

Australia - Opening Statement

Australia would like congratulate the Director General and the Secretariat for the achievements of WIPO over the last year.

I am pleased to advise that the Australian Government has nominated Dr Gurry for a second term as WIPO Director General.

Dr Gurry has an excellent record in leading WIPO; implementing important institutional reforms; improving the delivery of WIPO's global systems, and; getting its normative agenda back on track.

Australia would welcome favourable consideration of his candidacy by Member States.

In 2012 WIPO delivered the Beijing Treaty. And this year WIPO delivered the Marrakesh Treaty. Both show that, with the commitment of Member States, and a strong well-functioning organisation, the multilateral system can provide important solutions at the international level.

Australia welcomes the significant improvements to internal capacity and capability within WIPO. Ongoing reform and steady improvements in governance are now starting to bear welcome fruit. The Strategic Realignment Program has brought focus to the organisation's culture and values, and has significantly improved both efficiency and alignment of structure.

On the normative agenda for IP we look forward to further progress on designs law, greater protection for broadcasting organisations and the IGC.

We have also seen important developments in ICT infrastructure, for the benefit of users of the system, and IP Offices around the world. WIPO-CASE is just one example.

We welcome the continued growth in WIPO's international registration systems despite a continuing fragile global economy. We were very pleased to see that WIPO achieved a positive overall budget result of 15.7 million Swiss francs.

We also recognize the ongoing importance of assistance to developing countries and LDC's. Particularly through National IP strategies, that are country-driven and which foster innovation and creativity.

Over the past year the Australian Government, WIPO and recipient member states have been working together to deliver practical outcomes through Australia's Funds in Trust (FIT). We have been pleased to support initiatives such as "WIPO Re:Search", which facilitates collaborative research on neglected tropical diseases.

Australia, with support from ASEAN and WIPO, has also been working with colleagues in the Asia-Pacific and in Africa, on the pilot program for regional patent examination training.

On the domestic front, the IP Laws Amendment (Raising the Bar) Act 2012, which came into effect on 15 April, was Australia's biggest intellectual property (IP) system overhaul in twenty years.

Australia looks forward to further significant outcomes in WIPO over the next year.