



A/59/14
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2019

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings
Geneva, September 30 to October 9, 2019

GENERAL REPORT

adopted by the Assemblies

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION.....	1 to 5
ITEMS OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA	
OPENING OF THE SESSIONS	
Item 1: OPENING OF THE SESSIONS	6 to 7
Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	8 to 9
Item 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS	10 to 29
Item 4: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO	30 to 31
Item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS	32 to 33

GOVERNING BODIES AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Item 6:	ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS	34 to 37
Item 7:	APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS	38
Item 8:	APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 2020.....	39 to 42
Item 9:	COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS	43 to 100
Item 10:	COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE	101

PROGRAM, BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS

Item 11:	REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT	102 to 111
Item 12:	OPENING OF NEW WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICES	112
Item 13:	REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE	113 to 155
Item 14:	RECORDS OF WIPO MEETINGS	156 to 174

WIPO COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

Item 15:	REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)	175
Item 16:	REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)	176
Item 17:	REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT).....	177
Item 18:	MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)	178
Item 19:	REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS	179
Item 20:	REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)	180
Item 21:	REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)	181
Item 22:	REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE).....	182

GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES

Item 23:	PCT SYSTEM.....	183
Item 24:	MADRID SYSTEM.....	184
Item 25:	LISBON SYSTEM.....	185
Item 26:	WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES	186

OTHER ASSEMBLIES AND TREATIES

Item 27:	PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)	187
Item 28:	SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)	188
Item 29:	MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED (MVT)	189

STAFF MATTERS

Item 30:	REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS	190
Item 31:	AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES	191

CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

Item 32:	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	192 to 193
Item 33:	CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS.....	194 to 205

INTRODUCTION

1. This draft General Report records the deliberations and decisions of the following 21 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO (the “Assemblies”):

- (1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-first (24th ordinary) session
- (2) WIPO Conference, fortieth (24th ordinary) session
- (3) WIPO Coordination Committee, seventy-sixth (50th ordinary) session
- (4) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-fourth (24th ordinary) session
- (5) Paris Union Executive Committee, fifty-ninth (55th ordinary) session
- (6) Berne Union Assembly, forty-eighth (24th ordinary) session
- (7) Berne Union Executive Committee, sixty-fifth (50th ordinary) session
- (8) Madrid Union Assembly, fifty-third (23rd ordinary) session
- (9) Hague Union Assembly, thirty-ninth (22nd ordinary) session
- (10) Nice Union Assembly, thirty-ninth (24th ordinary) session
- (11) Lisbon Union Assembly, thirty-sixth (23rd ordinary) session
- (12) Locarno Union Assembly, thirty-ninth (23rd ordinary) session
- (13) IPC [International Patent Classification] Union Assembly, fortieth (22nd ordinary) session
- (14) PCT [Patent Cooperation Treaty] Union Assembly, fifty-first (22nd ordinary) session
- (15) Budapest Union Assembly, thirty-sixth (20th ordinary) session
- (16) Vienna Union Assembly, thirty-second (20th ordinary) session
- (17) WCT [WIPO Copyright Treaty] Assembly, nineteenth (9th ordinary) session
- (18) WPPT [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty] Assembly, nineteenth (9th ordinary) session
- (19) PLT [Patent Law Treaty] Assembly, eighteenth (8th ordinary) session
- (20) Singapore Treaty [Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks] Assembly, twelfth (6th ordinary) session
- (21) Marrakesh Treaty [Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled] Assembly, fourth (4th ordinary) session.

meeting in Geneva from September 30 to October 9, 2019, where the deliberations took place, and decisions were made in joint meetings of two or more of the said Assemblies and other bodies convened (hereinafter referred to as “the joint meeting(s)” and “the Assemblies of the Member States,” respectively).

