

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF LAO PDR DELEGATION**  
**Mr. MAKHA CHANTHALA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF**  
**THE DEPARTMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, MINISTRY**  
**OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT 54 th WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**22 -30 September 2014, in GENEVA**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Paivi Kairamo, Chair of the WIPO Assembly,

Honorable Ministers,

You're Excellencies the Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors

Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO,

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me first congratulate you Madam Chair on your election as the Chair of the Fifty-fourth General Assembly of WIPO. I would like also to warmly congratulate Mr. Francis Gurry on his reappointment for second term as WIPO Director General, Madam Chair on your election as the Chair of the Fifty-first General Assembly of WIPO.

Madam Chair,

I assure you of our full support in the successful conclusion of the meeting. I would like also to express our sincere thanks to the Director General and his able staff for all the arrangements made for the efficient conduct of the meetings of the assemblies of the member states.

I welcome and appreciate the comprehensive report by the Director General on Developments Agenda since the last General Assembly. We welcome his vision to address main challenges that we confront in the field of Intellectual Property and the enormous efforts done by WIPO in putting in place in encouraging innovation and creativity in all region in the world.

Let me associate myself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of Asia and the Pacific countries, the Delegation of Benin on behalf of LDCs and the delegation of Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

Madam Chair,

This century has been held as that of knowledge based economy, developing countries require a good knowledge of intellectual property system to ensure that they draw maximum benefit from their own innovative and creative capacity. As a Least Developed Country, we rely on WIPO's guidance and expert assistance in the promotion of intellectual property in Lao PDR.

My Government recognizes the importance and need for the protection of Intellectual Property, the promotion of local innovative and creative activities, as well as facilitating the acquisition and exploitation of IP for economic development. The Lao Government is planning to formulate and develop a National Intellectual Property Strategy in order to integrating IP and Innovation strategies into our National Development Policy, Lao PDR are also planning to accede to the Madrid Protocol by 2015.

Madam Chair,

Lao PDR is appreciative of WIPO's contributions to capacity and infrastructure building in the country. In the past 12 months with the assistant of WIPO the Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Science and Technology of Lao PDR has conducted some activities such as development an effective road map for the establishment of a collective management system for copyrights and related rights, translation of WIPO publications into Lao language, organization of back to back seminars, the first one was on the Role of Intellectual Property in Economic Development and the second one was on the Formulation and Implementation of National Intellectual Property Strategies. WIPO experts have also contributed to the Lao PDR's preparation for the accession to the Madrid Protocol concerning the International Registration of Marks.

Madam Chair,

On behalf of my Delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to WIPO for the technical assistance rendered to Lao PDR in term of legislative orientation, human resource development, infrastructure improvement and others.

Thank you Madam Chair.