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Statement of Mr. Narendra Sabharwal in WIPO General Assemblies

On behalf of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

^{Mr}
~~Madam~~ President, ^{and} Director General, Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of Federation of Indian Chambers of commerce and industry,
I would like to congratulate ^{the} ~~you~~ ^{the} ~~Madam President~~ ^{and the two vice Presidents} ~~on your election as~~ ^{Chair} ~~the President of GAS of WIPO.~~ ^{of their} ^{General Assemblies}

I would like to complement Director General Gurry on his effective leadership of the Organization and congratulate him and his colleagues on the excellent results achieved during the preceding year.

~~We would like to associate ourselves with the~~
~~Madam President~~

FICCI has developed a longstanding and mutually beneficial partnership with WIPO, Government of India and the ~~and~~ user community for developing an effective, balanced and business friendly IP system in India and enhancing strategic use of IP for the creation and commercialization of IP assets. We value our partnership with WIPO

and would like this cooperation to strengthen and widen in the future. ^{In their} ~~context~~ ^{FICCI} ~~we would like to associate ourselves with the~~ ^{statement made}

While we have interest in all programs of WIPO, we would like to ^{by the} ~~highlight~~ ^{leader of the} ~~five concrete areas for advancing WIPO-FICCI collaboration~~ ^{Indian} ~~further.~~ ^{delegation}

Firstly, strategic development, management and utilization of IP at the national, enterprise and institutional levels is important for leveraging the full potential of IP for economic development and competitiveness. FICCI works very closely in the area of policy and strategy development with the government and other stakeholders. FICCI has been organizing various programs focusing on IP policy and operational ~~and~~ issues in cooperation with WIPO. Recently, FICCI in partnership with WIPO and government organized a series of roving seminars on the implementation of Madrid Protocol. FICCI stands ready to further collaborate in the area of policy and strategy formulation ^{as well as global protection systems} for harnessing the full potential of IP ^{and global services} for national and enterprise development.

Secondly, promotion of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship is an important focus of FICCI's policies and programs aimed at augmenting the generation, protection and commercialization of IP assets. Among the many initiatives in this area, FICCI has developed a proposal for establishing an IP Exchange for facilitating commercialization of IP assets and technology transfer.

Thirdly, FICCI would like to enhance its cooperation with WIPO in the area of capacity building and technical assistance, particularly for the corporate sector including MSMEs. FICCI runs a Facilitation Center for providing advice and assistance to SMEs on IP awareness and IP development, and would like to augment SME related activities with the help of WIPO.

Fourthly, HRD, teaching and training of IP for enterprises, academia, R&D institutions and IP professionals is a significant area of attention. FICCI runs an Education Center on IP and has developed important links with government and private sector ^{institutions} aimed at developing IP literacy and skills. A recent tie up with George Washington University ^{will result in} ~~is to~~ offer ^{my} an on line course on Patent Law. FICCI would like to explore partnership with WIPO Academy in the area of IP teaching and training.

Last but not least, FICCI works very actively with the government, judiciary, law enforcement agencies and industry for making the enforcement of IP rights more effective. In addition to a number of programs aimed at combating counterfeiting and piracy, FICCI is also developing ~~a~~ Business Confidence Report on IP and a report on anti-piracy on software. FICCI would like to explore possibilities of WIPO's advice and assistance in the area of creating respect for IP and raising awareness about the importance of IP enforcement.

In conclusion, ^{Chairman} ~~Madam President~~, FICCI as the oldest and largest association representing industry and business in India is willing and ready to strengthen its partnership with WIPO in all relevant and mutually beneficial areas of IP.

Thank you.