particularly of the expert and technical working groups and committees, including the CDIP, the IGC, the SCCR, the SCT, the SCP, and the PCT. The Delegation noted the collaborative spirit among Member States that had led to the signing, in June 2013, of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which would enhance access to copyrighted works for over 300 million visually impaired persons. In a similar spirit, the Delegation looked forward to participating in talks that would lead to a diplomatic conference on the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The Delegation was committed to continuing the modernization of Canada's IP regime to support innovation, competitiveness and economic growth. In that connection, a number of measures had been taken, including the entry into force of the Copyright Modernization Act in March 2012, and the tabling of a bill on combating counterfeit products in March 2013. The bill included provisions to reduce trade in counterfeit and pirated goods by providing new tools that comprehensively strengthened the existing enforcement regime. A recent study entitled Intellectual Property Regime in Canada, carried out by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, had recommended a number of areas where additional progress could be made. The study had lasted 10 months and had involved the testimony of 50 expert witnesses. In response to the Committee's study, the Government of Canada had committed to consulting stakeholders on a range of issues to assist in modernizing Canada's IP system and its administration. For example, in order to examine how Canada could better align its IP framework with that of its key international partners, the Government of Canada had committed to consulting on changes to Canada's trademarks and patent regimes that might be required to position Canada to be

consistent with the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, the STLT, the PLT and the Hague Agreement. A number of the Committee's recommendations focused on the work that CIPO was already undertaking to support an innovative economy, as outlined in its five-year business strategy released in June 2012, which included the provision of high-quality and timely IPRs, providing innovators with the information they needed to succeed, and administering an IP framework that supported innovation, increased certainty and reduced red tape. In addition, CIPO had made great strides in addressing the Committee's recommendations, including on reducing pendency and cost, while maintaining quality. More than ever, CIPO was convinced that IPOs had a key role to play in supporting growth and enhancing economic competitiveness. Leadership and expertise in IP supported creativity, enhanced innovation and contributed to economic success. The actions of IPOs, and, more importantly, the way in which they were implemented, directly supported innovators. The speed, quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of any IP system could affect whether or not ideas were successfully commercialized and brought to market. To that effect, CIPO had organized a number of roundtables to meet with innovators from across Canada to understand their needs, their expectations and the barriers they faced in effectively using and leveraging IP to support their business goals. Those insights into the requirements of innovators and the innovation cycle in which they operated were now driving CIPO priorities and performance goals. CIPO had also engaged with other key players in the innovation cycle – universities, colleges, incubators and accelerators – to better understand their particular needs and what role CIPO could play in supporting the commercialization of ideas and improving brand value. Canada would continue to promote enhanced transparency and effectiveness in WIPO's governance and operations by actively participating in the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee. The Delegation highlighted the importance of financial transparency, and encouraged WIPO to seek enhanced efficiencies and cost savings for the Organization. Canada believed that cooperation was essential. In 2008, an initiative known as the Vancouver Group had been launched to facilitate cooperation between the IPOs of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. Impressive work had been and would continue to be achieved under that initiative, such as the exchange of information on best practices to eliminate the duplication of work, economic research and business performance reporting. Canada was a longstanding contributor to WIPO technical cooperation activities and the Vancouver Group had worked in collaboration with WIPO to develop a digital library of search and examination reports, known as the WIPO CASE. Since June 1997, CIPO had, in partnership with WIPO, organized and delivered annual training courses for officials from developing countries. In 2013, CIPO had hosted 12 senior officials from IPOs at an intensive workshop on the application of management techniques to the delivery of IP services. The workshop had given participants an insight into the Canadian system, with a view to improving the capacity of IPOs in developing countries and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas. CIPO and WIPO also provided training on the PCT: sub-regional seminars had been held for IPOs in the Caribbean region, in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and additional seminars would be held for Trinidad and Tobago. The Delegation of Canada expressed its firm belief in the importance of the PPH process, which promoted effective work-sharing mechanisms that enabled IPOs to accelerate significantly the examination of eligible patent applications. In that context, the Delegation was pleased to announce that a new PPH pilot project between CIPO and SIPO had been launched on September 1, 2013. The Delegation stressed that Canada was committed to building an effective international IP regime that fostered innovation and creativity. Entrepreneurs and people around the world benefited from a strong international IP system that contributed to economic and cultural prosperity by providing certainty for businesses and inventors. The Delegation would engage constructively in discussions over the coming week to find solutions acceptable to all WIPO Member States and build on the progress achieved in the previous year.

121. The Delegation of the Comoros supported the statements made by Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by Benin, on behalf of the LDCs. The Delegation added that the society and economy of the Comoros was in a transitional period of development that was marked by

significant change and a willingness to develop a productive economy, as demonstrated by the growth of small production and service enterprises. The advance of fiber optics was also a source of new opportunities and development possibilities in the sector of information and communication technologies. Research into renewable energy sources and growing interest in the green economy, plant biotechnology, the exploitation of fishery resources and the social sciences required the introduction of a program to encourage research and innovation in the country's university and research centers. It further required the commitment and determination of the Comorian authorities, given the necessary mobilization of resources and the support of their development partners, in order to promote research and serve the businesses who regularly challenged their knowledge and capabilities to meet the competition, become competitive and overcome the global crisis. The Comorian authorities, through the national investment promotion agency, encouraged businesses to position themselves in different promising sector of the economy, such as energy production and management, health, cash crops, vanilla and ylang-ylang, fruits and vegetables, and ecotechnology – notably biomass.

122. The Delegation of Croatia welcomed efforts made by WIPO to strengthen and extend the global IP system and noted the close collaboration and mutual understanding between Member States that had permitted progress within many WIPO committees. Croatia was particularly pleased by the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh and strongly supported a similar approach to further norm-setting. Highlighting the importance of cooperation in work to adopt a treaty on industrial designs, the Delegation affirmed Croatia's support for convening a diplomatic conference for that purpose in the near future. At the national level, Croatia was committed to maintaining an efficient and reliable system of IP protection and to creating a culture of respect for IPRs. The accession of Croatia to the EU on July 1, 2013, and the adaptation of the national IP system to conform to EU standards and would further strengthen and raise the competitiveness of the domestic economy. Increased counterfeiting and piracy, however, had impacted on the economy and it was therefore vital to raise public awareness of the phenomenon through training and education. In that regard, Croatia appreciated WIPO's support and cooperation in the organization of the Sub-Regional Seminar on the PCT and the Sub-Regional Workshop for Technology Transfer Offices in 2013. The Delegation also stressed the role played by the WIPO Academy in providing diverse training programs and hoped that the WIPO Summer School in Croatia that ran from 2008 to 2012 would be revived. National training programs for the judiciary had been strengthened and Croatia looked forward to cooperating with WIPO in the field of mediation and arbitration. The Delegation welcomed the more coordinated approach to promoting different aspects of WIPO's activities in developed countries and called for further innovative collaboration on more complex issues in the development of the IP system. The Delegation anticipated productive results from WIPO's activities and reaffirmed its commitment and support for future discussions.

123. The Delegation of the Czech Republic wished to associate itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU and its member states, and with the statement made by the Delegation of Poland, on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation anticipated a fruitful discussion on the 2014/15 Program and Budget and the document's adoption. Regarding the global economic situation, the Czech Republic persisted in its efforts to encourage the Secretariat to improve financial control mechanisms and to adopt further cost-effective measures. The Delegation appreciated the positive outcome of the SRP and welcomed the new members of the WIPO IAOC. It attached great importance to the development of an international normative framework for IP and enhancing the use of it. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty was an important milestone that would serve as inspiration to accelerate the finalization of international protection for broadcasting organizations, which reflected technological progress in that field. The Delegation was prepared to discuss the exceptions and limitations already set out in international treaties and the domestic laws of Member States and noted that, by sharing experience, space would be found for the effective and practical application of exceptions and limitations. The Delegation also looked forward to constructive discussions on the future work of the SCCR, which should concentrate on the most pressing

issues relating to the international copyright system. The Delegation supported the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt a design law treaty in 2014 and appreciated the work on industrial designs carried out by the SCT. It also welcomed the progress made by the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System and supported its program, which included the convening of a diplomatic conference to adopt the revised Lisbon Agreement in 2015. The Delegation hoped that the SCP would shortly be able to adopt a balanced working program for the harmonization of international patent law. Great importance was attached to the effective delivery of WIPO's global registration systems – the PCT, Madrid, Lisbon and Hague systems – and progress in that area would be welcomed. The Delegation also welcomed the Capital Master Plan for 2014/2019. Regarding the CWS, the Delegation said that a consensus on its organizational and special rules of procedure should be reached as soon as possible. The Delegation continued to monitor the activity of the ACE and welcomed the topics agreed for its ninth session, particularly the practice and operation of ADR systems. The Czech Republic supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC, although further substantive negotiations were needed on the effective protection of TK, GRs and folklore. The Delegation noted the importance of the activities of the CDIP to the implementation of the DA recommendations and would continue to support its work on improving efficiency. The Czech Intellectual Property Office (IPO CZ) appreciated the continued support of the Department for Transition and Developed Countries. In April 2013, a well-received national seminar on ADR had been organized in Prague, in cooperation with WIPO. The seminar had greatly contributed to raising public awareness of the services of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. In June, WIPO participated in the first International Fair of Inventions – INVENTO 2013 – which was jointly organized with IPO CZ in Prague, and where a WIPO Award for invention was presented. The fair was aimed at providing space for R&D institutions, universities and other innovators and stakeholders to present the results of their work and at supporting creativity and innovation. The Delegation reported on the other activities of IPO CZ to increase awareness of the industrial property protection system and the international competitiveness of companies and businesses, in particular the “Patentuj” campaign launched by IPO CZ on World IP Day 2013. The Delegation reported that IPO CZ had entered into discussions with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Council of Higher Education Institutions of the Czech Republic and many universities and higher education institutions in order to expand knowledge of the IP system and to offer its cooperation to introduce and improve IPRs education.

124. The Delegation of Denmark informed the meeting that the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) had experienced economic and financial difficulties. It added that cost benefit analyses had been carried out on a regular basis and regretted the paucity of the results in relation to most WIPO working groups and standing committees. The current approach was unaffordable and the time had come to reconsider WIPO's working methods. The Delegation questioned the effectiveness of standing committees and suggested a move towards more *ad hoc* working committees at the technical level, since the separation of political issues from expert technical issues was an important element in improving meetings and results, and would benefit all stakeholders. The substantial and valuable work of the SCT was appreciated and it was hoped that it would soon be extended to include a design law treaty. The study carried out in connection with treaty negotiations had shown that such a treaty would benefit countries at all levels of development and SMEs. The Delegation noted that the Marrakesh VIP Treaty struck a good balance between the needs of the visually impaired and the effective protection of right holders. It welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to implement the DA by assisting CDIP and developing specific projects to address the DA recommendations. WIPO played an important role in bringing the issue of IP to the attention of governments, international institutions and other donors, and acknowledging that countries were at different levels of development and had diverging needs. The Delegation suggested that a catalog should be developed for norm-setting in the different areas of IPRs, which would enable countries to select the items appropriate for their needs. Denmark had been involved in international development projects for several years, mainly in neighboring countries of the EU, but also in the Middle East and Asia. That experience had been useful and Denmark planned to expand its cooperation with

the Secretariat. The fight against counterfeiting and piracy in Denmark had greatly intensified over the past five years: a permanent network of 11 public authorities had been established to strengthen cooperation to combat counterfeiting and piracy, and several initiatives had been implemented, including increased criminal penalties for all types of IPR crime. In July 2013, strengthened enforcement of IPR by the police and public prosecutors had been announced. In addition, the Danish IPO planned to establish a new unit to improve the handling of counterfeiting and piracy cases that would work closely with the police and prosecution service. The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) – a PCT search and examination authority based on cooperation between Denmark, Norway and Iceland – had continued to deliver high quality search reports in 2012. For five years, the NPI had been a leading PCT authority with respect to the timely delivery of search reports. In 2012, the member states of the NPI had made the necessary legal amendments to enable it to act as a PCT authority for Swedish applicants and it had started accepting Swedish applications on January 1, 2013. The NPI had continued its active membership of various WIPO forums on patents, in particular the Meeting of International Authorities Under the PCT and the PCT Working Group, and it hoped to continue to play a key role in the future development of the PCT. The Delegation commented that the Danish PTO looked forward to working with WIPO on the cooperation agreement on IP data exchange and the transfer from PATENTSCOPE to the IP marketplace – a shop front for patents for sale that was run by the Danish PTO.

125. The Delegation for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remarked upon the increasing importance of IP protection for all countries, noting that such protection provide the legal and institutional guarantees required to boost intellectual creativity and thereby contribute to social and economic development and human survival. Strengthening the IP system was an imperative in terms of the development of the science and technologies required to overcome such global challenges as climate change, food security and financial and economic crises. The increase in IP assets, despite the global economic slowdown, and the resilience of innovative countries showed that creativity and innovation were key to overcoming challenges and sustaining economic vitality. With regard to the future activities of WIPO, the Delegation observed that the protection of IP to support science and technology in the service of humanity required an appropriate ethical environment, and cited the example of vaccines and medications developed for the treatment of AIDS and other diseases which had, nonetheless, little prospect of saving millions of lives in view of their high cost due to the abuse of patent rights by pharmaceutical firms. Such a cold reality emphasized the need for justice and morality at the heart of an IP system that would ensure that science and technology remained at the service of mankind, while also protecting the interests of scientists and researchers. The Delegation called on WIPO to pay due attention to balance and fairness in IP systems, as had been demonstrated in the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. That Treaty provided exceptions for the most vulnerable populations. The Delegation praised the trilateral discussions promoted by WIPO with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the WTO, and the WIPO Re:Search initiative. With respect to the DA, the Delegation urged WIPO to continue to assist developing countries to strengthen IP infrastructure and capacities in ways reflecting local realities. The full implementation of the 45 recommendations of the DA was critical in bridging the North-South divide and leading developing nations to knowledge-based development. The Delegation called for the DA to be mainstreamed in all WIPO activities and sufficiently funded, while being subjected to close review so as to ensure efficiency of implementation and measurability of achievement. The Delegation praised the role of Marshal Kim Jong Un in establishing national science and technology-oriented goals for the development of a knowledge economy and hailed notable recent successes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the fields of space technology, bio-engineering and IT. Work was currently ongoing to consolidate an institutional system for IP innovation and protection throughout society. In that regard, the Delegation highlighted collaboration with WIPO for the purpose of strengthening the national IP system in accordance with international norms. The Delegation further reported that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had signed the Marrakesh VIP Treaty and was proceeding with ratification measures, and concluded by reaffirming the commitment of the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea to its responsibilities as a WIPO Member State working to establish a fair and equitable global system for IP protection.

126. The Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia supported the statement made by the Delegation of Lithuania, on behalf of the EU and its member states. It welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which it believed would enhance access to copyrighted works for visually impaired and print-disabled persons around the world. The Delegation announced that the State Office of Industrial Property (SOIP) would celebrate its twentieth anniversary in November 2013, having developed from its establishment as an independent Office to a solid IP system through the commitment of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Government had persistently devoted efforts to supporting and following IP trends and had established a solid infrastructure to support relevant implementation mechanisms. A proper set of policies would and indeed, must, be supported at all levels in order to enable economic growth. The Delegation reported that a new law on innovation had very recently entered into force, an Innovation Fund had been established and a clear set of rules relating to the ownership of IPRs, generated from the research results sponsored by the Innovation Fund, had been defined. That was a major step towards the achievement of the Government's objective of building a knowledge-based national economy. The Government further expected that the diligent efforts to enforce the National Strategy on Innovation, developed on the basis of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "*Horizon 2020*" and the Law on Innovation, supported by solid and efficient infrastructure, would lead to the achievement of the goals of "*Horizon 2020*". The Delegation highlighted some of the joint WIPO and SOIP activities in the field of IT that were designed to ensure efficiency, transparency and legal certainty in the commerce and enforcement of IPRs. The WIPO IPAS had been introduced in Europe for the first time in 2003 and interest in that system had been growing in Europe ever since that year. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continued to benefit from the WIPO IT tools and was presently in the final phase of implementation of a major project using the WIPO EDMS. The Delegation thanked WIPO and encouraged the Organization to continue to develop tools and systems that would support working processes and their administration, and acknowledged the assistance of the excellent team of the Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC).

127. The Delegation of the Gambia aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. It congratulated WIPO on the successful adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The conclusion of the Treaty was testimony to WIPO's commitment to a balanced and humane global IP regime. The Delegation hoped that, with a similar kind of commitment, meaningful progress could be achieved in negotiations on the adoption of the long overdue treaty on GRs, TK and expressions of folklore. Reporting on efforts made to sustain a culture of IP in the Gambia, the Delegation highlighted various procedures that would enable the Gambia to join the growing number of members of the Madrid system for the International Registration of Marks by acceding to the Madrid Protocol. Furthermore, a seminar on the Madrid system had been organized for stakeholders, in collaboration with WIPO, and parliamentary ratification of the Madrid Protocol was expected by the first quarter of 2014. The Gambia was working closely with the Secretariat to ensure that its trademark law was compatible with the legal regime of the Madrid system. The Gambia also benefited from the IPAS project, which was in operation and facilitated user searches. Recognizing that the key to developing the IP landscape was reaching a critical mass of IP practitioners, the Delegation pointed to the integration of IP law studies into university syllabuses. In that regard, the Delegation commended support from WIPO, in collaboration with the ARIPO, to sponsor young Gambian graduates to undertake the master's program in IP law. In conclusion, the Delegation thanked WIPO for helping the Gambia to draft an IP policy and strategy, noting that, despite some delay in the copyright component of the needs assessment mission commissioned by WIPO, the process was on target.

128. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau expressed full support for the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation wished to take the opportunity to thank the Director General of WIPO and the Organization itself for efforts made further to boost cooperation between WIPO and the Portuguese-speaking countries. In order to improve the use of IP in Guinea-Bissau, WIPO must continue to raise awareness among local authorities with regard to the importance and added value of IP in terms of national development. Such awareness-raising activity could be carried out within the scope of the bilateral cooperation that already existed between WIPO and Guinea-Bissau. The Delegation also thanked both the Director General and WIPO for the assistance provided concerning the carrying out of a study on the promotion of products that were potential candidates for GIs, although that study had yet to be completed given the current political situation in Guinea-Bissau. Guinea-Bissau had made significant progress with regard to the implementation of a national IP system, mainly focusing on industrial property, in light of the increase in the number of applications for registration made over the previous two years, a clear reflection of the policy that WIPO had been implementing with a view to promoting the development of the IP system at the global level. In order to promote and encourage the use of IP, the Government of Guinea-Bissau, working through the ministry responsible for industrial property, was working to establish the National Committee for the Coordination and Development of Intellectual Property (CNC DPI). The main aim of the CNC DPI would be, on the one hand, to coordinate the national IP policy, and, on the other, to facilitate the access of national companies to new technologies, enabling them to better use the IP system on a daily basis. WIPO was working closely with Guinea-Bissau to make that project a reality. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau expressed a wish to see concrete support in terms of capacity-building, technical assistance, etc., from Brazil and Portugal – two countries which had accumulated a certain amount of experience in that field. Such efforts would obviously require the support of WIPO. The Delegation recommended that WIPO should place the holding of a diplomatic conference on industrial designs on its agenda. That issue was of great importance to developing countries, as well as being vital to LDCs, and, in the view of the Delegation, the time was ripe for such an event.

