

**The 58<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of  
WIPO**

**Address by Ambassador Nassima Baghli, Permanent  
Representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the  
United Nations Office in Geneva**

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director General,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, my delegation joins others in expressing our condolences to the people and the Government of Vietnam on the passing away of the President of Vietnam, Mr. Tran Dai Quang.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Director General of WIPO for presenting his annual report and to the Secretariat for preparing the documents for these Assemblies.

Mr. Chairman,

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. From the very beginning, the Organization has endeavoured to strengthen cooperation between its member states in the economic, social, cultural and scientific fields and to encourage the promotion of science, technology and innovation for the betterment of all their peoples.

The OIC Charter accords priority attention to the crucial role of education, science, technology and innovation in addressing the global challenges of poverty, disease, food and water security as well as the contemporary issues like the environmental degradation and climate change.

The growing importance of intellectual property services within both the public and private sectors in OIC Member States is widely recognized as a driving factor for the development of their national economies. This is why the OIC-2025 Programme of Action highlights the importance of intellectual property rights, especially patents, as key factors contributing to advances in innovation and technological, economic and scientific development of its member countries.

The Programme of Action further encourages the OIC member countries to advance the development and utilization of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, progress and prosperity of their populations. The Member States are called upon to encourage research, technological capabilities in all sectors, innovation and domestic technology development by ensuring a conducive policy environment in line with the decisions of the relevant OIC organs and fora, including the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the OIC Vision 1441H for Science and Technology.

The Forty Fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in May 2018, reaffirmed the leading role of the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in complementing the efforts of the Member States in the development of science, innovation and technologies and promoting research and joint programs in these fields.

In this context, the OIC, in partnership with the Royal Society of the United Kingdom and other international partners, has implemented the Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation project. The objective of this initiative has been to map key trends and trajectories in science and technology-based innovation in selected OIC Member States and thus facilitate formulation of Science, Technology and Innovation policy in these countries.

In line with the provisions of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology was organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2017. The Astana Summit adopted the OIC Science, Technology and Innovation Agenda 2026, which will contribute to scientific development and strengthening innovation capabilities of the OIC countries.

The Astana Declaration acknowledged the need to increase the investment in science, technology and innovation and reaffirmed that the transfer of science and technology is one of the principal ways of accelerating the economic development of developing countries.

As an outcome of the Astana Summit, the Islamic Development Bank launched the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund, which will significantly contribute to the implementation of the OIC Agenda 2026 for Science, Technology and Innovation as well as address the development needs of the OIC member states.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC has been following with great interest the work of WIPO's different committees and working groups. Through the regular UN-OIC cooperation, the OIC subsidiary and specialized institutions, in collaboration with WIPO, have implemented a number of important projects and initiatives.

The OIC recognizes WIPO's vital role in promoting innovation and creativity and providing tailored programs for strengthening the capacity of developed and developing countries to use intellectual property for furthering their socio-economic and cultural objectives. In this respect, the OIC is devoted to reinforcing its cooperation activities with WIPO for the socio-economic development of their common Member States.

I thank you.