

GA 54 – Group B opening statement (Agenda 5) – Version as delivered

1. Honorable Chair, Excellences and distinguished delegates, It's my great honor to deliver the statement on behalf of Group B at the first General Assembly at this new beautiful conference hall.

2. Madam. Chair, Group B would like to congratulate your continuous dedication as the chair of the General Assembly. Our congratulation also goes to vice-chairs. Our group is confident that under your leadership, we will be able to reach a positive outcome during this session. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director General and WIPO colleagues for their hard work over this year including the preparation for this General Assembly.

3. The organization has made significant progress in various fields in recent years. With respect to global IP services as core part of the mandate of this organization and fundamental source of revenue, the number of applications has steadily grown and the membership has been expanded even in such a fragile economic situation. We can say that this is a result of tireless efforts by WIPO responding to evolving demands of users of the systems. WIPO has also achieved a good progress in the field of global IP infrastructure as the essential foundation for IP information sharing and dissemination. With respect to development, Development Agenda Recommendations have been implemented successfully and development considerations have formed an integral part of WIPO's work. If we bring our attention to the institutional aspects, WIPO has improved its governance through Result based Management and Strategic Realignment Program.

4. In order to realize further achievements in a right direction built upon this foundation, Member states shall continue to keep in mind two overarching principles and always have to consider the consistency of WIPO's work with those principles. The first one is the objective of this organization prescribed by Article 3 of WIPO convention. This Organization is created to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among States. The second one is that this organization is financially supported mostly by the users of global IP services and, therefore, continuous efforts to ensure WIPO will be the choice for users as a premier service provider are essential. The unique and significant nature of this organization among UN families shall always give context to consideration of WIPO's work. Group B expects that WIPO will continue to evolve in line with those overarching principles under the leadership of Director General Dr. Francis Gurry and strongly expects that the new senior management team to be approved by the Coordination Committee will contribute to that effort.

5. Turning our eyes to agenda of this session of General Assembly in front of us, we have many issues to be tackled. Our group strongly believes that we have to deal with those issues in an efficient and effective manner bearing in mind that unsettled issues at committee level should not be brought to General Assembly in a manner which overloads

the General Assembly and each committee should fulfil its responsibility to make concrete recommendation to the General Assembly.

6. With respect to normative agenda, we look forward to the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of Design Law Treaty. The decision should be done solely based on the substance and other consideration should not continue to delay users from benefiting from simplification of the formalities under the industrial design system.

7. With regard to the Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic resources, Traditional knowledge and Folklore, Group B believes that the possible future work plan have to be reasonable and balanced, reflecting the wide divergences of views, and overall WIPO priorities and its workload. Additionally, it is important that transparency should be respected all through the coming process.

8. WIPO external office is also one of the important issues for our group. We believe that a coherent network of External Offices (EOs) has an important role to play in raising awareness of and providing support to WIPO's global IP services. However, this can only be achieved through a small, strategically-located network with a limited number of EOs. MS now have to agree to a robust set of guiding principles which set clearly defined rules on the establishment of EOs and the roles & functions of existing and future EOs.

9. Additionally, our group thanks the cooperation of IAOC, IAOD and External auditor on audit activities, whose reports are presented to the General Assembly. A well-functioning audit mechanism is critical for healthy operation of the organization. We expect their further contribution to that effect within their mandate.

10. Last but not least, Group B expects that the deliberation under agenda items relating to Global IP services would be done in a manner which improves those systems and responds evolving demands from users.

11. Finally, Madam Chair, please stand assured that you can count on the constructive spirit and support of the delegations of Group B during these Assemblies.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

(End)