129. The Delegation of Equatorial Guinea stated that, with the valuable support of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), its country had made efforts in the field of the development of intellectual property (IP), with the aim of opening up cooperation channels with the Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CICTE), with the aim of mobilizing development stakeholders at all levels of society. In the near future, work would begin on the construction of a national information and documentation center that would serve as a reference point in terms of development-oriented scientific research and innovation. In the context of the knowledge economy, characterized by the wide-spread use of information and communications technologies (ICTs), the Delegation highlighted the importance of and need for intensification of WIPO's work concerning its programs on the modernization of IP centers. The aim in that regard was to improve access to IT equipment, conserve relevant knowledge and promote historical traditional knowledge. In that regard, the Delegation stated that Equatorial Guinea greatly valued the many efforts made by WIPO to integrate the promotion of development, access to knowledge, technical assistance and technology transfer, among other things, into its plans and activities. The Delegation reiterated its support for the Director General and expressed a desire that he should increase his support for the developing countries, through the re-establishment of mechanisms designed to promote active WIPO cooperation in Africa, cooperation that would make it possible to establish new coordination points in other areas of Africa. The Delegation stated that it wished yet again to congratulate the Director General on his management, which had converted WIPO into an ideal framework for South-South and North-South cooperation. Equatorial Guinea, together with the other countries, had made a commitment to the promotion of innovation, the transfer of new technologies and scientific activity as drivers for their current accelerated development process. Thus, those countries must exploit the many opportunities for cooperation in a balanced and continued fashion, in order to support initiatives designed for their benefit. In that regard, Equatorial Guinea was

more than willing to host a sub-regional WIPO presence, in the interests of fresh impetus. Such a development would guarantee the presence and sustainability of WIPO activities in a zone containing a number of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries. Equatorial Guinea welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and the constructive approach adopted by the Member States. Said Treaty had made it possible to design and draft standards in the field of traditional knowledge. The Delegation stated that Equatorial Guinea was aware of the place of creativity and imagination in the globalized world and therefore supported the holding of a diplomatic conference on industrial designs. The Delegation also reiterated its country's determination and commitment with regard to making a positive contribution in the general forum for reflection, with the aim of creating appropriate conditions and generating ideas with tangible outcomes that benefitted all countries.

130. The Delegation of Iceland confirmed the growing importance in Iceland of agreements on registration systems and cited increased interest in the Madrid system in recent years, with growth both in the number of Icelandic applicants and the number of Madrid registrations in Iceland. Growth was significant in 2013 and Madrid registrations had represented 65 per cent of all trademark applications. The increase in applications and the ability to process registrations electronically had decided the IPO to update its filing system and IPR registers in order to improve services first to applicants and trademark holders, and later to all IPO clients. The PCT was of high importance for the users of the system, and although the number of applicants had slightly diminished with the economic crisis, as the national economy gradually recovered, Iceland was optimistic that the number of applications would rise. The Delegation added that while the Hague system functioned well and would become more useful with the accession of China to the Geneva Act of the Agreement, Iceland supported a diplomatic conference on design formalities to make the system more effective. The Delegation reported the formation in 2012 of a Working Group to explore introducing legislation on GI protection which had resulted in a draft bill currently under review by stakeholders. Noting that IPR awareness and a focus on enforcement were continuing concerns for the IPO, the Delegation observed that the written material on IPRs provided by WIPO was vital for teaching students of all ages and for the industrial sector. The IPO celebrated World IP day annually and in 2013 had focused on the coming generation in a well-attended one-day event featuring excellent speakers offering views on the role of IPRs in the future. The Delegation closed by informing the meeting that the Government had initiated preparation of a written national IP strategy and that information provided by WIPO, such as the Methodology and Tools for the Development of National IP Strategies, had offered important guidance in that important task.

131. The Delegation of Jamaica recalled that Jamaica had long recognized the important role of IP in national development, as creativity and innovation were drivers of growth in the modern knowledge-based economy. Jamaica viewed its work in IP as a pillar of its national development plans and also recognized its share of responsibility in advancing a global IP agenda, and had thus taken a number of practical steps to further strengthen its in-country IP systems and its linkages with global IP systems. The Delegation reported that pending amendments to The Copyright Act, 1999 would create important changes in the administration of copyright and acknowledge previously unrecognized rights, while taking account of the requirements of WIPO treaties and providing for the expansion of services by the Jamaican IPO. These amendments to be put before Parliament in 2013 included provisions allowing for: the adaptation of copyrighted works into formats accessible to the visually impaired by named entities such as the Jamaica Society for the Blind, as foreseen prior to Jamaica's signing of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty; the recognition of the moral and economic rights of creative contributions from performers, phonogram producers and broadcasters in line with Jamaica's obligations as signatory to the Beijing Treaty; the establishment of the Voluntary Copyright Registration Management System, a fully digital system able to receive files of any size and issue to clients a confirmatory certificate. The Delegation declared that in the area of trademarks Jamaica remained convinced of the need to improve the IP-related protection of

country names and supported efforts by Member States to promote and protect values accruing thereto. Jamaica continued to work with the SCT to develop means for the Protection of Names of States against Registration and Use as Trademarks, the most recent study by the Secretariat (SCT/29/5) showing that although protection was available for country names through several alternative means, current international protections were limited to particular circumstances and were therefore inadequate. The study had confirmed that a country name was an essential element of any nation branding scheme and was a country's strongest association, but Jamaica believed the study had not gone far enough in assessing the real and/or political impact of weak country-name protections on such schemes. The Delegation considered that country names could be adequately protected through national laws and procedures and that that could be facilitated through a joint Assembly recommendation as had been done in relation to other trademark areas of common importance. At SCT29, the Secretariat had agreed to Jamaica's request to use the study to update the original Reference Document (SCT/25/4) for circulation to Member States ahead of the next meeting, and the Delegation explained that Jamaica was in the process of reviewing the study in detail and would present an updated proposal to the next session of the SCT. While the Government of Jamaica had announced in 2012 that it would accede to the Madrid Protocol, it had decided to amend its Trade Marks Act and Rules before signature, and to that end a Madrid Protocol Working Group comprising representatives from different arms of Government had been formed to expedite the process. Turning to the IGC, the Delegation noted Jamaica's active participation in its meetings and hailed the substantial progress made, while calling for a rapid conclusion to work done to date and a recommendation by the Assembly to continue the process. Jamaica hoped that following the success of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, a diplomatic conference on GRs and TK and folklore could also be convened. In conclusion, the Delegation reaffirmed Jamaica's commitment to the effective promotion and protection of IPRs and to the positive work of the various intergovernmental bodies within WIPO. Jamaica also wished to place on record its sincere thanks to WIPO for the development support extended to it.

132. The Delegation of Madagascar hailed the positive achievements of WIPO, the activities of which were being constantly diversified and developed, and thanked the International Bureau for its key contribution in that respect. It expressed satisfaction at the continued fruitful cooperation between its country and the Organization, welcoming the efforts of WIPO's Regional Bureau for Africa and its Division for LDCs. In the course of the previous year, Madagascar had benefited from several human and institutional capacity-building activities targeting the two national IP offices, the Malagasy Industrial Property Office (OMAPI) and the Malagasy Copyright Office (OMDA). Those activities included: ongoing efforts to deploy the IPAS; the defrayal of the costs of Malagasy Delegations attending meetings or seminars organized by WIPO; and, the official launch of a TISC. As for the current year, many activities had taken place in the country in cooperation with the Organization. Examples of such activities included: the filming of two publicity films on trademarks in May as part of the project to build awareness of the implementation of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks; the designation of OMAPI, OMDA and the Higher Polytechnic School of Antananarivo as depository libraries for WIPO works; the holding, in July, of two national seminars (led by two experts from the Information and Promotion Division of WIPO's Madrid Registry) on the Madrid system for the International Registration of Marks in two cities with economic potential, with a view to increasing recognition and use of the system; and, the holding of a national planning meeting in August on the development of the TISC network in Madagascar, which had been attended by several high-ranking officials and all potential users. During the same period, two WIPO officials had carried out a reconnaissance and consultation mission in connection with the preparation of an innovation and IP policy and strategy in Madagascar, for which WIPO had also made available a national consultant and an international consultant. As for trademarks, OMAPI had been receiving electronic filings since July; despite the material difficulties encountered, it had managed to satisfy users in remote areas, with valuable support being provided by the Organization in that field. Furthermore, the Delegation welcomed the adoption, in June 2013, of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. That

instrument, which Madagascar intended to sign at the first opportunity, went to the heart of a humanitarian problem, and the Delegation earnestly hoped that it would benefit the some 170,000 visually impaired citizens of its country, of whom only a few had access to education and work. In addition, the country had for several years been working to prepare a project to reform and modernize its IP legislation in order to align it with international standards and practices, in particular the provisions of the WTO TRIPS Agreement on. Given the nature and quality of regional products, it was planned to incorporate provisions on GIs into the new legislation, a task for which WIPO's assistance was sought. Madagascar was also considering acceding to the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. It requested assistance in mastering that system, and expressed support for the holding of a diplomatic conference on the issue. The Delegation welcomed progress made towards the development of standards for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs, and encouraged Member States to move towards the holding of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of an international instrument in that field. The Delegation was also following with great interest the discussions on the creation of an external office in Africa, and called on Member States to support those efforts so that a decision could be taken during the present Assemblies. In conclusion, it fully endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of the LDCs, and by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group.

133. The Delegation of Mauritania supported the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. The Delegation stated that its country had recently introduced a law on the protection of literary and artistic property, enacted on July 12, 2012. That law governed all copyright-related fields, ensuring the protection of works and the rights of authors, moral rights and their exercise, economic rights, related rights, works in the public domain, works forming part of traditional cultural heritage, etc. Furthermore, Mauritania was currently working to draft basic texts designed to govern the functioning of the Copyright and Related Rights Unit, the body responsible for the collective management of rights in Mauritania. Work was also underway to: draft texts concerning private copying, royalties and collection; organize a national information and awareness-raising seminar on copyright and related rights; and, implement capacity building targeting the staff of the Unit.

134. The Delegation of Montenegro expressed its appreciation concerning the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Montenegro considered that the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty would enable the exchange of copies in an accessible format, while ensuring respect for copyright and creativity. In November 2012, Montenegro had undergone EU Bilateral Screening for Chapter 7 – Intellectual property law. The Delegation had presented Montenegrin IP legislation and its degree of harmonization with European and global standards, as well as the enforcement work of administrative inspections and courts. The Report of the European Commission did not contain recommendations for additional measures, and Montenegro expected to open IPRs negotiations in the near future. The Bilateral Cooperation Plan between the Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro (IPOM) and the EPO for 2012-2013 would be extended into the following biennium and involved capacity-building through seminars and on-the-job training, modernization of the patent information system and support for patent legislation. In 2012 and 2013, WIPO had provided technical support to IPOM in the form of a study visit to the USPTO. IPOM representatives had participated in the following events and Committees: the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty; the WIPO SCP; the Inter-sessional Meeting on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations; and, the IGC. The Government of Montenegro and IPOM appreciated the technical support provided by WIPO. Cooperation between WIPO and Montenegro had involved participation by IPOM in inter-regional seminars and conferences. IPOM expected to extend cooperation with the CEBS Group through joint activities benefiting IPOM and other Montenegrin enforcement institutions and contributing to the process of accession to the EU in accordance with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Montenegro and the European Communities.

135. The Delegation of Namibia supported the statement made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the statement made by the Delegation of Brazil, on behalf of the DAG. An IP and business registration system did not contribute to economic development unless it was known to and used by those for whom it had been established. To remain relevant, that system had to be reviewed and aligned with an ever-changing environment. Users and regulators needed opportunities to upgrade their knowledge and skills. There was therefore a need for capacity building. The establishment of an IP regime that promoted commercial and industrial activities was a priority for Namibia. New developments in the area of IT, electronic information distribution and electronic transactions had led Namibia to develop a law on information, communication and technology to enhance innovation through the Science and Technology Centers at Namibia's tertiary institutions. The Intellectual Property Act passed in 2012 was in conformity with the Agreement on TRIPS. Namibia was developing a legal framework in which a stand-alone and autonomous authority administered, promoted and registered business and IPRs. The Delegation recalled that Botswana, on behalf of the member states of ARIPO, had submitted the Swakopmund Protocol as a working document to the IGC. The Delegation of Namibia called for a diplomatic conference to be held in 2014 with the aim of adopting a legally binding instrument on the protection of GRs, TK and folklore. Africa had had economic growth rates higher than the global average and was the home of many such resources, but had no WIPO regional offices. The Delegation called for the establishment of such offices and expressed gratitude for WIPO's technical assistance with office automation and capacity-building initiatives.

136. The Delegation of the Niger welcomed the report of the Director General, which had allowed it to gauge the situation of the Organization in terms of its financial position and also recent developments in certain areas, including normative issues. It also applauded the reforms initiated by the Director General addressing the work culture and the code of ethics, audit and monitoring that had allowed WIPO to stay on track, despite the persistent international financial crisis. The steady growth in applications registered for certain kinds of protection and the geographical extension of certain instruments illustrated that well. In the field of norm-setting, the Delegation was pleased to note significant progress, in particular the convening of Diplomatic Conferences in Beijing and Marrakesh, and would welcome the acceleration of talks with a view to convening a diplomatic conference on industrial designs. Nonetheless, while progress had been made in certain normative fields, the Delegation regretted in particular the considerable delay in negotiations in the IGC, whose work had commenced more than 10 years previously. In that regard, it was more important than ever that all Member States showed a greater willingness and commitment to speed up and progress negotiations in order to allow a diplomatic conference to be convened as soon as possible. Moreover, the Delegation supported the integrated approach adopted by the Director General regarding technical assistance and capacity building under national IP strategies. In particular, it supported the initiative to increase the sharing of knowledge among TISCs. With respect to cooperation, the Niger had launched several projects with WIPO and sought assistance to successfully complete them. In particular, it sought assistance to draft a plan for IP development and the entry into operation of the TISC. In that regard, while recognizing the reasons behind the suspension of assistance with equipment under the project, the Delegation requested that the Director General should examine the specific case of LDCs, in order to allow them to receive the equipment necessary to developing their TISCs. Finally, the delegation supported the statements made on behalf of the African Group and LDCs, particularly with regard to the opening of two external offices in Africa – as provided for in the budget – and welcomed the development cooperation activities initiated and implemented for Africa in general, and for the Niger in particular, while expressing the hope that those actions and initiatives would be further developed and strengthened to help LDCs better respond to the multiple challenges they faced.

137. The Delegation of Norway emphasized the importance of improving Member States' ability to monitor the economy of WIPO. Norway welcomed the adoption of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. Progress had been made in the work of the SCCR, which should continue its balanced

focus both on rights and on exceptions and limitations. A focus on broadcasters' rights should be retained. The discussions on exceptions and limitations for libraries and in education covered many complex topics. The three texts resulting from the IGC meetings in 2013 were works in progress and more focused work was needed before a diplomatic conference could be convened. Norway supported the proposal from the Indigenous Caucus and Peru to hold a meeting, if funding could be secured, to exchange views between Member States and observers from indigenous and local communities on issues relating to those texts. Regarding WIPO's DA, the Delegation looked forward to continuing the work of the CDIP and other projects. It was important to move forward with the agreed balanced work plan of the SCP. Duplication of work with other WIPO Committees and international organizations should be avoided. The Delegation commended the progress made towards a design law treaty in the SCT. The draft articles and the technical assistance and capacity-building proposals were a solid basis for a diplomatic conference and the announcement by the Russian Federation that it intended to host the conference was welcome. The Delegation commended the International Bureau for providing services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems, with a focus on smooth operations, simplification and cost savings. The working groups under those systems had improved regulations, guidelines and practices. IT standards and technological infrastructure remained essential issues for WIPO expert discussions within the framework of the CWS. Norway had adopted a new Act regulating the Industrial Property Office and the Board of Appeals. The Act codified the separation of the Office and Board and underlined the independence of both bodies from the Government. The Act further introduced the right to claim costs in cases relating to administrative re-evaluation. Legislative amendments to strengthen the enforcement of IPRs had been adopted. Amendments to the Copyright Act included balanced measures against illegal file-sharing and other copyright infringements on the Internet that took into consideration conflicting interests, privacy, legal protection and freedom of speech. Norway had also adopted legislative amendments to strengthen the enforcement of IPRs by increasing damages and criminal sanctions, introducing a right of information on origin and distribution networks and enabling rights holders to claim compensation and damages, which would be doubled if the infringer acted intentionally or with gross negligence. The rules on damages extended to cover infringements of GIs and infringements of provisions relating to product look-alikes, trade secrets and technical aids. Criminal sanctions for infringements had been raised to up to three years of imprisonment instead of the previous three months. Provisions on injunctions had been clarified and courts could order infringers to inform the public of infringement decisions. Norway was ready to share its experiences in the ACE. Many Norwegian businesses, especially SMEs, made insufficient use of IPR owing to a lack of awareness and training. The core policy areas in a recent white paper on IP policy were: raising awareness and competence; increasing information services aimed at SMEs; developing the activities of the Norwegian Industrial Property Office; and updating legislation.

138. The Delegation of Rwanda supported the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and the Delegation of Benin, on behalf of LDCs. On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, the Delegation extended its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Kenya. Rwanda condemned in the strongest possible terms the heinous act recently committed in Kenya and assured the Government of Kenya and the Kenyan people of its solidarity and support. The Delegation recognized the vital role that IP played in the growth and development of its country's economy and in the achievement of Vision 2020 (Rwanda's overarching development strategy). In that regard, the Government of Rwanda had put in place a number of policy and program initiatives to ensure the protection of IP and the use of the IP regime for development. Information and awareness campaigns had been conducted in universities, the business community and research institutions in order to broaden and deepen understanding of IP and to ensure that all stakeholders appreciated the link between IP, investment and development. In addition, the Government of Rwanda, with the support and cooperation of WIPO, had established a TISC and set up the Rwandan Society of Authors (RSAU). The Delegation added that Rwanda had ratified various agreements, including the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of

Marks and the PCT, both of which had now entered into force. Other achievements included the development of an IP policy and the implementation of IPAS. The Delegation said that the Government of Rwanda welcomed the successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which would benefit more than 314 million blind and visually impaired persons in the world. The Delegation closed by reiterating Rwanda's commitment to ensuring that IP continued to play a vital role in development and looked forward to contributing to the Assembly's deliberations.

139. The Delegation of Swaziland expressed gratitude for the assistance received throughout 2013, in particular the mission to facilitate the implementation of IPAS. Swaziland had reviewed its outdated IP legislation, and priority would be given to tabling IP bills in the next session of Parliament. The Delegation associated itself with the views expressed by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group, and was optimistic that, with its renewed mandate, the IGC would make positive progress resulting in a binding international instrument. The new Marrakesh VIP Treaty would open access to published works in formats such as Braille and large print and address the book famine for blind people by encouraging Contracting Parties to expedite the process of domestication of provisions covering limitations and exceptions to the rights of copyright holders. The Delegation pledged its commitment to WIPO's initiatives to ensure that IP benefited rights holders and users, and enhance the economic development of Swaziland.

140. The Delegation of Sweden supported the statements made by the Delegation of Belgium, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of the European Union (EU). The Delegation wished to emphasize its support for WIPO in its mission to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system. In order to carry out that mission, WIPO needed to be efficient in all its tasks. Sweden continued to welcome and support measures leading to mechanisms that were responsive, transparent and robust and that aimed, over time, to bring about a more efficient Organization. The Director General of WIPO and his team were praised for having finalized the SRP. WIPO had made great improvements, but still had challenges ahead. It was important for WIPO's services to improve their efficiency, as well as meeting customers' needs concerning the international protection of their IP. In that regard, WIPO should provide and develop the international legal IP framework and the infrastructure required to make the best use of IP as a driving force for economic development. The Delegation especially wished to highlight the successful outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. It recognized the importance and added value of harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities and procedures and believed that the hard work done by the SCT had delivered a result that was ready for concluding discussions at a diplomatic conference. With regard to the SCCR, the Delegation wished to thank the Secretariat for its continued efforts to move the issues on the agenda forward and wished to reiterate its commitment to participating constructively in the future deliberations of the Committee. Turning to the CDIP and the IGC, the Delegation wished to stress the significance of the work carried out by those Committees and it remained committed to continuing to participate productively in the work of the IGC, looking forward to establishing a realistic mandate for its future work. The Delegation reiterated its understanding that any international instrument or instruments to be created in the IGC should be non-binding, flexible and clear. Sweden was committed to furthering the international harmonization of patent law and appreciated and welcomed the agreement on a work plan for the SCP work plan. The Delegation emphasized the importance of the PCT system and its commitment to the valuable work of the PCT Working Group. It wished to express its warm appreciation for the excellent cooperation between the International Bureau and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV) in the organization of three training programs relating to various aspects of IP in 2013, which were financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

141. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed appreciation for the Chair, the WIPO Director General and all WIPO's staff for supporting IP development in the Syrian Arab Republic. Such support contributed to the modernization of national IP legal and administrative infrastructure, namely the promulgation of Law No. 8 of 2007 on Trademarks, Industrial Designs, Geographical Indications and Unfair Competition; Law No. 18 of 2012 on Patents (also covering Utility Models); as well as Law No. 62 of 2013 on Copyright and Related Rights. The Delegation also mentioned work being undertaken, in cooperation with WIPO, on a National IP Strategy with a strengthened role in developing creativity and innovation for overall development nationwide. In addition, a National IP Dissemination Program was being implemented and improved, including awareness campaigns for schools and universities on the importance of IP and the promotion of creativity. The Program also targeted SMEs and business stakeholders using relevant WIPO information and publications with a customized overview in Arabic. Widely distributed on CDs to all sectors concerned, those publications and materials promoted free-of-charge information services provided by WIPO on patent services, global databases on patent information and public outreach programs. Achievements by the Syrian Directorate for the Protection of Commercial and Industrial Property (DPCIP) included updating of its website and publishing an IP monthly bulletin in electronic format, with updates on IP developments as well as data on the registration of trademarks, patents and industrial designs in Syria. The Delegation looked forward to the conclusion of a WIPO memorandum on the establishment of a National IP Academy in Syria. To that end, local infrastructure was already in place to kick start the project which would benefit trainees. WIPO's support was also valued in establishing TICS in the country. In conclusion, the Delegation praised the WIPO Secretariat for elaborating and implementing programs that corresponded to the development needs of developing countries. It also thanked the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the meetings, and the WIPO Arab Bureau for its cooperation.

