

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**General Statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group at the 51st Session of
the Assemblies of the Member states of WIPO, September 23, 2013**

Mr Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Asia Pacific Group.

On behalf of Group, first I would like to congratulate you, on your election, as Chair of the General Assembly of WIPO and express my confidence in your capable stewardship of this Session.

The Group would also like to thank the Director-General, Dr Francis Gurry for his detailed and useful overview of WIPO's work this past year. We appreciate the excellent work done by him and his team during 2012-13.

We would like to congratulate the DG and all the Member States for the successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference and adoption of the Treaty for Facilitating Access to Published Works, for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, in Marrakesh in June this year, in a succession to the Beijing Treaty on the on Protection of Audio Visual Performances. We would like to see that the Treaty comes into force sooner than later.

We would also like to thank the members of WIPO Secretariat for their hard work in preparation for the General Assembly, the arrangements and the documentation for the meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Our region gives high importance to intellectual property as an important contributor to socio-economic growth and technological development. According to the PCT yearly review, PCT filing is increasing in the region in the recent years. Two members from the Group, Saudi Arabia and Iran joined the PCT system this year. India acceded to the Madrid Protocol.

We believe that the objective should be to achieve a more balance in intellectual property taking care of the rights of innovators as well as the needs of people and society.

We are happy that several important steps have been taken by WIPO Member States, the Director-General and his team to ensure greater development orientation in WIPO's work and mainstreaming of the Development Agenda. It is necessary to contextualize Intellectual Property Rights in the larger framework of development to ensure that IP regimes are appropriately tailored in different countries so as to foster socio-economic growth and development.

Mr. Chairman,

We express satisfaction at the sound financial status of the Organisation at the end of 2012. We also take note of the audit reports of the Organisation namely,

report of Internal Audit and Oversight Division (IAOD), Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) and the External Auditor, and look forward to appropriate action on the various recommendations in the reports.

The group would also like to see the finalization of the revised definition of “Development Expenditure” as soon as possible and a decision to pave the way for discussion of issue of WIPO Governance.

Further, we would like to state that, the work being undertaken in the area of Global Challenges under program 18 on IP and Global Challenges by WIPO, focusing on Health, Food Security and Climate Change are very important for developing countries. We would like to have a proper discussion at one of the WIPO Committees, in order to enable Member States to periodically update themselves on the work begin undertaken by WIPO in this area, to guide the Program where required, and to benefit from the Program output for use in the national context, wherever possible.

On the issue of WIPO External Offices, the group has taken note of the ongoing debate. Interest has been expressed by some of our member states, including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Jordan and Republic of Korea. With respect to the proposal made by the WIPO Secretariat on new External Offices for the next biennium, 2014/15, we had expressed our concerns on the lack of transparency in the process of selection of number of offices and the locations. The outcome of debates at the PBC is compelling evidence for the need for a Member State driven process for developing the criteria and guidelines for establishment of new External Offices.

Keeping this in mind the Group expresses its willingness to work constructively with all groups and delegations to resolve the issue of External Offices.

Regarding the other normative agenda of the Organization, we are of the view that considerable progress has been made in the three texts on GRs, TK and TCEs. However, further work is still required to finalize the texts. We support the renewal of the mandate of IGC for the biennium 2014-15 with a view to finalize the text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) for effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs.

Following the adoption of Marrakesh Treaty, we also look forward to actively engaging other members on discussions on Limitations and exceptions for Educational, Teaching and Research Institutions and Persons with other disabilities, and Limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives. We are similarly encouraged by the progress being made on the Broadcasting Treaty. We hope to arrive at a closure in the negotiations based on the 2007 General Assembly mandate for the protection of broadcasting organization on a signal-based approach in the traditional sense.

The Group notes the progress made in respect of the negotiations on the Draft Design Law Treaty. However, further work is still needed, including the on draft Articles and the provision of technical assistance and capacity building in the treaty text. We are ready to engage constructively on the issue.

We would like to reiterate our commitment to participate constructively in the Assembly's deliberations, so as to contribute towards a productive and successful outcome.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.
