

**58th SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES
OF WIPO**

September 24 to October 2, 2018

AGENDA ITEM 21

REPORT ON THE PCT WORKING GROUP

Chairperson,

Uganda would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the DG and his staff for the robust performance of the PCT system.

For the system to remain robust, continuous improvement should take place to correspond to new challenges and to the changing needs of users. At the same time, it should be conducive and inclusive to innovation; and ensure accessibility to any interested user, especially those with limited financial resources.

In line with this, Uganda is particularly impressed with the ongoing discussions on fee reduction for certain applicants from certain countries, notably developing and least developed countries. We strongly believe that fee reduction for applicants in Universities in Uganda, and I believe in many developing and least developed countries; can go a long way in increasing the use of this system. The reduction can greatly contribute to the university driven innovation in Uganda. We believe that the fee reduction can be compensated by the increase in the number of applications.

Chairperson,

Regarding the future developments of the PCT system, Uganda has been and shall remain open to legal developments necessary to support the implementation of technical assistance-related recommendations of the PCT Roadmap and the WIPO Development Agenda to eliminate differences in search and examination. On a case by-case basis and in line with our Industrial Property Act, 2014 Uganda is currently using search results from other offices.

Uganda is interested in receiving technical support on systems to assist national phase entry, and PCT online services to strengthen our role as a receiving office.

We reiterate our commitment to the continuous development and utilization of the PCT system.

Thank you Chair.