142. The Delegation of Yemen recounted the various challenges ahead, and wished to thank the Director General and the WIPO Arab Bureau for their cooperation culminating in the conclusion of a MoU in May 2012 as well as the organization of useful and much needed training seminars and technical workshops. The Delegation announced that work was underway to launch a national awareness and education campaign in 2013/2014 on copyright, related rights and national folklore. The ground-breaking campaign would increase public awareness of the importance of copyright and related right protection, as well as of the adverse effects of piracy on intellectual and creative rights. Target groups would include younger generations, school and university students, authors, related right holders, media, law enforcement and legal experts. The Delegation looked forward to technical assistance from WIPO to ensure a successful campaign for the promotion of IP culture. The country's steady and confident advancement was illustrated in its IP legislation, accession to the Paris and Berne Conventions as well as its process for accession to WTO. In that regard, the Delegation stated that the WTO Working Party on Access of Yemen would hold its last meeting on September 23, 2013, coinciding with the 51st Yemen Revolution Day. The Delegation also wished to praise the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. In conclusion, the Delegation appreciated the Chair's efforts in conducting the meetings towards a successful outcome.

143. The Delegation of Palestine associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of India, on behalf of the Asian Group. While referring to the difficulties faced by the State of Palestine due to occupation, the Delegation wished to highlight the work carried out by Palestine throughout the years in enhancing and developing industrial property across society through awareness campaigns as well as the elaboration of new laws on industrial property. As part of the work being carried out, the Delegation mentioned the preparation of a new law on copyright and related rights, as well as modernization of the IPO and its statutes, under a MoU with WIPO. The Delegation also wished to thank WIPO for its assistance and looked forward to further support for the State of Palestine, particularly for the registration of domestic patents.

144. The Representative of the International Video Federation (IVF) noted that the IVF represented companies and individuals involved in all areas of the film and audiovisual sectors. Furthermore, some of its members were entities specializing in the publication of audiovisual content in digital media and/or over digital networks, including the Internet. The Representative hailed the successful conclusion of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty reaffirmed the international copyright framework, in particular confirming the three-step test as the international rule for balancing rights and exceptions. Audiovisual producers and publishers supported broad ratification and faithful implementation of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty in order to ensure that the Treaty achieved its intended objectives and - beyond establishing the adequate legal framework making cross-border exchange of special format copies a reality - also promoted voluntary cooperation with publishers and among authorized entities. Regarding further work on other limitations and exceptions on the agenda of the SCCR, the Representative was not convinced that additional binding norms at the international level were the solution. Rather, legitimate requests from developing countries concerning the adaptation of their copyright laws to the global online environment should be addressed holistically. Adequate access was a legitimate concern, but the same was true of copyright protection. The Representative believed that the existing international copyright framework, in particular the WCT, offered all the necessary tools and flexibilities for balancing limitations and exceptions with corresponding exclusive rights. If work towards a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organization proceeded, the Representative would support an instrument focused on signal piracy that effectively protected the interests of broadcasting organizations without impinging on the underlying rights of copyright owners. That support would be provided on the condition that there was not a negative impact on the international copyright framework. The Representative acknowledged the progress achieved by the IGC, including on the protection of TCEs, and believed that a shared understanding of principles, objectives and issues was necessary in order to identify possible solutions. While agreeing that a successful outcome was long overdue, the Representative urged Member States not to rush into solutions without having fully assessed the implications in the real world. The Representative welcomed the proposal to renew the IGC's mandate in order to allow for more time to consider options and implications.

145. The Representative of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) associated the FICCI fully with the statement made by the Delegation of India. The FICCI had developed a long-standing and mutually beneficial partnership with WIPO, the Government of India and the user community, with a view to developing an effective, balanced, and business-friendly IP system in India and enhancing the strategic use of IP for the creation and commercialization of IP assets. The FICCI valued its partnership with WIPO and wanted to strengthen and widen cooperation in the future. While the FICCI had an interest in all WIPO programs, the Representative wanted to highlight five concrete areas for advancing WIPO/FICCI collaboration in the future. Firstly, strategic development, management and utilization of IP at the national, enterprise and institutional levels was considered important for leveraging the full potential of IP for economic development and competitiveness. The FICCI was working very closely in the area of policy and strategy development with the Government and other stakeholders, particularly industry and business. The FICCI had been organizing various programs focusing on IP policy and operational issues in cooperation with WIPO. Recently FICCI, in partnership with WIPO and the Government, had organized a series of roving seminars on the implementation of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks. The FICCI stood ready to collaborate further in the areas of policy and strategy formulation, as well with regard to the global protection systems and global services offered by WIPO, in order to harness the full potential of IP for national and enterprise development. Secondly, the promotion of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship was an important part of the FICCI's policies and programs aimed at augmenting the generation, protection and commercialization of IP assets. Among the many initiatives in that area, the FICCI had developed a proposal for establishing an IP exchange for facilitating commercialization of IP assets and technology transfer. Thirdly, the FICCI wanted to enhance its cooperation with WIPO in the area of capacity-building and technical assistance,

particularly for the corporate sector, including MSMEs. The FICCI had been running a facilitation center providing advice and assistance to MSMEs on IP awareness and IP development, and wanted to augment MSME-related activities with the help of WIPO. Fourthly, work was also being carried out concerning the important areas of human resource development, IP teaching and training for enterprises, academia, R&D institutions and IP professionals. The FICCI had been running an education center on IP and had developed important links with government and private sector institutions aimed at developing IP literacy and skills. A recent tie-up with George Washington University in the United States of America would result in the offering of an online course on patent law. The FICCI wanted to explore a partnership with the WIPO Academy in the area of IP teaching and training. Last but not least, the FICCI had worked very actively with the Government, judiciary, law enforcement agencies and industry to make the enforcement of IPRs more effective. In addition to a number of programs aimed at combating counterfeiting and piracy, the FICCI was developing a business report on IP and a report on anti-piracy measures and software. The Delegation added that the FICCI also wanted to explore the possibility of WIPO advice and assistance in the area of creating respect for IP and raising awareness about the importance of IP enforcement. As the oldest and largest association representing industry and business in India, the FICCI was willing and ready to strengthen its partnership with WIPO in all relevant and mutually beneficial areas of IP.

146. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) agreed that the SCCR might want to review the technical assistance concerning implementation of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty in order to ensure that countries had information about strategies that were not complex or burdensome. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty had sparked off a debate on the three step test, a debate which the Representative hoped would continue and would cover in more depth the issues of where the three step test did and did not apply and how it should be evaluated in a manner consistent with social and development objectives. One of the challenges for WIPO would be to fashion a realistic and thoughtful strategy for addressing norm setting in the area of user rights and copyright, including exceptions relating to institutions like schools and libraries that served end users. WIPO had also been asked to resolve the outstanding request for new legal protection for broadcasting organizations. The Representative hoped that, in all cases, WIPO would identify the problems that it was being asked to solve and would, if required, relate norm setting to those problems in ways that promoted the public interest and expanded lawful access to knowledge. Regarding medical innovation, the Representative noted that WIPO Re:Search was a program that promoted various voluntary licensing agreements and matchmaking between researchers and product developers and asked what the role of Member States was in supervising and reviewing the projects and activities of the program. The Representative was also concerned about access to new treatments and diagnostic tools, including for cancer. WIPO had recently hired an expert in that field, who had written that people living in developing countries did not need access to patented cancer drugs. The Representative felt that that was profoundly ignorant, and that it was not reassuring that persons holding such views were advising countries on patent and health issues. According to WHO, 7.6 million people worldwide died from cancer in 2008 and approximately 70 per cent of cancer deaths occurred in low and middle income countries, equating to more than 5 million deaths from cancer per year in developing countries. The Representative noted that there had been attacks on India in its efforts to expand access to patented cancer drugs, and commented that history would not look kindly on those who had contributed to medical apartheid as regards cancer and other deadly diseases. In conclusion, the Representative also asked WIPO to take note of discussions at the WHO on the delinking of R&D costs and the prices for products. The Representative thought that unless R&D costs and rewards for successful investments were delinked from product prices, it would be impossible to imagine access to medicine for all in accordance with the mandate of the 2001 Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and public health.

147. The Representative of Third World Network (TWN) wished to convey TWN's serious concerns with regard to the manner in which the WIPO Forum 2013 had been organized. WIPO was an intergovernmental organization (IGO) and, according to Article 8(3)(ii) of the WIPO Convention, the Coordination Committee was responsible for preparing the agenda of the Assemblies. The fact that Assembly proceedings were disrupted in order to accommodate the holding of a Forum that had not been formally approved by the WIPO membership was a matter for concern. The holding of such an event at the present time converted the Assemblies from a Member State-driven process into a multi-stakeholder forum. It seemed inappropriate to suspend the work of the General Assemblies and burden the Assemblies with the Forum meeting. Secondly, the Representative strongly urged the Secretariat to carry out the technical assistance activities in accordance with the DA principles. In that regard, the Representative called on the Member States to implement the recommendations of the Deere/Roca Report and to take measures to ensure accountability and transparency with regard to the implementation of technical assistance programs.

148. The Representative of ARIPO underscored the importance of activities undertaken by ARIPO and its member states with the cooperation and support of WIPO and praised the working relationship between the two Organizations. The Representative fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. Noting that ARIPO was moving towards full implementation of the mandate on copyright and related rights, the Representative congratulated WIPO on the conclusion of the Beijing and Marrakesh VIP Treaties and believed that the two instruments would allow stakeholders to obtain great benefit from IP for social and economic development. WIPO had supported ARIPO, its member states and potential member states to improve administration and management of IP through the IPAS project, and completion of the project would be followed by the development of an interface between IPAS and the ARIPO software, "POLite", which was to be upgraded with the support of the KOICA-WIPO-ZIPO-ARIPO project of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The WIPO Global Infrastructure Division had provided technical and financial support to the project, which would be officially launched on October 7, 2013, when the Deputy Commissioner of KIPO and KOICA and WIPO technical experts would meet in Harare. Completion of the project would see all procedures automated for the processing of IP titles, including online filing at the ARIPO and ZIPO Offices. The Representative reaffirmed the importance of patent information in the technological and economic development of ARIPO member states and ARIPO, in cooperation with WIPO, ensured that the technological needs of Member States were satisfied through the free-of-charge, state-of-the-art search facility. Also in cooperation with ARIPO, WIPO continued to organize workshops in the African region to raise awareness on the importance of IP for economic development. At the Dar es Salaam Ministerial Innovation Conference in February, WIPO had strongly supported the availability of patent information to researchers, institutions of higher learning, SMEs and the general public through the TISCs and the ARDI Program. Projects under the WIPO Development Agenda for Intellectual Property (CDIP) also contributed to the development of IP in ARIPO member states and globally. Other projects managed by WIPO such as the Knowledge Pyramid, Digital Access Service (DAS), CASE, Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI), International Cooperation on the Examination of Patents (ICE), and PatentScope continued to demystify IP in Africa and globally, and ARIPO endorsed their continued availability. To complement WIPO's efforts in human resources development in the region, the ARIPO Academy had increased its capacity-building operations by providing training locally in all matters relating to IP. In cooperation with the World Wide Academy and the Africa University, ARIPO continued to develop the Masters' Degree Training Program for the training of trainers in IP which was in its sixth year and would have graduated by 2014 some 169 students with Master's Degrees in IP. The Representative commended WIPO for progress made at the IGC and looked forward to the early adoption of a legally-binding instrument for the benefit of asset holders in TK and folklore, and added that WIPO, while supporting ARIPO and its member states in developing a regional instrument on GIs, had joined in a joint task force with ARIPO to improve the Banjul Protocol and link same to the Madrid system. The Representative reported that ARIPO's five-year Strategic Plan for 2011

to 2015 giving focus and direction to the Organization's work in serving its member states and prioritizing activities to make it more effective was being strictly followed. WIPO in cooperation with the Government of Japan would hold a Results-Based Management Seminar in November 2013 in Kampala, Uganda, for the Heads of the IP offices of the ARIPO member states which would bring new input to the management of the IP offices and the Secretariat. The Representative warmly acknowledged the support of WIPO and other partners in bilateral agreements to develop IP in Africa and the world in general.

ITEM 6 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

149. Discussions were based on document A/51/2 Rev.

150. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of the Member States to document A/51/2 Rev. on the admission of observers. He said that the Secretariat had three applicants for observer status in the category of intergovernmental organizations, namely Clarin Eric, West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), as listed in paragraph 4 of the said document.

151. He said that the Secretariat had also received seven applications for observer status from international non-governmental organizations that were listed in paragraph 9 of the document, that is, (i) International Society for the Development of Intellectual Property (ADALPI); (ii) Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED); (iii) Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi); (iv) International Ayurveda Foundation (IAF); (v) International Human Rights & Anti-Corruption Society (IHRAS); (vi) International Institute for Intellectual Property Management (I³PM); and (vii) Pirate Parties International (PPI). He recalled that PPI had applied for observer status the year before, but as indicated in footnote 1 of the working document, the Member States had not finished informal consultations at the time. Therefore, the decision was deferred and the PPI's request was being re-submitted to the Member States' attention for consideration.

152. The third and final category of applicants for observer status were national non-governmental organizations listed in paragraph 13 of the document: (i) *Asociación Argentina de Intérpretes* (AADi); (ii) *Association marocaine des conseils en propriété industrielle* (AMACPI); (iii) *Asociación Nacional de Denominaciones de Origen* (ANDO); (iv) Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA); (v) Innovation Council of Kenya (ICK); (vi) Institut de recherche en propriété intellectuelle (IRPI); and (vii) Society of American Archivists (SAA).

153. He recalled that one of the principles for granting observer status to national non-governmental organizations required that the Secretariat conduct informal consultations with the Member States in which the NGO applicants were based. The Secretariat had received formal approvals for six of the seven applicants in the category. He pointed out that in respect of the ICK, the Government of Kenya, at this time, was unable to give a favorable response to the ICK application for national non-governmental organization observer status.

154. In this regard, the Secretariat proposed that consideration be given to the three decision paragraphs in paragraphs 6, 11 and 15, in which the Member States were invited to take a decision on granting observer status to the three intergovernmental organizations listed in paragraph 4, the seven international non-governmental organizations listed in paragraph 9 and six of the seven national organizations, excluding ICK, appearing in paragraph 13.

155. The Delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of Group B, said it had taken note of the contents of document A/51/2 rev. regarding the admission of observers, including the request on behalf of PPI. In this respect, the Delegation asked the Secretariat to provide information on any precedent, either at WIPO or in the context of any other UN organization, allowing for the registration of umbrella organizations of political parties as observers.

156. The Delegation of the United States of America supported the intervention made by Group B, and said it would welcome further clarification on the nature of the activities and objectives of PPI. The Delegation noted that the document rather vaguely stated that the PPI exists to establish, support, promote, and maintain communication and cooperation between Pirate Parties around the world. It therefore would welcome any further information pertaining to the activities and objectives of the PPI, especially also with regard to their linkage with, and support of the activities and objectives that were pursued by WIPO.

157. The Delegation of Poland, quoting the preamble of Article 3 of the WIPO Convention, said that it understood the basic objectives of WIPO to be the promotion of intellectual property throughout the world. There was therefore need for further information on the goals pursued by PPI.

158. Responding to the question from the Delegation of Belgium, the Legal Counsel stated that WIPO did not have any information on any umbrella organization of political parties being granted observer status in other UN organizations. On the question by the Delegation of the United States of America, he said that the only information the Secretariat had, was in the document submitted to it by PPI, in which they stated that they were an umbrella organization representing Pirate Parties worldwide. He said that PPI specifically said they were not a political entity. The Secretariat did not have any information in respect of that. He therefore said that it was up to the Member States to decide what decision to take, in light of the information that had been provided by the PPI.

159. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) drew the attention of the Member States to the fact that the Socialist International were observers at the International Labour Organization, which was a UN body. The Representative was not aware of any real opposition to that, especially that it related to issues about the labor movement. The Representative said that PPI surprised a lot of people when it became politically active first in Europe, and elected members to the European parliament. He was of the view that everyone would say that PPI contributed in a very constructive way to intellectual property policies, so at a moment when WIPO was trying to deal with and reconcile these issues about freedom, privacy, access to information, as it related to the intellectual property system, he was of the opinion that it would reflect poorly on the Group B members, namely the United States of America, Belgium and on Poland if they took steps to block the opportunity for a group to participate, to share their views, and to follow the rules of WIPO and discuss its concerns. KEI said that WIPO would be a stronger institution as the debate would be richer, and so it would send a negative view of the Member States if they were to block PPI's request for observer status.

160. The Representative of the Civil Society Coalition (CSC) stated that he was also the Co-Chairman of the PPI. He recalled that they had submitted the request over a year ago, and PPI had grown significantly, as stated in the report. He wished to address the concern of the Delegation of the United States of America on what they do on the IP field. He said that PPI were now representing Pirate Parties from 43 countries around the world with total membership of over 85,000 people. All of its members have advocated for policies for introducing reforms to the copyright laws and the patent laws, for shortening protection terms and he was of the opinion that this point of the debate was not represented that well in the WIPO Assemblies yet. He said they therefore would love to be able to contribute with PPI views, to the debate.

161. The Chair thanked all the delegations for the comments, and proposed the following decision for the agenda item:

“The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, each insofar as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to three intergovernmental organizations, six international non-governmental organizations and six national non-governmental organizations, as referred to in paragraphs 6, 11, and 15 of document A/51/2 rev, and not opposed by any delegation”. She clarified that as the proposal had not been opposed by any delegation, this would mean that PPI and ICK would not be included in the list of the organizations admitted as observers, at this stage.”

Admission of Intergovernmental Organization as Observers

162. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following intergovernmental organization: Clarin Eric; West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU); and Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC).

Admission of International Non-Governmental Organizations as Observers

163. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following six international non-governmental organizations: International Society for the Development of Intellectual Property (ADALPI); Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED); Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi); International Ayurveda Foundation (IAF); International Human Rights & Anticorruption Society (IHRAS); and International Institute for Intellectual Property Management (I³PM).

Admission of National Non-Governmental Organizations as Observers

164. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following six national non-governmental organizations: *Asociación Argentina de Intérpretes (AADI)*; *Association marocaine des conseils en propriété industrielle (AMACPI)*; *Asociación Nacional de Denominaciones de Origen (ANDO)*; Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA); *Institut de recherche en propriété intellectuelle (IRPI)*; and Society of American Archivists (SAA).

ITEM 7 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

165. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/67/4).

ITEM 8 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 2014

166. Discussions were based on document A/51/3.

167. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of the Member States to document A/51/3, Appointment of the Director General in 2014. The document referred to the constitutional provisions concerning the nomination and appointment of Directors General of WIPO, and the steps that had been taken to initiate those procedures. In addition, it provided a proposed timetable for the implementation of the outstanding steps. He informed the Member States that the document followed previous practice. For example, in respect of the circular which was dated September 6, 2013, it meant that the circular had gone out before consideration by the current session of the Assemblies of Member States. The same practice was followed in 2002, in respect of the previous election of Director General in 2003. He recalled that at the time the circular was mailed on September 9, 2002, and the Assemblies met from September 23 to October 1, 2002. This meant that the circular had to be mailed before the Assemblies met to consider the proposed circular and the proposed timetable, and the same had been done in respect of the current document. He stated that decision paragraph 9 of document A/51/3 invited the General Assembly, the Coordination Committee, and the Paris and the Berne Union Assemblies to note the dispatch of the circular of September 6, 2013, to approve the convening of the WIPO General Assembly on May 8 and 9, 2014, and to approve the proposed timetable of procedural steps that were set out in paragraph 8 of the document.

168. The Delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of Group B, took note of document A/51/3 entitled, "Appointment of the Director General In 2014". The Delegation approved the convening of the WIPO General Assembly on May 8 and 9, 2014, in advance of the time foreseen in the procedures, and approved the terms of pre-scheduled steps set out in paragraph 8 of the document.

169. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the concrete and detailed document which clearly set out relevant principles and procedures on the appointment of the Director General. The date set for the General Assembly to be held on May 8 and 9, 2014 was practical and operational, and would be good for the transition of high level leadership. The Delegation said that it had no objection, and hoped that the measure would positively facilitate the election and the appointment of the Director General in 2014 and the subsequent composition of the Senior Management Team. In addition, it approved the procedures set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the document, and hoped that the procedures would be carried out smoothly and steadily. It pledged its positive and constructive participation in all relevant discussions.

170. The Chair thanked the Delegations for the statements and comments made on the matter and drew the attention of the Assemblies to the decision paragraph contained in the working document.

171. The General Assembly, the Coordination Committee, and the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies (i) noted the dispatch of the circular set out in Annex 2 of document A/51/3; (ii) approved the convening of the WIPO General Assembly on May 8 and 9, 2014 in advance of the time foreseen in the procedures; and (iii) approved the timetable of procedural steps set out in paragraph 8 of the same document.

172. The Delegation of El Salvador said that although the agenda item had been closed, it wished to go on record to express its agreement with the proposed calendar, and with the decisions that were set out in document A/51/3.

ITEM 9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE; ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS AND DESIGNATION OF THE *AD HOC* MEMBERS OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE

173. Discussions were based on document A/51/4.

174. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel informed the Member States that there had been successful consultations among the Group Coordinators. He said that, as Member States might have noticed from the working document, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was supposed to be 84 members. However, it had proved impossible to achieve an agreed solution as to how best to fill the 84th seat on the Coordination Committee. In this regard, the Group Coordinators decided, on an exceptional basis, that the composition of the Coordination Committee would remain at 83. An informal document that had been provided to the Member States listed the 83 members proposed for the Coordination Committee. He stated that the proposal was to have 41 countries on the Paris Union Executive Committee, 39 countries on the Berne Union Executive Committee, two *ad hoc* members and one *ex officio* member, and that would bring the composition to 83. He called on the Conference, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly to approve the proposed composition of the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees and the Coordination Committee from the close of the present sessions of the Assemblies until the close of the next ordinary sessions.

(i) the Paris Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Paris Union Executive Committee*: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Estonia (2013/2014), France, Gabon, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland (2014/2015), Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay (41);

(ii) the Berne Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (39);

(iii) the WIPO Conference unanimously designated the following States as *ad hoc* members of the *WIPO Coordination Committee*: Afghanistan, Ethiopia (2);

(iv) the WIPO Conference and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions noted that Switzerland would continue to be an *ex officio* ordinary member of the *Paris Union Executive Committee* and of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*.

As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period September 2013 to September 2015 was composed of the following States: Afghanistan (*ad hoc*), Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador,

Estonia (2013/2014), Ethiopia (*ad hoc*), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland (2014/2015), Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (83).

ITEM 10 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

175. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 11 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT

176. Discussions were based on document A/51/5 (containing document WO/PBC/20/2 Rev. entitled "Program Performance Report for 2012"), A/51/5 Add., A/51/13 (Summary of Decisions and Recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee at its Twentieth Session (July 8 to 12, 2013)).

177. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce this agenda item.

178. The Secretariat introduced documents A/51/5 and A/51/15 Add. recalling that the PPR for 2012 had been extensively discussed by the PBC. The Secretariat explained that the current PPR was a mid-biennium report which assessed progress made towards achieving the Expected Results, measured by the Performance Indicators and with the resources approved in the 2012/13 Program and Budget. The preparation of the report had duly taken into account the recommendations of the IAOD Validation of the PPR 2010/11. The Appendix of the PPR contained a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the Funds- in-Trust in 2012, as an integral part of the PPR. In its first year (2011), this overview had been well received by Member States and taken as a positive development of WIPO's efforts to integrate all activities under the results-based management framework of the Organization, irrespective of the source of funds. Pursuant to the decision of the 20th session of the PBC, the comments, concerns and suggestions for improvement raised by Member States during that session were reflected in document A/51/5 Add.

179. The Delegation of India thanked the Secretariat for having prepared the documents under this agenda item and noted that this was the first time that the Organization was able to report on its performance based on a results-based view of the budget and noted the enhancement in the reporting. The PPR was a major tool that Member States used to follow and evaluate the activities of the Organization. The PPR had been extensively discussed during the July 2013 PBC session, and had been approved by Member States as a self- assessment report for 2012 by the Secretariat. At that session, the Secretariat had also been requested to incorporate all the suggested changes and comments made by Member States during their discussion. Therefore, the Delegation supported the recommendation of the PBC that the PPR should be subject to the comments, concerns and suggestions for improvement raised by Member States and that those should be reflected in the PPR document, as an annex. The Delegation also took note of the activities undertaken in 2012 under Program 18 (IP and Global Challenges), which was directly concerned with the critical issues of health, food security and climate change.

The Delegation recalled that it had expressed its concerns in the past regarding this Program, and the fact that there was no discussion taking place in any of the WIPO committees or any other platform on the nature and the content of this Program. The Delegation added that the reporting on the Program's activities did not seem to be sufficient and wished to have a proper discussion in this regard at one of the WIPO committees. This would enable Member States to be kept up to date on the work undertaken by WIPO in this area, would provide an opportunity to guide the Program, where required, and an opportunity to benefit from the Program's output for use in the national context wherever possible.

180. The Delegation of Brazil aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of India. The Delegation understood that although the PPR was a self-assessment tool by the Secretariat, it should also take into account the comments and the concerns raised by Member States. The Delegation wished to see the decision taken by the PBC at its 20th session reflected in the decision of the Assemblies.

181. The Delegation of El Salvador thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report and congratulated the Director General and his entire team for the financial result achieved. The Delegation added that the Organization was an example in terms of using and properly managing its resources and implementing new policies and programs that benefited countries such as El Salvador. These had been received very favorably and therefore the Delegation wished to state for the record its thanks and congratulations.

182. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the recommendation made by the Program and Budget Committee in respect of the Program Performance Report for 2012.

ITEM 12 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

FINANCIAL REVIEW

183. Discussions were based on documents WO/GA/43/2 (Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2012), WO/GA/43/3 (Status of the Payment of Contributions as of June 30, 2013), A/51/19 (Status of the Payment of Contributions as of September 10, 2013), A/51/6 (Status of the Utilization of Reserves) and A/51/14 (Summary of Decisions and Recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee at its Twenty-First Session (September 9 to 13, 2013)).

184. The Secretariat introduced the three documents under consideration. Firstly, it explained that document WO/GA/43/2, "Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2012" contained the Annual Financial Report and financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012, adding that these financial statements were the third set of financial statements which had been prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and that they had received a clean audit report. Pages 3 to 11 of the English version of the Financial Report provided a discussion and analysis of the results for the year, and also gave a detailed explanation of the constituent parts of the financial statements themselves, under "Overview of the Financial Statements", on page 4 of the English version. The Secretariat explained that three tables which were not required for IPSAS compliance purposes were included after the statements in order to provide additional information. The first two of these tables provided details of the financial position and the financial performance of the Organization by business unit, while a third table provided a summary of income and expenditure related to Special Accounts (otherwise known as Funds-in-Trust). Statement V, "Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts –

Expense” (page 17 of the English version), showed a surplus against budget of 50,984,000 Swiss francs. This figure had been reduced by IPSAS adjustments and by projects financed by the reserves and increased by the consolidation of the Special Accounts to give a final result of a surplus of 15,710,000 Swiss francs for the year.

185. The Secretariat then turned to documents WO/GA/43/3 and A/51/19 “Status of the Payment of Contributions as of June 30, 2013,” and “Status of the Payment of Contributions as of September 10, 2013, respectively. The second of these two documents provided the detail of contributions received up to September 10, 2013. The Secretariat proceeded to read out the additional contributions that had been received since September 10, 2013. These included France, which had paid the balance of its 2013 contribution, amounting to 839,475 Swiss francs; Belgium, which had paid all of its 2013 contribution, amounting to 683,685 Swiss francs; and Bangladesh, which had paid all of its contributions for 2012 and 2013, amounting to 2,848 Swiss francs. These three countries therefore had no outstanding contributions. The attention of Member States was drawn to the table shown under paragraph 7 (page 9 of the English version) which showed how arrears in contributions received had continued to fall in 2012.

186. The Secretariat then introduced the third document, A/51/6, “Statement of the Utilization of Reserves”. This document presented, firstly, the status of the reserves following the financial closure of the year 2012, secondly, the status of appropriations approved and proposed to be approved by the Member States for projects funded under the reserves, and lastly, a summary overview of the level of the reserves after appropriations, together with the proposed appropriation for the seven Capital Master Plan projects proposed for funding from the Organization’s reserves. The operating result of the Organization for 2012 on an IPSAS basis was 25.6 million Swiss francs. The overall result for 2012, taking into account the reserve expenditure and its corresponding IPSAS adjustments, was a surplus of 15.7 million Swiss francs. The reserves of WIPO as of the end of 2012 totaled 178.2 million Swiss francs, compared to the opening Reserves and Working Capital Fund balance of 162.5 million Swiss francs. Reserve appropriations had been approved by Member States to date, excluding construction projects, in the amount of 61 million Swiss francs, of which approximately 27 million Swiss francs had been spent by the end of 2012, leaving a balance of 37 million Swiss francs. Taking the above into account, the reserve balance after approved appropriations was 141 million Swiss francs compared to a required target level of 121 million Swiss francs, leaving 21 million Swiss francs available above the required target level. A further seven projects from those envisaged under the Organization’s Capital Master Plan had been proposed for funding for 11 million Swiss francs out of this available balance, resulting in a reserve balance above the target level of over nine million Swiss francs.

187. The Delegation of the United States of America said that, it welcomed the summary information in document A/51/6, “Status of the Utilization of Reserves” explaining the previously approved and proposed uses of reserve funds. The Delegation considered that WIPO possessed a significant amount of accumulated reserves, adding that a large portion of these were being invested in infrastructure improvements such as the New Construction and Conference Hall projects. It noted that these were extraordinary undertakings for an International Organization, which it and other Member States had supported. The Delegation reiterated its policy whereby the use of reserve funds should be for extraordinary one-time expenditure only.

188. The Chair read out the proposed decision paragraphs contained in the documents concerned. In respect of documents WO/GA/43/2; WO/GA/43/3; A/51/19 and A/51/6 the respective decisions taken were as follows:

189. The WIPO General Assembly approved the Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements for 2012, taking into consideration any recommendation of the Program and Budget Committee made in this respect as recorded in document A/51/14.

190. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the contents of this document taking into consideration any recommendation of the Program and Budget Committee made in this respect as recorded in document A/51/14.

191. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it was concerned, took note of the Status of the Payment of Contributions and of working capital funds on September 10, 2013 (document A/51/19).

192. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it was concerned, took note of the contents of document WO/PBC/21/7, taking into consideration any recommendation made in this respect by the Program and Budget Committee as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COST EFFICIENCY MEASURES

193. Discussions were based on documents A/51/17 (containing document WO/PBC/21/19, Report on the Implementation of Cost Efficiency Measures) and A/51/14 (Summary of Decisions and Recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee at its Twenty-First Session (September 9 to 13, 2013)).

194. The Secretariat explained that the Report on the Implementation of Cost Efficiency Measures had been extensively discussed at the 21st session of the PBC, adding that it would therefore only make a brief introduction. The Secretariat recalled that WIPO's Assemblies and Member States had approved the 2012/13 Program and Budget subject to the Secretariat pursuing efforts to reduce expenditure by the introduction of cost efficiency measures amounting to 10.2 million Swiss francs. The Secretariat specified that the document provided an update of the cost efficiency measures undertaken in the areas of premises and travel, those pertaining to the organization of meetings and events, as well as other measures related to the area of personnel and non-personnel resources.

195. The Delegation of the United States of America commended the Organization for beginning to implement and for making real progress in terms of executing cost efficiency measures that had been agreed on previously and encouraged WIPO to continue to look for ways to reduce expenditure so that, overall, it would not exceed a 3 per cent increase over the preceding biennium.

196. The Delegation of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, took note of the report and reiterated its concerns expressed at the PBC, namely that cost efficiency measures should not adversely affect technical assistance and development expenditure and should be limited to personnel-related costs and travel.

197. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of document WO/PBC/21/19, taking into consideration a recommendation made in this respect by the Program and Budget Committee, as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 14 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE 2014/15 BIENNIUM

198. The Chair opened Agenda Item 14, Proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/2015 Biennium. Five documents were under consideration under this agenda item: document A/51/7 Rev. "Proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/2015 Biennium"; document A/51/INF/6, "Information Paper on External Offices" and A/51/INF/6 Add., A/51/INF/6 Add.2. and A/51/INF/6 Add.3; document A/51/13 "Summary of Decisions and Recommendations Made by the Program and Budget Committee at its 20th session (July 8 to 12, 2013)" and document A/51/14 "Summary of Decisions and Recommendations Made by the Program and Budget Committee at its 21st session (September 9 to 13, 2013)". The Chair recalled that the outstanding issues under this agenda item were related to the following programs: (i) Program 2 - the target in respect of a Diplomatic Conference; (ii) Program 4 - the target in respect of a Diplomatic Conference; (iii) Program 18; and (iv) Program 20 – related to External Offices. The Chair said that the intensive and extensive informal consultations that the delegations had engaged in during the past 10 days had resulted in significant progress, there was consensus on the aforementioned issues. The Chair thanked the Vice Chair of the General Assembly, the Ambassador of Belarus as well as Member States, for constructive engagement in the process. Based on the outcome of the informal consultations, the delegations now had before them the draft decision for Item 14 and the corresponding annexes (enclosed Annex II).

199. The Delegation of the United States of America wished to make a point of order. The Delegation said that it, and many other delegations, had a great deal to say about the manner in which the Assembly had been conducted. The point of order concerned a quorum. The Delegation thought that it was fairly obvious that there was not one. The Delegation thought that it was a matter of interest and amusement to see a questionnaire distributed, asking delegations to rate this Assembly, in particular question one concerning the organization of sessions and the method of work. The Delegation said that even by the standards of the United Nations, which were extremely low, this Assembly had set a new low. Regarding the quorum, the Delegation stated that to do business, under Article 6(3)(b) of the WIPO Convention, one-half of the States, members of the General Assembly would be needed to constitute a quorum. That was a normal quorum. There was a special provision for doing business with one-third of the States present. But the Delegation stated that there should be a normal quorum. The Delegation added that it would try to insist on that, and that would mean 93 Member States. The Delegation wished to have the Secretariat do a precise count of how many Member States were present at the moment. Otherwise, business could not be done.

200. The Chair invited the Legal Counsel to take the floor.

201. The Legal Counsel responded that if it was the wish of the United States' Delegation, the Secretariat was happy to take a roll call to be sure that there was in fact a quorum. If that was acceptable, the Secretariat could proceed.

202. The Delegation of the United States of America answered "yes".

203. The Legal Counsel wished to recall that this was the Assembly of the Member States which, at present, referred to the Conference. Therefore, the Legal Counsel wished to slightly correct the reference made by the Delegation of the United States of America; actually, at present, the membership was sitting in session as the WIPO Conference, which had 186 Member States, not the General Assembly. In that respect, the Legal Counsel drew the delegations' attention to Article 7(3)(b) which provided that one-third of the Member States shall constitute a quorum. Henceforth, what was needed was one-third of the figure 186. The Legal

Counsel announced that he would proceed with the roll call, starting in alphabetical order, for the WIPO Conference. He requested those present to simply answer "present".

204. The Chair gave the floor to the Delegation of the United States of America.

205. The Delegation of the United States of America wished to receive an explanation from the Legal Counsel as to why this was the Conference rather than the General Assembly, especially when the membership was at the decision stage for General Assembly decisions.

206. The Legal Counsel explained that, in fact, certain decisions were taken by the General Assembly, e.g., the decision on the Program and Budget, but it should be recalled that Program and Budget concerned Member States of WIPO including all of the Unions. Therefore, certain decisions were in fact taken by the Conference, not just by the General Assembly, i.e., all WIPO Member States. If it were by the General Assembly alone, that would exclude the members of the Conference that were not members of the General Assembly. That was why this would be a roll call for the Conference rather than for the General Assembly.

207. The Republic of Korea sought clarification as to what the call was for and whether it was for a vote.

208. The Legal Counsel explained that this was not a call for a vote. It was to make sure that there was a quorum for a Conference sitting in session. The Rules of Procedure provided that there must be a quorum and the Delegation of the United States of America had raised the point that it was not sure whether there was a quorum. Therefore, it had to be ensured that there was a quorum before the membership could go ahead and take decisions. It was not a vote.

209. The Delegation of Bangladesh asked whether the Secretariat would wait for a few minutes if there were to be a count, as it had the impression that some Delegations may still come if this count were to take place.

210. The Delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) wished to make a statement along the lines of what the Delegation of the Republic of Korea was saying, that was to say that it wished to know what the intention behind requesting a quorum was, because it had been waiting patiently in the hall for an agreement and considered that if the intention of the United States' Delegation had been to ask whether or not there was a quorum, this could have been asked before all of these discussions. The Delegation wished to raise this point because it said that it had been present since 3 p.m. that same afternoon and that it had been informed that all of this was going to be resolved. It was now 10:30 at night and now, at the very last moment, when the Delegation thought there was going to be an agreement, it was being told that there should be a recount. The Delegation suggested calling on all Delegations to come in, since they were all in Geneva. It considered it quite obvious that there was a quorum because the Legal Counsel had just said that a third of the States was required for this quorum to be reached. The Delegation therefore asked why everyone had waited until 22:30 if they were now going to be asked whether there actually was a quorum or not. First of all, the Delegation wished to know whether there had been an agreement on the decisions under consideration. It wanted to know what had been negotiated and what had been agreed on. It did not want people asking whether or not there was a quorum because this question could have been raised at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

211. The Chair stated that, in the case of a request being made to see whether or not there was a quorum, the Secretariat had to respond to that question.

212. The Delegation of France stated that it did not wish to enter into a discussion, but wished to stress the fact that, as colleagues had pointed out, there was a problem of governance in the Organization and added that the PBC the other day finished at midnight. The Delegation said that it did not know how many night sessions had been held. It added that it had left at 6 p.m. with almost an agreement on external offices, which was to be submitted to the Assemblies for decision. All this just to say that, in any case the Delegation would require a suspension to analyze the text and would need to get its Ambassador out of bed to ask for instructions. If not, it was not in a position to take a position which did not fit in with the instructions that it had received. The Delegation said it thought the night would be long. It said that its Ambassador may come along a little later but that there was a serious problem with governance and that it did not understand why WIPO was finishing at midnight whereas, when dealing with human rights, which involved far more serious issues involving people, this did not happen.

213. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea wished to complement the statement made by the Delegation of France by saying that there was a crisis of governance. The Delegation apologized for repeating the position.

214. The Delegation of India said it had been to several UN meetings and said that this hour was hardly late. The last meeting the Delegation attended carried on until Sunday morning when it was supposed to end on Friday evening. So although this was late, the delay had been due to the fact that Member States themselves could not come to an agreement. The Delegation believed that the informal discussions on the DLT had just finished. It said that the Secretariat could not be blamed for the lack of agreement among Member States. It realized that the fact that everyone had been waiting patiently showed there was a problem, but that it considered that the Secretariat or anyone else should not be blamed. The Delegation said Member States should blame themselves and be willing to proceed with whatever they could come to an agreement with and try to resolve the issues they had been waiting for.

215. The Delegation of Angola asked the Secretariat why a quorum was being called for and wished to draw the attention of some of its colleagues who had taken the floor that the UN meetings sometimes continued until 5 a.m. and nobody objected. The Delegation took note of the position of those delegations and pointed out that one could also wonder why in the case of those late meetings nobody asked if there was a quorum.

216. The Delegation of Ghana supported the comment of the Delegation of India in pointing out that it was not unusual practice in the UN system to have long meetings. The Delegation felt that it would be patently unfair to say that it was a problem of governance because delegates were in the meeting at 10 p.m. The Delegation of Ghana pointed out that it had taken part in negotiations in another international Organization which had lasted up until 3 a.m. This did not mean that it was due to poor governance that the delegations had worked up to 3 a.m. It was a Member States process. The PBC session had ended late because Member States were not in a position to do as diplomats what they ought to have done. The Delegation pointed out that had delegations consulted more aggressively, more intensely, then it was sure that the consultations would have made headway, but this had not been done. Member States had chosen to bring it to the General Assembly and now wished to put it on the doorstep of the Secretariat. The Delegation felt that this was unfair and that Member States needed to shoulder some of the blame for what had happened and to ask questions as to whether delegations had done their job well before coming to the General Assembly.

217. The Delegation of Botswana shared the view of those delegations which had reported that if there had been any delays it was because delegations had not reached agreement as Member States. The Delegation was aware that the Chair had been holding some meetings that had been protracted and therefore the Delegation bore testimony to the fact that Member States were partly to blame for the delay. The Delegation proposed that delegates address the two

matters before the meeting. Firstly, that the Delegation of France had asked for a short adjournment in order to digest a paper and delegations needed to make a decision on this. Secondly, that the Delegation of the United States of America had asked for a roll call. The Delegation requested that unless there was a rule which said that it could be proceeded with, the meeting should not continue this debate and decisions should be made on the requests by the Delegation of France and the request for a roll call by the Delegation of the United States of America.

218. The Legal Counsel informed Member States that the Secretariat had done an informal count and that there was a quorum. Therefore, as the Legal Counsel understood it, the only issue before the meeting was the request made by the Delegation of France for a short adjournment, if agreed by the Chair. Depending on what was decided in that context, this could be provided and then the meeting could return to the substantive agenda items to be discussed.

219. The Delegation of the United States of America said that it had no objection to suspending the meeting for a given period of time as requested by the Delegation of France. However, the Delegation did not accept the informal count by the Secretariat. The Delegation wished a formal count to be held. If this was not carried out it would challenge the legal validity of any decisions made by the body. The Delegation said that it was not satisfied with the explanation provided by the Legal Counsel concerning Conference *versus* Assembly. The Delegation continued that one point raised had been that Program and Budget Committee items would be decided by the Assembly where the quorum requirement was 93. The Conference was different. Therefore, the Delegation needed to know precisely which items before the membership the Conference would be deciding on and which items the Assembly would be deciding on. The Delegation reiterated that it did not accept the informal count that had been mentioned, especially as it did not accept the explanation of the Conference *versus* Assembly and the Delegation had not received an itemized list of what precisely the Assembly would be deciding in this meeting and what the Conference would be deciding.

220. The Chair adjourned the meeting for ten minutes.

221. The Chair requested Regional Coordinators to approach the podium in order to address them.

222. The Chair said that a couple of procedural issues had been raised and that, in this respect, she would pass the floor to the Legal Counsel.

223. The Legal Counsel responded to the questions raised by the Delegation of the United States of America. In respect to the first question on whether the meeting was the Conference meeting in session or the General Assembly, the Legal Counsel wished to draw Delegations' attention to document A/51/7 Rev., the Program and Budget document, item 14, currently under discussion. Decision paragraph 4 invited all of the Assemblies, as well as the Unions, to take a decision. That was why, explained the Legal Counsel, there was the Conference meeting in session rather than the General Assembly as such. As to the second related issue, the Legal Counsel referred to Rule 42 of the General Rules of Procedure, which detailed what happened in joint meetings. In joint meetings, the order of precedence was given first to the Chair of the General Assembly; second, to the Chair of the Conference; and third, to the Chair of the Coordination Committee and that was why the Chair of the General Assembly was presiding over this joint meeting of the Assemblies of Member States. Finally, the Legal Counsel wished to confirm, on the question of the quorum, that it would be one-third in the sense that this was a meeting of all the Member States of WIPO and not just the General Assembly.

224. The Chair thanked the Legal Counsel for the clarifications provided.

225. See Agenda Item 48 (Closing of the sessions).

ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

CAPITAL MASTER PLAN

226. Discussions were based on documents A/51/16 (containing document WO/PBC/21/18) and A/51/14.

227. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce document A/51/16.

228. The Secretariat recalled that the Capital Master Plan (CMP) had been discussed at the 21st session of the PBC and added that document A/51/16 presented a first view of a detailed and sustainable CMP covering the three biennia, from 2014 to 2019. The document also presented the principles under which CMP was compiled and would continue to be maintained, together with specific proposals for the funding of seven projects for a total amount of 11.2 million Swiss francs from the available Reserves of the Organization.

229. The Delegation of the United States of America appreciated receiving the additional detail and clarifications provided in the documents describing the proposed projects. As it had previously mentioned, WIPO was in an extraordinary and remarkable position compared to other international organizations, given the availability of ample reserve funds with which to finance projects such as those described in the document. The Delegation noted that the linkage to organizational results, however, was an important consideration in approving such projects. In some instances, such as renovation of building facades, the linkage was rather difficult to establish. In other instances, such as implementation of an Enterprise Content Management (ECM) system, the linkage could be more clearly demonstrated. The Delegation wished to see, in future progress reports, how the ECM system and the improvements to data encryption and user management were helping WIPO perform its mission more efficiently and more effectively.

230. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the recommendation made by the Program and Budget Committee in respect of document WO/PBC/21/18, as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

BUDGETARY PROCESS APPLIED TO PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

231. Discussions were based on documents A/51/15, (containing document WO/PBC/20/4 entitled "Review of Budgetary Process Applied to Projects Proposed by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) for the Implementation of Development Agenda Recommendations") and A/51/13 (Summary of Decisions and Recommendations Made by the Program and Budget Committee at its Twentieth Session (July 8 to 12, 2013)).

232. The Secretariat introduced document A/51/15, explaining that the document provided a review of the process for the integration of projects proposed by the CDIP for the implementation of Development Agenda recommendations into the regular programming and budgeting processes of the Organization, as approved by the Assemblies of the Member States

(document A/48/5 Rev.) in December 2010. In particular, the review assessed how the fully integrated solution, as outlined in the aforementioned document, had been implemented in the 2012/13 biennium through the provision, for the first time, of budgetary provisions in the Program and Budget 2012/13 by Program and Expected Result, for the implementation of DA projects and any subsequent phases once these were approved by Member States.

233. The Delegation of Brazil, speaking on behalf of the DAG, recalled that extensive discussions on the mechanism for financing of the CDIP projects had taken place in the last PBC sessions. At that time, the developing countries had voiced their concerns regarding the financing of such projects. On behalf of the DAG, and in its national capacity, the Delegation had raised concerns about the process. Despite the fact that a special process had been approved by Member States in 2010, some delegations had been facing difficulties when trying to propose and seek approval of new activities, for budgetary reasons. The main purpose of the review of the budgetary process, as proposed by those delegations during the 20th session of the PBC, was to ensure that new projects and subsequent phases of projects approved by the CDIP for the next biennium would be fully funded and implemented without further delay. Therefore, the DAG, welcomed and supported the new language contained in document A/51/15, which clarified that the Secretariat should ensure that DA projects, including subsequent phases of ongoing projects approved by the CDIP, would continue to be fully funded in accordance with the mechanism contained in document A/48/45 Rev., approved by Member States in 2010. This was an important step for the work of the CDIP.

234. The Delegation of Egypt wished to put on record its support for the statement made by the Delegation of Brazil.

235. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the recommendation of the Program and Budget Committee made in respect of document WO/PBC/20/4, as recorded in document A/51/13.

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

FINANCING OF LONG-TERM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AT WIPO

236. Discussions were based on documents A/51/18 (containing document WO/PBC/20/6 entitled "Financing of Long-term Employee Benefits at WIPO") and A/51/13 (Summary of Decisions and Recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee at its Twentieth Session (July 8 to 12, 2013)).

237. The Secretariat recalled that this item had been discussed extensively at the 20th session of the PBC. The Secretariat added that document A/51/18 provided an update on the issue of financing of long-term employee benefits at WIPO, as requested by Member States during the 19th Session of the PBC in September 2012. During the discussion in September 2012, several Member States had requested that WIPO monitor the actions of other UN organizations and notably those of the UN itself with regard to the issue of the financing of long-term employee benefits. As the document made clear, WIPO had, over the last year, reviewed developments regarding the various ASHI schemes and their associated financing solutions or proposals, throughout the UN system. Many organizations had begun to finance these long-term liabilities. The Secretariat added that, in response to observations made by several Member States that the financing options proposed by the WIPO Secretariat in 2012 were overly complex, WIPO was now proposing a simple, preliminary step towards the financing of its long-term employee benefits liability. A separate bank account was to be established which would have the same status as the existing accounts held by the Organization. The account would be maintained

within WIPO's accounting system and its balance would therefore be included within the amount shown for cash and cash equivalents on the statement of financial position. The intention, the Secretariat explained, was to credit the account with an amount equivalent to 50 per cent of the total long-term employee benefits liability as at December 31, 2013, which was forecast to be 163.7 million Swiss francs. This cash amount was projected to be approximately 82 million Swiss francs. The account would be credited with any interest it earned from deposits. Furthermore, any amounts remaining from the 6 per cent charge to payroll, which was being proposed in the budget for 2014/15, would be credited to the account (once cash payments in respect of long-term liabilities had been met). The Secretariat added that during the discussions on this paper at the PBC meeting in July 2013, Member States had requested the Secretariat to explore ways of containing the growth of long-term liabilities for future employees, taking into consideration developments on this issue within the UN system. The decision paragraph had therefore been amended to reflect this request.

238. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the recommendation made by the Program and Budget Committee in respect of document A/51/18, as recorded in document A/51/13.

ITEM 18 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROPOSED DEFINITION OF "DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE" IN THE CONTEXT OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET

239. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 19 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM

240. Discussions were based on documents A/51/8 entitled "Progress Report on the Implementation of a Comprehensive Integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System" and A/51/14 entitled "Summary of Decisions and Recommendations made by the PBC at its Twenty-First Session, from September 9 to 13, 2013".

241. The Secretariat reported that the ERP portfolio of projects approved in 2010 had progressed considerably. The portfolio had successfully completed key milestones under review, which included:

- (i) the deployment of an enterprise performance management system, that had strengthened results-based planning and budgeting;
- (ii) the development of an annual work planning system that would lay the foundation for enhanced monitoring, assessment and reporting;
- (iii) the design and development of an online booking tool for travel management that would help reduce ticket and transaction costs; and
- (iv) planning and preparation of the business intelligence stream of work that would establish dashboards for senior and operational management.

242. The Secretariat reported that the portfolio of projects was progressing broadly and according to plan; however, due to the interrelated nature of several of these initiatives and the need to ensure that the changes and new tools being deployed were properly assimilated, there was a need to be realistic in the planning of project time-lines. The portfolio of projects would be completed within the budget and had successfully adopted several cost-efficiency strategies. These strategies include the use of offshore development services, a judicious mix of external and internal resources, driving costs down through better negotiations and use of fixed-price contracting wherever applicable.

243. The Delegation of the United States of America stated that with regard to the documents presented and the remarks made by the Secretariat, the United States supported the progress of the comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning System that was under consideration and stated that they endorsed the implementation schedule. The Delegation expressed its gratitude by stating that it was happy to see that the ERP portfolio was making steady progress and that it remained on-track to complete the projects within the budget approved by the Member States and broadly within the estimated time-frames.

244. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of the document, taking into consideration any recommendation of the Program and Budget Committee made in this respect as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEW CONFERENCE HALL PROJECT AND NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

245. Discussions were based on documents A/51/9 and A/51/14.

246. The Secretariat indicated that, in addition to containing the annual progress report on the construction projects presented to the Assemblies, document A/51/9 also confirmed that the Secretariat had implemented both recommendations made by the PBC at its 19th session and subsequently endorsed by the Assemblies in September 2012, that is, firstly, provision of monthly written reports and holding of monthly briefings with Member States on the New Conference Hall Project and, secondly, provision of a more detailed explanation for historical reference of the events that led to the termination of the contract with the former general contractor.

247. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed appreciation for the report on the new building and new conference hall projects, as well as the regular monthly reports that WIPO had been posting on its website. The Delegation was pleased to see that the Organization had been able to overcome the setbacks to both projects and that the work on the new conference hall appeared to be headed towards successful completion in early 2014. The Delegation indicated that it would appreciate receiving further assurances that the project could be completed within the approved budget. It expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's openness to the use of the new conference hall by entities and organizations outside WIPO and looked forward to receiving further information about the financial aspects of such utilization by non-WIPO entities and the other possibilities that this may offer.

248. The Secretariat confirmed that the New Conference Hall Project was expected to be completed within budget. It also reiterated that the Secretariat's intention was to restrict the utilization of the new conference facilities to WIPO Member States' meetings and to the Secretariat for a period of a year so as to gain sufficient experience in operating the new

premises before considering their use by other organizations or entities. The Secretariat would inform Member States at a suitable time about the arrangements related to the usage of the new conference facilities by third parties.

249. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the unions administrated by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of document A/51/9, taking into consideration any recommendation of the Program and Budget Committee made in this respect as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 21 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY STANDARDS FOR THE EXISTING WIPO BUILDINGS

250. Discussions were based on documents A/51/10 and A/51/14.

251. The Secretariat provided a brief update as follows. This topic had been extensively discussed at the 21st session of the WIPO Program and Budget Committee. Phase two of the project was almost complete with only one piece of equipment left to be acquired to complete this phase. With regards to Phase 3, the WIPO security perimeter measures were well underway with completion expected in spring 2014. To conclude, completion was expected by end 2014 and within budget.

252. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its appreciation for the report which indicated that the improvement of the safety and security of the Organization's facilities was proceeding nearly on schedule. The Delegation looked forward to receiving the final report indicating that the work had been completed within the approved budget envelope.

253. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the unions administrated by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the recommendation made by the Program and Budget Committee in respect of document WO/PBC/21/9 as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 22 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECT

254. Discussions were based on documents A/51/11 and A/51/14.

255. The Secretariat provided a brief update as follows. This topic was discussed at the 21st session of the Program and Budget Committee. The Information and Communication Technology Capital Investment Project was approved by the Member States in 2011. It covers three activities: ICT related facilities of the new conference hall; replacement of the Meridian telephone; replacement of desktop computers. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2014 and within the overall budget, although expenditures for each individual activity may not exactly match budget allocation for those activities.

256. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its appreciation for the progress report and the work that had been completed within the approved budget. The

Delegation looked forward to receiving further information on the installation of ICT equipment in the new Conference Hall and elsewhere.

257. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administrated by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the report, taking into consideration any recommendation made by the Program and Budget Committee as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 23 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WIPO LANGUAGE POLICY

258. Discussions were based on documents A/51/12 and A/51/14.

259. The Secretariat introduced the document under discussion and said that a decision had been taken in 2011 to extend the language coverage for documentation for meetings of the WIPO Main Bodies and Committees. Furthermore, it had been decided that the cost of language coverage for documentation for Working Groups would be assessed in the light of the experience gained in 2012/13 and in the context of the Program and Budget for the 2014/15 Biennium. Since that time, six-language coverage had been extended to all Main Bodies and Committees. The workload had increased by 53 per cent, with the percentage of translation workload being outsourced rising to 56 per cent. Computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools had been introduced to maintain quality and improve efficiency; and rationalization and control measures taken up to reduce the workload. The translation of verbatim reports represented a major part of the workload. As the extension of six-language coverage to the Working Groups would result in an additional cost of approximately 1.56 million Swiss francs, it had been proposed to defer extension until the Program and Budget for the 2016/17 Biennium came up for consideration. When the Report was examined at the Twenty-First Session of the PBC, it was recommended that the Secretariat should continue to apply the rationalization and control measures in order to reduce further the number and average length of working documents. At the same time, it was also recommended that six-language coverage of the documentation for the Working Groups should commence, in a phased and cost-effective manner, during the 2014/15 Biennium, with the additional cost of such coverage being reflected in the Program and Budget. The Secretariat would report at the next Session of the PBC on the progress made in respect of the above.

260. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for its efforts in extending the six-language coverage to all the WIPO Committees. Currently, many meetings were being held using simultaneous interpretation, and all the documents were promptly translated into six languages, thereby enhancing the visibility of the work carried out by WIPO. The Delegation added that WIPO should extend the use of the six languages and also provide six-language interpretation coverage for all meetings to enable delegates to fully participate in discussions.

261. The Delegation of the United States of America was surprised to learn that the volume of translation required was much higher than had been anticipated, and was very concerned that the cost of translating documents was nearly twice the amount budgeted. The provision of language services could be a costly undertaking that competed for resources with other important functions performed by WIPO. However, based on the discussions at the PBC Session in September 2013, the Delegation had, very reluctantly, agreed to support the proposal to extend six-language coverage to Working Groups in a phased manner. At the same time, because of ongoing financial constraints affecting the Organization and Member States, the Delegation felt that cost savings and cost-control measures should occur in tandem with the phased expansion. In many international organizations, Conference and Language Services

had grown to the point where they consumed a large portion of the resources that would otherwise be allocated to activities relating to the organizations' core missions, including technical cooperation and assistance. Therefore, the Delegation generally opposed increases in language services because of the considerable potential for increased costs for the organization concerned, and the potential for inefficiencies resulting from expanded bureaucracy. In 2011, Member States had been expecting a 12 per cent increase in Language Service costs, which the Secretariat had indicated could be accommodated in the existing funding level for Program 27 (Conference and Language Services). The Secretariat could only achieve that expansion of Language Services, without additional funding, by identifying off-setting cost reductions in other areas. At that time, the Delegation had cautioned against making commitments, without knowing fully what the resulting costs would be. It was currently clear that the expectations of Member States in 2011 had been unrealistic. Thus, the Delegation was even more reluctant about further expansion of the Language Services without meaningful reductions in the volume of translation required. Verbatim records offered great potential for streamlining. Other international organizations were questioning the need for costly translation of such voluminous documents when, in most cases, summary records sufficed. It was important that WIPO should continue to make efforts to streamline and make greater efficiencies, which would reduce the amount of increased costs related to additional translation.

262. The Delegation of Egypt thanked the Director General for the recommendation submitted to the Assemblies. In September, the PBC had recognized the importance of the implementation of the decision of the General Assemblies concerning the use of the six United Nations (UN) languages in all Main Bodies and Working Groups. As all present were aware, the issue in question was an important one in terms of access to information. WIPO was an international organization, and all Member States needed to be treated equally in order to allow them to benefit from the activities of the organization and participate effectively. The Delegation could imagine the situation of a delegation attending a meeting but unable to follow discussions because of the lack of translated documents. The Delegation understood the cost implications but such considerations should not dictate the way in which the decision was implemented. If at all possible, savings should be made elsewhere and allocated to translation.

263. The Delegation of Oman stated that the provision of Arabic-language translation had allowed it to participate actively in the work of the IGC. The Delegation wished to participate in secondary meetings and side events. The use of six languages at all levels of the Assemblies would make it possible for everyone to interact better. Many experts and delegates had travelled from their capitals and access to documents prior to meetings facilitated discussion.

264. The Chair proposed that the decision paragraph contained in the document concerned be adopted.

265. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administrated by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the recommendation made by the Program and Budget Committee in respect of document WO/PBC/21/15, as recorded in document A/51/14.

ITEM 24 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

FINAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WIPO STRATEGIC REALIGNMENT PROGRAM (SRP)

266. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 25 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT BY THE WIPO INDEPENDENT ADVISORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (IAOC)

267. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 26 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT OF THE SELECTION PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE WIPO INDEPENDENT ADVISORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (IAOC)

268. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 27 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION

269. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22)

ITEM 28 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT BY THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

270. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22)

ITEM 29 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REVIEW OF WIPO LEGISLATIVE BODIES

271. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 30 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GOVERNANCE AT WIPO

272. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 31 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MARRAKESH DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE A TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS BY VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES

273. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 32 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY (CDIP) AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

274. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 33 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE
ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY

275. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 34 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MATTERS RELATING TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED
RIGHTS (SCCR)

276. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 35 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MATTERS CONCERNING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND
FOLKLORE (IGC)

277. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 36 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS ON OTHER WIPO COMMITTEES

278. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 37 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PCT SYSTEM

279. See the report of the session of the PCT Union Assembly (document PCT/A/44/5).

ITEM 38 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

280. See the report of the session of the Madrid Union Assembly (document MM/A/46/3).

ITEM 39 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

HAGUE SYSTEM

281. See the report of the session of the Hague Union Assembly (document H/A/32/3).

ITEM 40 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

LISBON SYSTEM

282. See the report of the session of the Lisbon Union Assembly (document LI/A/29/2).

ITEM 41 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

283. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22).

ITEM 42 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COOPERATION UNDER THE AGREED STATEMENTS BY THE DIPLOMATIC
CONFERENCE REGARDING THE PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

284. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/43/22)

ITEM 43 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT) ASSEMBLY

285. See the report of the session of the Patent Law Treaty Assembly (document PLT/A/11/2).

ITEM 44 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

SINGAPORE TREATY (STLT) ASSEMBLY

286. See the report of the session of the Singapore Treaty Assembly (STLT)
(document STLT/A/5/2).

ITEM 45 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ANNUAL REPORT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

287. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee
(document WO/CC/67/4).

ITEM 46 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REVISION OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

288. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/67/4).

ITEM 47 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL REPORT AND OF THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS OF EACH GOVERNING BODY

289. See Agenda Item 48 (Closing of the sessions).

ITEM 48 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

290. See Agenda Item 14 (Proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 Biennium) for the immediately preceding interventions

291. The Chair addressed the floor by saying that, after many hours of different developments, it now appeared clear that it would not be possible to complete the proceedings of the Assembly by midnight that night. Given the situation, the Chair said that she had informally consulted the Regional Coordinators and proposed to them to reconvene the Assembly in an extraordinary session in December 2013 to adopt an accurate decision of the Assembly and to conclude the Assembly's unfinished agenda items. The Chair added that she had received agreement of the Regional Coordinators to go ahead with this proposal and convey it to the Distinguished Delegates.

292. The Delegation of India said that it was a little unclear because, as a Group Coordinator, it had come to the podium but was unable to take a decision on behalf of the Group unless the Group were to meet. It added that the Coordinator only conveyed the views of the Member States to the other Member States or to the Secretariat or whoever was prepared to listen to it. Unless the Group Coordinator could call a Group meeting and brief the Group and then take their views, it was not possible for the Coordinator to convey a decision of the Group.

293. The Chair thanked the Delegation of India and said that she had received the consent of Coordinators, which was why she was putting this proposal forward to the Assembly.

294. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea wished to echo what had been said by the Delegation of India and asked if the meeting could be adjourned for five or ten minutes for the Regional Coordinators to have a short meeting with their Group members. Then the Assembly meeting could reconvene in order to conclude the process.

295. The Delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) believed that the Chair had consulted the Coordinators to see what their reaction was, but since the proposal was being made to the plenary, each Member State could simply say whether it agreed or not. The Delegation considered that putting this off to consultations, whereas the matter could be decided on at present, did not make any sense. The Delegation added that it did consider this a good decision, however, December was a long way off.

296. The Chair expressed her agreement with what had just been said, adding that, although the meeting was very close to ending, conclusions needed to be reached.

297. The Delegation of the United States of America wished to get a sense of clarification on the Chair's earlier statement that the membership would adopt decisions already taken in the Assemblies. The Delegation was not sure that this had been done in the past suspended meetings of other bodies. It was the Delegation's understanding that nothing would be decided upon until the report was approved by Member States. The Delegation requested clarification from the Legal Counsel on the matter.

298. The Chair, before giving the floor to the Legal Counsel, stated that, absolutely, the meeting had to adopt the report on the decisions that had been taken by the Assembly as there was always a report to be adopted at the end of the Assembly. The Chair was nevertheless pleased to give the floor to the Legal Counsel before the discussion continued.

299. The Legal Counsel hoped to have understood the question from the Delegation of the United States of America referring to the report's adoption. He explained that what the Assemblies of Member States did on the last day was to adopt the reports. Those reports were supposed to reflect deliberations and decisions that had been taken. Following that, normally a two-month period was given to Member States for bringing in any corrections they might have to those reports. He added that decisions had already been gaveled as the meeting went along. As of this day, for example, many decisions had been adopted excluding, among others, Agenda Item 14, which was being discussed at present. To the extent that the membership had not deliberated on the subject or taken any decision, it meant that there was no decision taken on the Program and Budget. But, an item such as composition of the Program and Budget Committee had been deliberated on and a decision on that had been taken. Therefore, the report adoption was simply to ensure that it accurately reflected the deliberations. For comparison purposes, the Legal Counsel recalled that, in certain committees, such agenda item was referred to as "adoption of decisions" as opposed to the Assemblies, where it was called "adoption of the report".

300. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) said, if there were any decision based on what had been mentioned by the Delegation of India, it would appreciate clarification as to what programs, agenda items and decisions had not been finalized and adopted. Then the Member States would be in a better position to absorb the consideration of the process. This would also clarify the approach to be taken by the Member States between now and December 2013.

301. The Chair gave the floor to the Secretary of the Assemblies.

302. The Secretariat read out the list of the agenda items on which discussions had taken place and decisions had been gaveled: items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (General Statements), 6 (Admission of Observers), 7 (Approval of Agreements), 8 (Appointment of the Director General in 2014), 9 (Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee; Election of the Members of the Executive Committees of the Paris and the Berne Unions and Designation of the *ad hoc* members of the WIPO Coordination Committee), 10 (Composition of the Program and Budget Committee), 11 (Program Performance Report), 12 (Financial Review: 2012 Financial Statements and the Status of the Payment of Contributions, Status of the Utilization of Reserves), 13 (Report on the Implementation of Cost Efficiency Measures), 15 (Capital Master Plan), 16 (Budgetary Process Applied to Projects Proposed by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) for the Implementation of Development Agenda Recommendations), 17 (Financing of Long-term Employee Benefits at WIPO), 18 (Proposed Definition of "Development Expenditure" in the Context of the Program and Budget), 19 (Progress Report on the Implementation of a Comprehensive Integrated Enterprise Resource Planning System), 20 (Progress Report on the New Conference Hall Project and the New Construction Project), 21 (Progress Report on the

Project to Upgrade the Safety and Security Standards for the Existing WIPO Buildings), 22 (Progress Report on the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Capital Investment Project), 23 (Progress Report on the Implementation of WIPO Language Policy), 24 (Final Report on the Implementation of the WIPO Strategic Realignment Program, SRP), 25 (Report by the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee, IAOC), 26 (Report of the Selection Panel for the Appointment of the New Members of the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee, IAOC), 27 (Summary Annual Report of the Director of the internal Audit and Oversight Division), 28 (Report by the External Auditor), 29 (Report on the Implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit Recommendations for the Review of WIPO Legislative Bodies), 31 (Report on the Outcome of the Marrakesh Diplomatic Conference to Conclude a Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities), 32 (Report of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations), 35 (Matters Concerning the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore), 36 (Report on other WIPO Committees: 36(i) Standing Committee on the Law of Patents; 36(ii) Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications and 36(iv) Advisory Committee on Enforcement), 37 (PCT System), 38 (Madrid System), 39 (Hague System), 40 (Lisbon System), 41 (WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names), 42 (Cooperation under the Agreed Statements by the Diplomatic Conference regarding the Patent Law Treaty), 43 (Patent Law Treaty Assembly), 44 (Singapore Treaty Assembly), 45 (Annual Report on Human Resources), and 46 (Revision of the Staff Regulations and Rules). The above listed had been gavelled. The items which had not yet been discussed or if discussed not gavelled: item 14 (Proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 Biennium), 30 (Governance at WIPO), 33 (Consideration of the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty), 34 (Matters Relating to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights), 36(iii) (Committee on WIPO Standards), and, of course, 47 (Adoption of the General Report and the Individual Reports of each Governing Body). That was the status.

303. The Delegation of the United States of America appreciated the Secretariat's reading out the list of items where there had been a gavelled decision, but added that it was not really the point. Nobody questioned those. The Delegation's question was whether anything more would be done tonight and, in particular, the Delegation felt that nothing more could be done tonight because the delegations did not have the report. Virtually all of the agenda items had been dealt with and gavelled to decision last week. The Delegation did not understand why no report had been made available on Monday. The point was that Member States needed an opportunity to review the report for accuracy of the debate summary under each item and then, of course, for the accuracy of each decision. Presumably that would be done if the extraordinary session of the Assemblies was convened in December after all delegations had an opportunity to review the report which none of the delegations had yet seen and, of course, had not had the opportunity to review. The Delegation understood what had happened in the past. It only wished to make clear that nothing more would happen tonight. Nothing more would happen until the extraordinary assembly.

304. The Chair understood that this was the situation. Before closing the session, the Chair wished to thank the two Vice Chairs, the Ambassador of Belarus (Mikhail Khvostov) and Mr. Mokhtar Warida (Egypt) for the excellent support they had provided to the Chair throughout the meeting. The Chair also thanked the facilitators who, in addition to the Vice Chairs had done the facilitator work, Mr. Ian Goss and Mr. Marcelo Della Nina. The Chair also wholeheartedly thanked the Regional Coordinators and the delegates for their work throughout the Assembly. The Chair thanked the Ambassadors for their cooperation and direct interactions with the Chair and other colleagues. The Chair also wished to thank the Secretariat and the interpreters who had assisted the meeting.

305. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) wished to use the remaining minutes of the session to take the floor as it thought that there was a common understanding of how Member States were going to proceed until December, based on what had been mentioned. However, legally speaking, there were still some ambiguities, which the Delegation wished to see clarified. If there was no report until December, there was no decision. The Delegation asked if convening of an extraordinary session needed a decision. The Delegation wished to have clarity on the process; how the session was to resume or on what basis, and according to what agenda would there be an extraordinary session in December.

306. The Delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) said that, along the lines of what the Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) had stated, the present situation was a cause of concern for the Delegation. The Delegation wondered: if nothing was going to happen before December 20, which was almost the end of the year when people would be thinking about other matters, what would happen if, on the 20th of December, it was decided to reopen all the issues and start all over again. If members had not been able to decide on matters in ten days, they would not be able to decide on them on December 20, especially with Christmas around the corner as well.

307. Since the questions referred to procedural matters, the Chair requested the Legal Counsel to respond.

308. The Legal Counsel reiterated what he had said earlier, i.e., that decisions had been taken under the agenda items read out by the Secretary to the Assemblies. It was the report that had not been adopted. Of course, Member States would be given an opportunity to check the accuracy of the report and that it accurately reflected the deliberations and the decisions taken. The Legal Counsel underlined that decisions had been taken, except for those on the agenda items specified by the Secretary to the Assemblies.

309. The Chair gave the floor to the Director General.

310. The Director General responded to the Delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) by saying that December the 20th had not been mentioned, it was the month of December that had been specified. The Secretariat would have to look at the exact dates. The Bali conference would take place in the first week of December, so it was unlikely that the extraordinary session would be that week but the Secretariat would try for the second week of December. As to the duration of the session, the Director General thought that this matter should be consulted with the Regional Coordinators, to have an idea, for example, of what they felt was necessary in order to conclude the outstanding items of business. The Director General expected that the session would certainly last more than one day. He imagined it would take several days, at least of meetings, however that was something that could be decided after consultations.

311. The Delegation of Algeria, having heard all the questions raised and being the coordinator for its Group, was asking itself the same question as other delegations, i.e., whether the decisions that had been taken so far were applicable or not. It was a very simple question. It was not about a report but whether the decisions were legally applicable: yes or no. The second question was a matter of clarification regarding agenda items 32 and 18, dealing with the CDIP matters and the development expenditure respectively. The Delegation did not recall that there was a formal decision by the Assembly on those issues. The Delegation wished to clarify that point because those issues had been on the Secretariat's list of agreed agenda items but the Delegation did not recall that there had been agreement on that. The third issue important to the Delegation was the question of financing of participants to attend the session. The Delegation inquired whether its delegates from the capital would be financed.

312. The Delegation of Spain expressed concerns about the budget, particularly regarding the level of expenditure between now and December, when the extraordinary assembly would be convened.

313. The Director General responded that since the Organization was in the current biennium, the current budget covered the expenditure until December 31, 2013. In response to the question from the Delegation of Algeria regarding financing of participants, the Director General said that the regulations of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Madrid Agreement provided for financing of one delegate *per* member state for each of those agreements. That rule would apply unless a decision to the contrary were to be taken.

314. The Delegation of Iran (the Islamic Republic of) wished to make a proposal, if it could be considered, in view of what had been said by this Delegation and was repeated by a number of other delegations, including the Delegation of Algeria. The Delegation suggested that if the Secretariat could distribute the report and the list of the agenda items that had not been finalized, everybody would feel satisfied that the closed agenda items would not be reopened and that only the outstanding items would be discussed in December. The Delegation thought it was a simple procedure and that the draft decision could also be distributed to Member States before they left the room, which would be very helpful to the delegations and the Chair.

315. The Delegation of Egypt thanked the Secretariat for all clarifications that it had provided. In light of those clarifications, the Delegation found it clear that the agenda for the extraordinary session in December would only include the items on which no decision had been taken at this time: the items on the budget, the design law treaty, Standing Committee on Copyright and the issue of the Committee on WIPO Standards. The Delegation requested confirmation as to this understanding.

316. The Chair confirmed that her understanding was that the agenda would be based on the issues that that not yet been concluded.

317. The Delegation of Angola wished to make a proposal concerning the timing of the extraordinary assembly. In its view, it would be very difficult to hold the extraordinary assembly in December, due to the Bali conference. Most of the delegates would only be back around in the week of December 15 and then many of them would want to go on their holidays. The Delegation suggested holding the assembly in the last week of November, which would be a much better time.

318. The Delegation of the United States of America commented on what the Director General had said about the funding of participants to the extraordinary session. Since the PCT and the Madrid Union assemblies had already been gavelled as closed, the Delegation asked if funding would be available for an extraordinary session or whether it was typically just for an ordinary session of the PCT and the Madrid assemblies.

319. The Director General asked if the last question could be taken on notice as he did not have the regulations of either the PCT or the Madrid agreements available on hand. Furthermore, it was not just the matter of the PCT and the Madrid assemblies, but rather the matter of the Program and Budget, which included all the unions, including the PCT and the Madrid assemblies. So the PCT and the Madrid assemblies would also have to be convened in the month of December or November, as the case might be. In order to provide a definite answer to the question, the Director General suggested taking it on notice and having a consultation amongst the membership concerning that. Concerning the proposal of the Delegation of Angola, the Director General said that, normally, the Rules of Procedure provided for a period of two months notice for the convening of meetings, in this case an extraordinary session of the Assemblies. That was why the Secretariat had considered the month of

December. However, there had been many occasions in the past when the Assemblies themselves decided to forgo that period of notice. Therefore, it was within the membership's power, as a sovereign body, to decide upon a date which was less than two months, it being understood, of course, that a certain amount of time would be required for consultations and preparation of the outstanding decisions.

320. The Delegation of Bangladesh thanked the Director General for the clarification provided, particularly regarding the extraordinary session. The Delegation was very comfortable if it was held in December, after the Bali conference. The Delegation added that it had been mentally prepared, as it had stated earlier, to spend the entire night on reaching the final conclusion of the present session. Unfortunately, it had not happened. Since there were other meetings to attend in other organizations the following day, the Delegation kindly requested the Chair to let delegations go home as early as possible. The Delegation added that it would be generally appreciated if the text of the conclusions could be circulated to delegations at the Chair's convenience, regardless whether they were applicable or not. The Delegation concluded by urging the Chair to close the meeting.

321. The Chair answered that it was exactly what she was going to do. The Chair read: "The Assemblies of the Member States decide to reconvene in an extraordinary session in December 2013." There were no objections. It was so decided.

322. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, decided that an extraordinary session be convened in December 2013 in order to conclude deliberations on the following agenda items:

- Agenda item 14: Proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 Biennium
- Agenda item 30: Governance at WIPO
- Agenda item 33: Consideration of the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty
- Agenda item 34: Matters Relating to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)
- Agenda item 36(iii): Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)
- Agenda item 47: Adoption of the General Report and of the Individual Reports of each Governing Body

[Annexes follow]

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE 2013 WIPO ASSEMBLIES

SEPTEMBER 2013

1. The year since the meeting of the Assemblies of the Member States in October 2012 has been a very good and productive one for the Organization. The highlight was the successful conclusion in June 2013 of another new multilateral treaty, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (“the Marrakesh Treaty”). This was a great achievement by the Member States and an outcome of an intensive process that was universally applauded. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the very warm and generous welcome that it extended to all delegations and to thank all Member States for the very active and constructive engagement that made a successful outcome possible.

2. While the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty was a particularly high point of the year, the Organization progressed well on many other fronts. I have set out below a summary of our progress, organized under the headings of the Organization’s strategic goals. Before moving to the strategic goals, however, let me recall the financial situation of the Organization.

Financial Performance

3. Sound financial management has enabled the Organization to return a surplus in 2012, to have reserves at a level exceeding our targets, to be well positioned to fund our long-term liabilities, to commence advance capital planning and to maintain a stable headcount, while managing an increased work-load.

4. We have further integrated international public service accounting standards (IPSAS) so that not only our financial statements, but also our budget and planning, now take account of IPSAS adjustments. In 2012, we ended the year with an operating surplus of CHF 25.6 million, after taking into account IPSAS adjustments. After further deducting reserve expenditure, we ended with an overall surplus of CHF 15.7 million.

5. In consequence, our reserves stood, at the end of 2012, at CHF 178.2 million, some CHF 58 million above the level set by the Member States as a prudent safeguard against downturns or other adverse impacts on our operating revenue. In line with the recommendations of our external auditors, we are examining ways to improve the disclosure and presentation of reserves within the financial statements with the aim of more clearly reflecting the different uses to which those reserves are put.

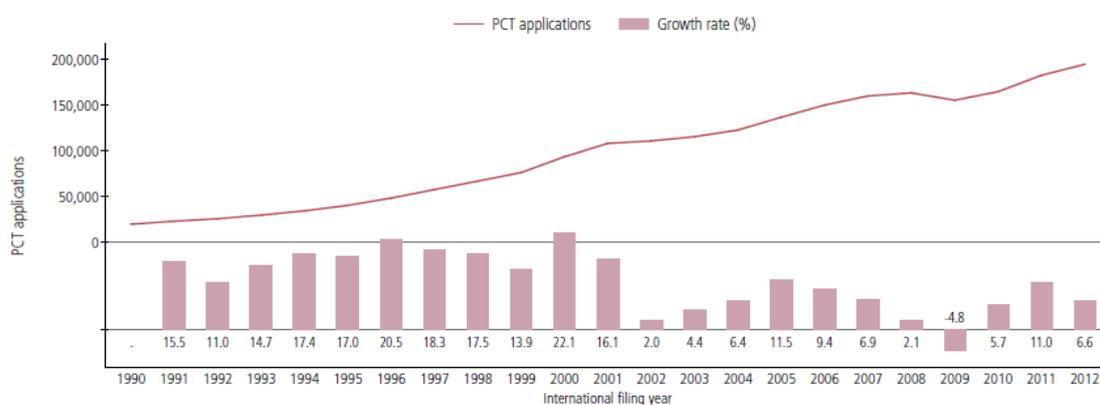
6. The first seven months of 2013, the second year of the current biennium, continues the same trend as in 2012, but without the same benefit of exchange gains that we experienced in 2012. At the end of July, we were enjoying a very good operating surplus. However, expenditure typically tends to increase at the end of the biennium. Nevertheless, provided that there is no unexpected turbulence of a fundamental nature affecting the world economy, we expect to end the year again with a healthy operating surplus.

Global Intellectual Property (IP) Systems¹

7. **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).** As the principal source of the Organization's revenue (generating around 75% of total income), the PCT determines the financial capacity of the Organization, as well as its capacity for action.

8. The PCT continues to out-perform the world economy. In 2012, 194,400 international applications were filed, an increase of 6.6% over 2011. In 2013, we expect growth at a lower level of around 4%. Generally speaking, the very rapid increase in filings from China seen in recent years is returning to a more sustainable level, while demand from mature markets, which was affected by the global financial crisis, is picking up. 2013 is likely to be the first year in which more than 200,000 international applications are filed. It took 24 years from the commencement of the PCT to reach 100,000 international applications filed in a single year. It will have taken 12 years to double that number and reach 200,000.

Figure 1: Trend in PCT Applications



Note: 2012 data are WIPO estimates.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2013

9. The Asian three of Japan, China and the Republic of Korea (in order of the number of international applications) consolidated their position in 2012 as the largest block of filers, accounting for 38.1% of all international applications, as against 29.8% from Europe and 26.3% from the United States of America. The top four filers - ZTE Corporation, Panasonic, Sharp and Huawei - all came from China and Japan.

¹ Strategic Goal II: The Provision of Premier Global IP Services.

Figure 2: Top 20 PCT Applicants

Rank	Applicant's Name	Origin	PCT applications			Change compared to 2011
			2010	2011	2012	
1	ZTE CORPORATION	China	1,868	2,826	3,906	1,080
2	PANASONIC CORPORATION	Japan	2,153	2,463	2,951	488
3	SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA	Japan	1,286	1,755	2,001	246
4	HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES CO., LTD.	China	1,527	1,831	1,801	-30
5	ROBERT BOSCH CORPORATION	Germany	1,302	1,518	1,775	257
6	TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA	Japan	1,095	1,417	1,652	235
7	QUALCOMM INCORPORATED	United States of America	1,675	1,494	1,305	-189
8	SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT	Germany	830	1,039	1,272	233
9	KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.	Netherlands	1,433	1,148	1,230	82
10	TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON (PUBL)	Sweden	1,147	1,116	1,197	81
11	LG ELECTRONICS INC.	Republic of Korea	1,297	1,336	1,094	-242
12	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORPORATION	Japan	726	834	1,042	208
13	NEC CORPORATION	Japan	1,106	1,056	999	-57
14	FUJIFILM CORPORATION	Japan	275	414	891	477
15	HITACHI, LTD.	Japan	372	547	745	198
16	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.	Republic of Korea	574	757	683	-74
17	FUJITSU LIMITED	Japan	475	494	671	177
18	NOKIA CORPORATION	Finland	632	698	670	-28
19	BASF SE	Germany	817	773	644	-129
20	INTEL CORPORATION	United States of America	201	309	640	331

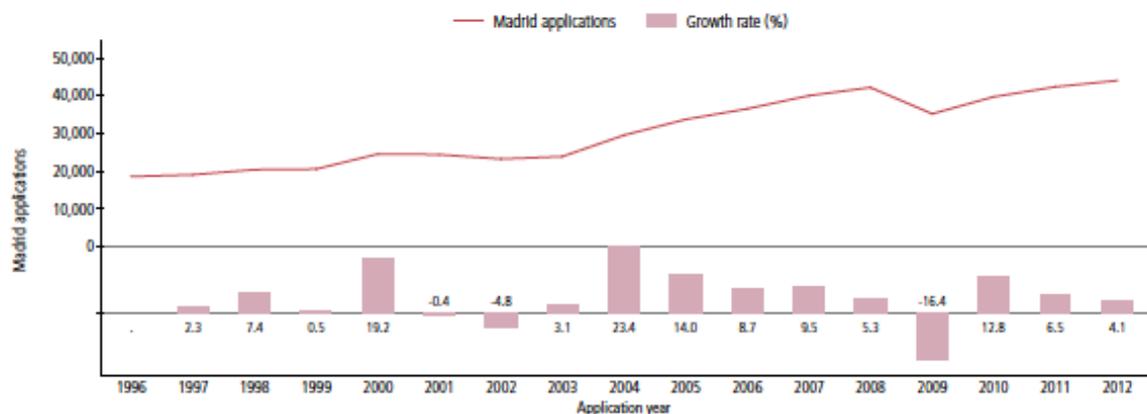
10. Since the last Assemblies, two more States (Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran) joined the PCT, bringing the number of PCT Contracting States to the impressive figure of 148. During that same period, the Egyptian Patent Office commenced operations as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), with effect from April 1, 2013, the first such Arabic-language Authority. The International Bureau has also been informed that the Indian Patent Office will commence operations as an International Authority as of October 15, 2013.

11. The continued success of the PCT and its attractiveness as the filing route of choice for international patent applications depend on the continuous improvement of the system. The PCT Working Group is one source of such improvement, sponsoring legal and procedural reform. The Working Group met in May 2013 and had a range of interesting and important proposals before it, many relating to efforts to improve the link between the international and the national phase of procedures, such as the proposal to require applicants, upon national phase entry, to respond to negative comments in international preliminary examination reports, or the proposal to require International Authorities to record search strategies for the benefit of national Offices. These and other proposals are vital for the continuous renewal of the PCT and we are grateful to the Member States for their very active engagement in finding ways to improve the functioning of the PCT system.

12. A further source of improvement in the PCT is the IT facility known as ePCT. This promises to be a transformative technology, enabling electronic filing by applicants and secure interaction with their files and interactions between the various office actors in the PCT system - receiving offices, designated offices, international authorities and the International Bureau - in ways that are reducing paper and transmission and processing times and leading to the reduction of processing errors and enhanced productivity throughout the system.

13. **The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks.** The Madrid System is experiencing a pleasing expansion. In terms of demand, 2012 saw the number of international applications rise to a new height of 43,998, a 4.1% increase on 2011. In the first seven months of 2013, this trend continued, with international applications rising by 5.9% compared to the same period in 2012.

Figure 3: Growth of Madrid Applications

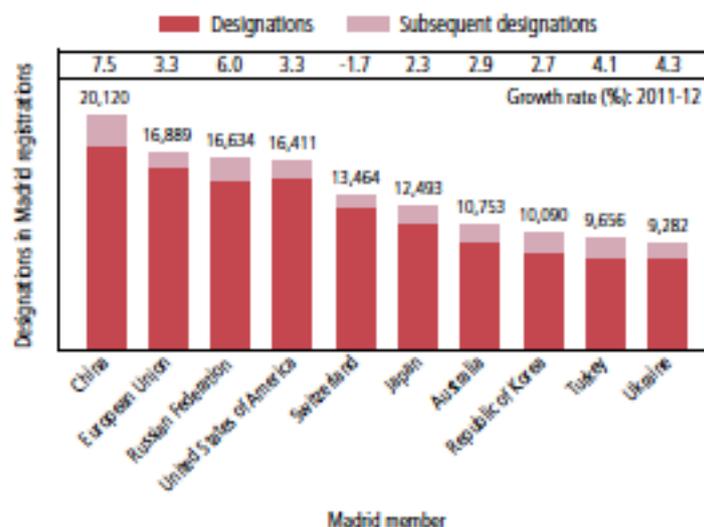


Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2013

There are now over 560,000 international registrations in force on the Madrid International Register.

14. The Contracting Parties where applicants seek protection (designated Contracting Parties) is an important indicator of the perceived attractiveness of different markets and the desire to seek protection in those markets. In 2012, China was the most designated Contracting Party, followed by the European Union, Russian Federation and the United States of America:

Figure 4: Top 10 Designated Madrid Members



15. The past 12 months have seen a continued expansion in the membership of the Madrid System, with Mexico, India, Rwanda and Tunisia all joining. Membership now stands at 92. Judging by requests for assistance in conforming domestic legislation to the Madrid System and adapting procedures accordingly, we have every reason to expect that this expansion will continue.

16. We have embarked upon an intensive program designed to enhance the attractiveness of the services offered under the Madrid System. The first expression of this is in our IT offerings. Over the past year, the Madrid Portfolio Manager (MPM), Madrid Real-Time Status (MRS) and the Madrid Electronic Alert (MEA) have been enhanced to reflect customer feedback. The Madrid Goods and Services Manager (MGS) is now available in 15 languages (English, Arabic, Chinese (traditional and simplified characters), Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish). The MGS has also added a new feature - "check acceptance by DCP" - that offers applicants the capacity to check the acceptance of terms by a proposed designated Contracting Party in an international application. While this database was designed for users of the Madrid System, it can also be used to create lists of goods and services when filing national or regional applications for registration. The Madrid Office Portal (MOP), an online tool providing IP Offices with comprehensive electronic access to the International Register of Marks and a means of electronically communicating with WIPO, is being tested in pilot countries and is expected to be generally available to all offices of members in the New Year.

17. **The Hague System for the International Registration of Designs.** The Hague System has been experiencing slow but steady growth on a relatively small number of international applications. In 2012, international applications increased by 3.5%. We expect a higher rate of growth in 2013, when we project that applications will rise above 3,000.

18. We expect a major transformation in the nature of the Hague System to occur in the next biennium. Positive expressions of interest in joining the System have been received from China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United States of America and the member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The challenge for the International Bureau will be to ensure that this likely expansion is smoothly managed and that the Hague System continues to provide a timely, efficient and high-quality service. In this regard, in June of this year a new electronic filing interface was introduced, which offers many improvements on its predecessor and which has received very positive response from users.

19. **The Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.** Work on the revision of the Lisbon Agreement has been progressing well in the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. The Working Group has recommended to the Lisbon Assembly at its 2013 Session to "approve the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015." It is foreseen that the diplomatic conference would be preceded by a further two or three meetings of the Working Group.

20. The revision of the Lisbon Agreement offers a unique opportunity to resolve a challenge for which a solution has eluded the international community for decades. This is the challenge of having an international register for geographical indications and appellations of origin which is truly international in its reach. After more than 50 years, the Lisbon Agreement has attracted a limited membership of only 28 States. It is hoped that a revised Lisbon Agreement will offer a system that will be able to attract widespread acceptance and engagement.

21. **WIPO Mediation and Arbitration Center.** The Center continues to administer the largest number of Internet domain name disputes of any accredited service provider, handles a steady and slowly evolving case load of general IP arbitrations and mediations and is increasingly engaged in providing expertise and systems for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedures in a range of specialized IP contexts.

22. In the area of domain names, trademark holders filed in 2012 a record 2,884 cybersquatting cases, covering 5,084 Internet domain names, with the WIPO Center under procedures based on the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP). This represented an increase of 4.5% over 2011. The case load continues at a steady, albeit slightly reduced, rate in 2013. To enhance the services of the Center for the administration of cases, an improved version of the electronic case administration system (Domain Name Electronic Case File Access Facility (DECAF)) was deployed.

23. Within the administration of domain name cases, the number of country code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs) for which the Center provides services grew in 2012 by two to 67, with the addition of .PW (Palau) and .TZ (Tanzania), and in 2013 by a further two to 69, with the addition .FM (Federated States of Micronesia) and .GD (Grenada).

24. A major development underway within the domain name system is the potentially unlimited expansion of the generic top-level domain (gTLD) space. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is currently processing applications for up to 1,400 new gTLDs (the characters to the right of the dot, as in .com). It is uncertain what impact this expansion may have on trademarks, whether it will increase the incidence of cybersquatting, how trademark owners will monitor the infringement of their marks, whether it will diminish the branding value of gTLDs, and so forth. These are all questions to which time and experience will provide answers. In the interim, WIPO seeks to provide leadership in the development of ADR solutions. The WIPO Center was appointed by ICANN as the provider of dispute resolution services under a “pre-delegation” Legal Rights Objections (LRO) procedure. The procedure was developed by WIPO to allow an opportunity for trademark owners to object to the establishment of a new gTLD on the basis that the gTLD infringes a trademark. The administration of LRO cases began in the first quarter of 2013. As of this time, the Center has issued well-regarded panel decisions in nearly all of the 69 compliant LRO cases received.

25. An interesting new area of work for the Center has been working with IP Offices to assist in both the design and the administration of ADR procedures for oppositions or other proceedings before IP Offices. The Center administers or co-administers such procedures with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and the National Institute for Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil. The first cases were successfully settled under the joint WIPO-IPOS mediation procedure for trademark oppositions.

The International Normative Framework²

26. The Organization was blessed with the successful conclusion of another new multilateral treaty in 2013, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise Print Disabled. The Marrakesh VIP Treaty builds upon the success of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances of 2012.

27. The Diplomatic Conference at which the Marrakesh Treaty was adopted was a great event. It was generously hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, which made outstanding arrangements for the participants and extended the warmest of welcomes to all delegations. His Majesty King Mohammed VI graciously sent a message of encouragement at the commencement of the Conference. The Minister for Communications of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Honorable Mustapha Khalfi was elected President of the Conference and guided the proceedings with great skill. The renowned artist, Stevie Wonder, fulfilled his promise to

² Strategic Goal I: Balanced Evolution of the International Normative Framework for IP.

Member States at the 2010 Assemblies and generously came to Marrakesh to celebrate the conclusion of the Treaty by giving a wonderful and memorable concert for all the participants on the final night.

28. The success in Marrakesh was a consequence of the extraordinary engagement and commitment of the Member States. A measure of this engagement was that five meetings and open consultations were held in the six months immediately preceding the Conference, as well as innumerable other informal meetings of different groupings of Member States. The negotiators at the Diplomatic Conference worked day and night, without respite. The outcome was a tremendous result for the visually impaired, for intellectual property, for the capacity of the international community to develop a consensus around an effective solution for a clear need, and for WIPO.

29. The need to which the Marrakesh VIP Treaty was addressed is the “book famine” in which, according to estimates, only about 5% of published works are available in formats accessible to the visually impaired in a reasonable time and even less to the overwhelming majority of visually impaired who live in developing countries. The Treaty addresses this need by mandating limitations and exceptions to copyright in national laws in order to allow the creation of accessible format versions of works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or print disabled. The Treaty also allows the cross-border transfer of those accessible versions of works so as to make the most efficient use of the limited resources available to make accessible formats by avoiding the need to create an accessible format of the same work in each country.

30. The successful conclusion of a new treaty is one thing; bringing it into effect is another. The Treaties represent a collective expression of the policy of the Member States. The Secretariat will work to promote the widest possible accession to both the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, so as to make them effective as soon as possible. By the time that the Beijing Treaty closed for signature, 71 eligible contracting parties had signed it. To date, 53 eligible contracting parties have signed the Marrakesh Treaty. These are promising signals for the widespread ratification of the two Treaties. More generally than these two treaties, I am also pleased to report that there were 26 new accessions to WIPO-administered treaties in the course of the year since the last Assemblies, continuing the growing adoption of WIPO treaties throughout the world.

31. In the case of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, in addition to promoting accession to the Treaty, we shall work to bring the Stakeholders Platform, which was established by the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights to make works in accessible formats available practically, to a higher level of professional implementation. We will explore means of obtaining voluntary funding for this new stage in the platform and report on progress to the Standing Committee.

32. Looking ahead for the normative agenda, while there are quite a number of items on the table, three stand out as approaching maturity. The order in which I shall now mention them carries no judgment on their respective importance or maturity.

33. Work on a proposed design law treaty is nearing completion in the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications. The proposed treaty would simplify the formalities associated with obtaining design protection. It would provide more accessible procedures for designers and would mirror for designs the simplification work that was achieved for patents and trademarks in the Patent Law Treaty and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, respectively. The Assemblies will be asked this year to decide on the convening of a diplomatic conference to conclude the treaty which the

Russian Federation has generously offered to host. It is very much hoped that this exercise can go forward in order to continue to build upon Beijing and Marrakesh.

34. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) has progressed very well in the past year in its work on the international protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions and on intellectual property in relation to genetic resources. It is of the utmost importance to bring this work to a satisfactory conclusion. The process has been long and arduous. The Assemblies will be called upon to renew the mandate of the IGC and to express that mandate in a way that can be embraced by all Member States. One of the major priorities of the coming year will be to progress this work to a good outcome.

35. The protection of broadcasting is the third area that is approaching maturity. We have fallen a little behind in the schedule set by Member States (which foresaw a possible outcome in 2014) for the understandable reason that the Marrakesh VIP Treaty absorbed all available capacity amongst the membership in this area and broadcasting was, in consequence, not able to be treated in enough depth. It is hoped that a concentrated effort can be made over the next 12 months to bring this important exercise to the point where Member States can consider the convening of a diplomatic conference. Broadcasting remains the major remaining area covered by the Berne and Rome Conventions that has not been updated through the treaties concluded in 1996 (the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty) and in 2012 (the Beijing Treaty).

36. As these three areas progress to completion, I believe it will be important to commence a dialogue among the membership about the normative agenda in the years ahead. This is never an easy process, but the speed of change in the external world underlines the need for planning for future priorities.

Development³

37. The development of national strategies at the request of, and in conjunction with, national authorities is the primary vehicle used for connecting the use of IP with the advancement of national economic objectives and development plans. Throughout the past year, the Organization continued its work on such strategies for least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries and transition countries. In 2012, work at various stages of either the development or implementation of strategies was carried out in 32 countries (five in Africa, five in the Arab region, nine in the Asia and Pacific region and 13 in the Latin America and the Caribbean region).

38. In supporting the implementation of strategies and in our development cooperation program generally, our focus remained on providing assistance in the establishment of appropriate legal and institutional regulatory frameworks, Office modernization, the development and deployment of technical support infrastructure and human capacity building. To this end, in 2012, some 794 technical assistance activities were carried out in 153 LDCs, developing countries and countries in transition, using some 1,426 expert speakers and consultants from around the world.

39. In human capacity building, the Organization endeavors to cover all aspects of the application for, and operational use of, IP - technical, administrative, legal and business -

³ Strategic Goal III: Facilitating the Use of IP for Development

including its development implications. The WIPO Academy is the focal point for all professional training. Its distance learning courses provided training for around 49,000 people in 2012, compared with 33,000 in the preceding year. Under its face-to-face physical programs, 904 persons received training in 2012.

40. In addition to professional training, the Academy jointly conducts master programs on IP law with the University of Africa and ARIPO (Harare, Zimbabwe), Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia), University of Turin (Italy), University of Yaoundé II and OAPI (Cameroun), Haifa University of Technology (Israel) and Seoul National University (Republic of Korea). Seventy-two students were enrolled for these programs in 2012. In 2013, the first Spanish-language master program was launched with the Austral University in Buenos Aires.

41. The Development Agenda entered a more mature phase, with completed projects undergoing evaluations and the evaluation reports being considered by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). The completed and evaluated projects were brought into the mainstream of the Organization's program and integrated into the draft Program and Budget for 2014-2015. Phase II of one project (on Developing Tools for Access to Patent Information) was approved by the CDIP in November 2012. A project proposal on IP and Design Creation for Business Development in Developing and LDCs proposed by the Republic of Korea is under consideration by the Committee.

42. In the area of the copyright and the creative industries, we are looking for ways to assist LDCs and developing countries to commercialize their deep cultural richness and to connect more effectively their creators, performers and artists to global markets. Part of the answer may be provided by effective collective management organizations. We have started a project to develop a new voluntary quality assurance standard for collective management organizations (called the TAG of Excellence). The aim is to provide guidance and support for collective management organizations to achieve high performance levels of transparency, accountability and governance for the benefit of the rights holders they represent. We are also revitalizing a data management IT system for collective management organizations in the developing world that we believe will assist not only in the more efficient management and clearance of rights, but also in creating connections for rights holders with markets beyond their home market.

Global Infrastructure⁴

43. The Global Infrastructure program provides an integrated approach to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to use information and communication technologies (ICT) in support of IP administration and to take advantage of global knowledge databases and networks; making available through free global databases the technological, scientific and marketing information developed worldwide by the intellectual property system; and developing, in cooperation with Member States, platforms and tools that enhance cooperation and promote efficiencies by reducing redundant functionalities between IP Offices.

44. **Modernizing IP Offices.** The International Bureau continued to assist IP offices around the world to automate the processing of IP applications and, thereby, to provide improved services to stakeholders. Demand for WIPO's assistance continues to increase and the total number of offices using one or more WIPO-provided systems has increased from 61 to 72. The current usage of WIPO systems includes:

⁴ Strategic Goal IV: Coordination and Development of Global IP Infrastructure

- 45 offices using IPAS (Industrial Property Administration System);
- 10 offices using AIPMS (Arab IP Management System);
- 17 offices using WIPO Scan (a digitization and workflow management system); and
- 6 offices using WIPO EDMS (electronic document management system).

The list of outstanding requests for assistance is long and assistance is being prioritized according to the availability of resources. The data generated through the use of WIPO systems are, with the kind cooperation of the participating IP Offices, not only used locally, but also used to populate the global IP databases made available by WIPO.

45. **Global Databases and Other Knowledge Services.** It has been a particularly important year for the development of WIPO's global databases and other knowledge services. The Global Databases continue to pursue a multilingual approach and to provide users with both free-of-charge and effective machine translation and a cross-lingual search and retrieval function (CLIR) in 12 languages. The TAPTA statistical machine translation tool, developed in-house, is being extended to include further language pairs and a pilot study on its use by outsourced translators to reduce WIPO's translation costs was concluded in September 2013.

46. The PATENTSCOPE database now allows users to search more than 32 million patent documents worldwide, including 2.2 million international patent applications published under the PCT. This enormous growth, from 14 million documents last year and 8 million in the year before that, is largely due to the inclusion of both the US national patent collection and the Chinese national collection this year.

47. WIPO's Global Brand Database has also had an exciting year. With the inclusion of six new national collections of trademark records (including the entire United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) collection) this free, public resource now allows users to search over 11 million records for brand-related information. Several new collections will soon be added as national offices take up WIPO's invitation to participate in the project.

48. **Access to Information and Knowledge.** ARDI (Access to Research and Development for Innovation) and ASPI (Access to Specialized Patent Information) are WIPO's programs to enhance access to scientific and technical periodicals and commercial databases for individuals and institutions in LDCs and developing countries. The number of institutions benefiting from both programs continues to grow steadily. ARDI has had a particularly significant year, with a dramatic increase in the volume of content available through it from 250 journals last year to over 10,000 peer-reviewed journals, books and reference works this year. ARDI has been a member of the Research4Life partnership, together with three other UN agencies and numerous leading publishers, since 2012. The partnership currently provides over 6,000 institutions in more than 100 developing countries with free or low-cost access to peer-reviewed online content from the world's leading scientific, technical and medical publishers. In June 2013, the number of peer-reviewed resources surpassed 35,000, comprising 13,000 journals and 22,000 e-books.

49. Thirty-six Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) projects have now been launched by WIPO in cooperation with its Member States, accounting for over 320 TISCs worldwide. TISCs support innovators in developing countries by providing access to locally available, high quality technology information and related services. WIPO supports TISCs by providing a structured program of on-site training and distance-learning courses. Sixty on-site courses had been organized by the end of 2012. To further reinforce the impact and long-term sustainability of TISCs, WIPO launched the eTISC online knowledge management platform in November 2012. eTISC allows TISCs to exchange experiences and share best practices within and across national networks. It also provides access to new WIPO services aimed at

supporting the development of TISCs worldwide, including specifically targeted e-learning content, expert chats and webinars.

50. **Global Platforms.** The two main global platforms operated by WIPO with Member States (outside the PCT) have both seen progress throughout the past year. WIPO CASE (Centralized Access to Search and Examination) has improved technical features. A technical pilot project to link with the dossier systems of the IP5 offices was initiated in 2013. Further offices have expressed interest in evaluating or joining the system. WIPO DAS (Digital Access Service) was upgraded in 2012 and a new process was implemented that will make the system easier for offices and applicants to use.

WIPO as a Global Reference for IP Information⁵

51. In a world with arguably an excess of available data and information, we try to focus our efforts on the production of a limited number of high quality and high impact references, where we can justifiably claim to be the world leader.

52. The global audience for **WIPO Lex**, the electronic database which provides access to IP laws and treaties of the 195 Members of WIPO, WTO and the UN, continues to rise. In 2012, one million users visited WIPO Lex. In 2013, that number had been reached by July. The database is now available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish and the Russian public interface is being vigorously tested and enhanced prior to a gradual public release. The new treaties component of WIPO Lex was released in November 2012 and has already been updated. It features 170 multilateral and 500 bilateral IP-related treaties, with 2,000 more bilateral treaties identified for future inclusion. Given the dynamic evolution of national IP systems and the database's expanding language interfaces, WIPO Lex needs to be continuously reviewed and updated. This is done in valuable cooperation with national authorities, universities, law companies and other interested actors. We intend to cultivate further and to diversify this network of partners.

53. The **Global Innovation Index 2013** (GII) was co-published in partnership with Cornell University and INSEAD. It was launched this year in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, as part of the High-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva in early July. The GII has become a leading reference and bench-marking tool on innovation. Its rankings and main findings received extensive coverage in the international press.

54. Thanks to the support of many national offices, WIPO has been able to significantly improve the collection and reporting of **statistical data on IP activity worldwide** since the last Assemblies. The following flagship reports are now produced each year:

- *World Intellectual Property Indicators 2012*, the latest edition of which was enriched by the inclusion of statistics on the use of the Patent Prosecution Highway and plant variety registrations.
- *Yearly Reviews* for each of the *PCT*, *Madrid* (published for the first time in 2013) and the *Hague Systems*.

55. A new World IP Report, which will be the sequel to the Report on *The Changing Face of Innovation*, which was published in 2011, will be published in late 2013 on the role of branding.

⁵ World Reference Source for IP Information and Analysis

Engagement with Global Policy Issues⁶

56. In the past 12 months, WIPO has deepened its trilateral cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the intersection between health, innovation and trade. A study produced by the secretariats of the three Organizations on *Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation: Intersections between public health, IP and trade* was published in February 2013 and has been received very favorably. The third symposium to be sponsored by the three Organizations on “Medical Innovation – Changing Business Models” was held at WIPO in July 2013.

57. **WIPO Re:Search** is a public-private consortium that promotes the sharing of IP, undisclosed research and expertise in order to accelerate the development of new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics in the areas of neglected tropical diseases, malaria and tuberculosis. WIPO Re:Search held its first annual meeting in October 2012 in conjunction with a technology licensing workshop for African Medical Research Institutes. Since its launch in October 2011, membership in WIPO Re:Search has more than doubled to over 70 members from all five continents. There are now 30 agreements or collaborations between the members. In addition, five hosting arrangements placing researchers from developing countries in the research departments of corporations and universities in both developed and developing countries have been organized through Funds-in-Trust from Australia.

58. Following a successful pilot program, **WIPO Green**, a virtual marketplace that links providers and seekers of environmentally sustainable technologies, is due to be launched in November 2013. Partners are now signing up to the WIPO Green Charter.

Communications⁷

59. In the past twelve months we have greatly increased our use of social media in order to take advantage of new and larger audiences and new and creative content-delivery vehicles.

60. The best examples of the success of our communications strategy over the past year were to be seen in connection with major events of the Organization. Our Communications team created and delivered rich, original content for World IP Day 2013 on the theme of “Creativity – The Next Generation”, including design and artwork, editorial, photographic, video, web and social media content. Eighty-nine countries reported World IP Day events (up from 76 in 2012) and the total reach of the Facebook campaign more than doubled compared to 2012 (with the most “likes” coming from India, United States of America, Mexico, Brazil and the United Kingdom). The impact of this promotion was clear immediately – the WIPO website had more than double the number of visits on that day than on any other day in the preceding twelve months. During the entire campaign, the World IP Day website was visited nearly 100,000 times (up 80% from 2012).

61. All WIPO publications are now available for free online download. Over the past year, 28,000 publications were dispatched and there are now 90 Depository Libraries around the world enabling the general public to have access to physical publications of WIPO.

⁶ Strategic Goal VII: Addressing IP in relation to Global Policy Issues

⁷ Strategic Goal VIII: A Responsive Communications Interface between WIPO, its Member States and all Stakeholders

62. WIPO's social media footprint has considerably expanded since we established presences on Twitter and Flickr in March 2012:

- WIPO's "Klout" social influence score reached a peak of 72 following World IP Day in April (higher than that of the ITU, ILO, UNIDO, WMO, IFAD or UNOG);
- WIPO has reached a total of 22 million potential impressions on Twitter;
- WIPO's photo postings on Flickr have been viewed about 400,000 times
- WIPO's publications on Scribd have been read more than 360,000 times
- WIPO's videos on YouTube have been viewed 3.3 million times over the lifetime of the WIPO account.

63. In 2012, we embarked on a major realignment of the website. This has been a massive exercise in streamlining and re-organizing the presentation of content, re-arranging data structures and introducing design responsive to the range of devices that are used to connect to the Internet. We plan for the result of this huge effort to go live in the last quarter of the year.

Administration and Management⁸

64. The Administration and Management Sector provides leadership for the planning and budgetary and financial management of programs and for the efficient delivery and performance evaluation of programs. It also manages the building and ICT infrastructure, conferences and general language services, procurement and travel services and the safety and security of staff and assets. It is thus focused on enhancing the way in which we deliver our services and programs.

65. The **Strategic Realignment Program (SRP)**, the major change program that has been undertaken over the past five years, came to a successful conclusion at the end of 2012. The program's 19 reform initiatives have now been integrated into the Organization's culture, working methods and procedures. Further work remains to be done on two of the initiatives, those concerned with internal controls and the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, both of which are on track according to their respective work plans. From the intensive process of the SRP, we have been moving to a state in which we strive for continuous improvement through continual monitoring, review and innovation in relation to all our administrative and management procedures.

66. The **New Conference Hall** Project is progressing well and entering the exciting stage when we start to have an idea of how the building will look when completed. The decision to take over the direct responsibility for the worksite in July 2012 has brought with it greatly increased management responsibilities to which the staff have responded remarkably. We plan for the New Conference Hall to be completed and commissioned in time for the meeting of the Assemblies in 2014.

67. In the area of conference services and ICT, we have introduced webcasting and VoD (Video on Demand) for the proceedings of all major WIPO meetings. This has had the effect of increasing transparency, facilitating the passive participation of a much greater audience and enhancing the richness of the record of meetings available on our website.

⁸ Strategic Goal IX: An Efficient Administrative and Financial Support Structure to enable WIPO to deliver its Programs

68. An important step has been undertaken in the launch of a process to achieve ISO 27001 certification. ISO 27001 Information Security Management Certification will provide a greatly increased level of assurance to WIPO stakeholders that confidential information is properly handled and is secured to the greatest extent possible.

69. The adoption of the WIPO Language Policy by the Member States has resulted in an increase of 53% in the number of pages translated by our Language Service. To ensure that this additional workload is smoothly absorbed, we have concentrated on the enhanced use of computer-assisted translation and terminological tools and have relied to a greater extent on out-sourced translation services.

70. It has been a year of great activity for our Human Resources Management Department, which has brought the process of regularization of our long-serving short-term staff to near completion, managed the implementation of the reform of the Staff Rules and Regulations (SRR) approved by the Member States at the 2012 Assemblies; overseen the drafting of a revision of our internal justice system that will be considered by the 2013 Assemblies; eliminated outstanding recruitment backlogs and reduced the time from decisions to recruit to the introduction of newly appointed staff to the Organization; overseen steady, if slow improvements in geographical and gender balance in the staff; and undertaken a major exercise of organization design with the aim of achieving a better fit of staff skill profiles to post requirements.

71. The very positive results achieved by the Organization in the past year have only been possible as a result of the constructive engagement, commitment and support of the Member States and of the professionalism and dedication of the staff. I should like to express my gratitude for this to the Member States and to the women and men who have contributed so much to WIPO as staff members.

Francis Gurry
Director General

[Annex II follows]

ITEM 14 PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE 2014/15 BIENNIUM

1. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned,

- (i) approve the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2014/15 Biennium as contained in document A/51/7 REV. subject to the following agreed changes, in respect of:
 - (a) The formulation of targets in the Results Framework of Program 2, as reflected in Annex I;
 - (b) The formulation of targets in the Results Framework of Program 4, as reflected in Annex II;
 - (c) The formulation in Program 20, of paragraphs 20.8 and 20.21, as amended in Annex III to reflect the inclusion of two additional offices (one in the Latin American and Caribbean region and one in India);
 - (d) Additional allocation of non-personnel resources to Program 20 from unallocated.
- (ii) adopt the General Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices (Annex IV); and
- (iii) note the comments made by Member States on the request for additional information concerning the IP and Global Challenges program (Program 18) and requested the Program to inform Member States at the 12th session of the CDIP on the development-related aspects of its activities and to inform Member States at the 20th session of the SCP on the patent-related aspects of its activities.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

PROGRAM 2 TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Expected Results	Performance Indicators	Baselines	Targets
I.1 Enhanced cooperation among Member States on development of balanced international normative frameworks for IP and agreement on specific topics on which international instruments are agreed	Agreement on a normative framework for industrial design registration and maintenance procedures	No normative framework for industrial design registration and maintenance procedures	Adoption of a Design Law Treaty by a possible Diplomatic Conference
	Progress towards agreement on current issues on the SCT Agenda	Draft Reference Document on the Protection of Country Names Against Registration and Use of Trademarks	SCT agreed Outcomes
	No. of ratifications/accessions to the Singapore Treaty	29 Contracting Parties (end 2012)	Eight new ratifications/accessions
I.2 Tailored and balanced IP legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks	No. and % of Member States/regional organizations providing positive feedback on the legislative advice offered in the area of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications	11 Member States/regional organizations received legislative advice out of which three provided positive feedback on legislative advice received in 2012	Legislative advice provided to 10 Member States/regional organizations. 90% of respondents satisfied with the advice offered.
I.3 Increased protection of State emblems and names and emblems of International Intergovernmental Organizations	No. of requests for communication under Article 6ter dealt with	70 requests for communication under Article 6ter dealt with in 2012	140 requests for communication under Article 6ter dealt with
	No. of signs published in Article 6ter database	75 signs published in Article 6ter database in 2012	150 signs published in Article 6ter database

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

PROGRAM 4 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND GENETIC RESOURCES

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Expected Results	Performance Indicators	Baselines	Targets
I.1 Enhanced cooperation among Member States on development of balanced international normative frameworks for IP and agreement on specific topics on which international instruments are agreed	Agreement in the IGC's negotiations on an international legal instrument(s) on TK, TCEs and GRs.	Negotiations underway under IGC mandate for 2012-2013 and workprogram for 2013	Adoption of an international legal instrument(s) by a possible Diplomatic Conference
III.2 Enhanced human resource capacities able to deal with the broad range of requirements for the effective use of IP for development in developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition	% of participants in WIPO activities which report enhanced capacity to understand and use IP principles, systems and tools for the protection of TK and TCEs, and for management of the interface between IP and GRs	Not yet available	80%

[Annex III follows]

ANNEX III

PROGRAM 20 EXTERNAL RELATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND EXTERNAL OFFICES

EXTERNAL OFFICES

PLANNING CONTEXT

20.8 During informal consultations held with Member States in 2011 and 2012, the following principles emerged: (1) External offices should add value and undertake activities that can be performed more efficiently or effectively than at Headquarters; (2) external offices could have different mixes of functions in response to regional priorities and specificities, (3) a new external office should only be established if it is financially feasible for the Organization to do so; (4) a phased and prudent approach should be adopted towards the establishment of functions and corresponding resourcing in the external offices. Following informal consultations during the WIPO Assemblies 2013 Member States adopted General Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

New External Offices

20.21 During the next biennium, new external offices in the following locations/regions are planned: China, Russian Federation, United States of America, two in Africa, one in the Latin American and Caribbean region and one in India. It is recognized that the establishment of external offices is a process that will not be complete in the 2014-2015 biennium. The existing offices and the newly established ones need to be monitored and the results achieved through them evaluated. Requests for further offices remain unsatisfied as yet. Ultimately, the number of external offices needs to be sustainable and ideally would constitute a limited global network of strategically placed offices.

[Annex IV follows]

ANNEX IV

General Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices

October 2, 2013, 18h00

I. General Guiding Principles

It was decided as follows:

The following principles shall guide the establishment of a small, efficient, strategically located and geographically representative (see paragraph (d) below) network of WIPO External Offices (EOs) that can add value by providing political and logistical support for the delivery of the strategic objectives of the Organization in a way that cannot be achieved through operations at WIPO HQ alone.

a. Transparency of the Procedure on Setting up WIPO External Offices

1. Any Member State wishing to host an EO in its national capacity, or on behalf of a group of countries or Regional Group, if so agreed by consensus, should notify the Director General in writing. The Director General should inform the Member States of the receipt of the notification without delay. This provision does not apply to those Member States, in their national capacity, or on behalf of a group of countries or Regional Group, if so agreed by consensus, which have already presented the written communications/notifications.
2. The Member State wishing to host an EO should submit a proposal, with the assistance of the Secretariat as requested by the Member State, to the Director General for consideration by the Program and Budget Committee (PBC). The Secretariat should submit to the PBC the notification and the proposal received from the Member State. The Secretariat should include the proposal received from the Member State in a report to the PBC and make observations on the feasibility of the proposed EO and its compliance with the principles. The PBC will consider the proposal in order to make any recommendation to the General Assembly.
3. Following the outcome of the PBC, the Coordination Committee (CoCo) will discuss a draft proposed agreement consistent with Article 12 of the WIPO Convention.
4. The General Assembly will consider the recommendations of the PBC and any outcome of the CoCo's discussions on the draft proposed agreement in order to take a final decision on the establishment of the new EO.

b. Rationale for Establishing New External Offices and their Purpose

The proposal to be submitted to the PBC, referred to above in (a), should provide a rationale, the need, purpose and added value of establishing the new EO, and assessment of the contributions to the Organization's programs and objectives, with particular regard to the following elements referred to in (c) and (d) below.

The scope of activities of the EO in a Member State may include:

- Collaboration with the concerned country's/region's IP system;
- Enhancement of innovation and creativity in the receiving country by promoting effective use of IP services;

- Raising awareness, understanding and respect for IP, advance its IP systems, streamline processes and develop its staff;
- If so desired by and agreed between the receiving state and other countries in the region; the Office may also provide services to the requested state in that region, through projects clearly defined and approved by relevant bodies of WIPO;
- The delivery of customer services to users of global IP services;
- Assistance for using IP as a tool for promoting development and transfer of technology.

It is understood that WIPO External Offices will not conduct any activities relating to processing (including, for example: receipt, transmittal, review, search and examination, handling, publication, assignment on transfer of rights on licenses, renewal, and/or storage) of international applications filed under the PCT, Madrid, and Hague systems, or any financial transactions related to such applications.

c. Financial Sustainability/Budget Neutrality

Recognizing the different level of development of Member States, and safeguarding adequate resources for regional bureaus, according to the different functions of the EO, the proposal should address the financial sustainability and budget neutrality of establishing the EO.

d. Geographic Aspects/Locational Aspects

In assessing the proposal, due consideration should be given to the principle of an equitable, efficient geographical network for the location of the proposed EO. Any given EO should clearly identify and define a geographical area where it will be operating. Due consideration should be given to developmental aspects, regions without an EO or locations where the users of WIPO Global Premier Services are located. Nevertheless, the existence of an EO in a region or even in a neighboring country, shall not by itself constitute a ground for denying a request put forward by a Member State in that region to be considered and decided by the General Assembly.

e. External Offices' Accountability/Reporting

All EOs are an integral part of WIPO's results-based management framework. Once the EO is established and operational, its performance and activities will be monitored and evaluated based on the performance indicators and targets, and reported to the PBC which will, in turn, transmit its recommendations to the General Assembly, as appropriate.

II. Implementation

It was decided to immediately apply the general guiding principles to all proposed, existing and future EOs to the extent applicable, provided that relevant decisions taken by the General Assemblies in the past and including the present one on the matter of EOs will remain in force.

[End of Annex IV and of document]

[Annex III follows]

INDEX OF INTERVENTIONS BY DELEGATIONS OF STATES; REGIONAL GROUPS;
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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[End of Annex III and of document]

¹ On behalf of the African Group.
² On behalf of the Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC).
³ On behalf of Group B.
⁴ On behalf of the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs).
⁵ On behalf of the Development Agenda Group (DAG).
⁶ On behalf of the Asian Group.
⁷ On behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member states.
⁸ On behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS).
⁹ On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).