2. In addition to this General Report, separate Reports have been drawn up on the sessions of the WIPO General Assembly (WO/GA/51/18), WIPO Coordination Committee (WO/CC/76/4), PCT Union Assembly (PCT/A/51/4), Madrid Union Assembly (MM/A/53/3), Lisbon Union Assembly (LI/A/36/2), Singapore Treaty Assembly (STLT/A/12/2) and the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (MVT/A/4/2). Furthermore, consolidated reports of the sessions of the other bodies have also been drawn up, as follows: WIPO Conference (WO/CF/40/1), Paris Union Assembly (P/A/54/1), Paris Union Executive Committee (P/EC/59/1), Berne Union Assembly (B/A/48/1), Berne Union Executive Committee (B/EC/65/1), Hague Union Assembly (H/A/39/1), Nice Union Assembly (N/A/39/1), Locarno Union Assembly (LO/A/39/1), IPC Union Assembly (IPC/A/40/1), Budapest Union Assembly (BP/A/36/1), Vienna Union Assembly (VA/A/32/1), WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly (WCT/A/19/1), WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty Assembly (WPPT/A/19/1), Patent Law Treaty Assembly (PLT/A/18/1).

3. The list of the members and observers of the Assemblies, as of October 9, 2019, is set forth in document A/59/INF/1 Rev.

4. The meetings dealing with the following items of the Agenda (document A/59/1) were presided over by the following Chairs:

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 32 and 33	Ambassador Duong Chi Dung (Mr.) (Viet Nam), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly
Items 7, 30 and 31	Ambassador François Rivasseau (Mr.) (France), Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee
Item 9	Vivienne Katjuongua (Ms.) (Namibia), Chair of the WIPO Conference
Item 23	Sandris Laganovskis (Mr.) (Latvia), Chair of the PCT Union Assembly
Item 24	Denis Bohoussou (Mr.) (African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)), Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly
Item 25	Reza Dehghani (Mr.) (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly
Item 28	Ray Meloni García (Mr.) (Peru), Chair of the Singapore Treaty Assembly
Item 29	Santiago Cevallos (Mr.) (Ecuador), Chair of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly

5. The agenda, as adopted, and the list of participants appear in documents A/59/1 and A/59/INF/7, respectively.

ITEM 1 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

6. The Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry (hereinafter referred to as “the Director General”).

7. The sessions were opened in a joint meeting of all the 21 Assemblies and other bodies concerned by Ambassador Duong Chi Dung (Mr.) (Viet Nam), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. Discussions were based on document A/59/1 Prov.3.

9. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, adopted the agenda as proposed in document A/59/1 Prov.3 (referred to in this document and in the documents listed in paragraph 2 above as “the Consolidated Agenda”).

ITEM 3 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

10. Discussions were based on document A/59/INF/1 Rev.

11. The Legal Counsel recalled that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO had to elect officers, that is, one Chair and two Vice-Chairs for each of the 21 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions. He stated that, pending further consultations among Group Coordinators, it was proposed to elect, at the time, officers for those positions on which consensus had been reached. He then announced that agreement had been reached on the election of the officers for the WIPO Coordination Committee and read out the names of those who were proposed to be elected to those positions. The Legal Counsel recalled that the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee would serve a one-year term that would start upon their election. As there were still vacant positions, the Legal Counsel invited the delegations to continue consultations on additional nominations and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.

12. Commenting on the agenda item, the Chair stated that as indicated by the Legal Counsel, there was consensus among the Group Coordinators to elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee pending more nominations and consultations required to fill the remaining vacant positions.

13. As there was no objection, the Chair gavelled the elected officers and announced that the meeting would revert to the agenda item at a later stage.

14. Reverting to the agenda item on the third day of the Assemblies, the Chair invited the Legal Counsel to provide the meeting with an update on the nominations for the remaining vacant positions of officers.

15. Announcing that the Member States had reached consensus on additional nominations, the Legal Counsel read out the names of those nominees and the bodies for which they had been nominated. As there were still vacant positions, he reiterated his call to Member States to continue consultations on additional nominations and to inform the Secretariat of the outcome accordingly.

16. The Chair proposed that the Assemblies endorse the nominations read out by the Legal Counsel and on which consensus had already been reached. He announced that the meeting would revert to the agenda item later in the week to conclude the elections for the outstanding positions. In the meantime, the Chair encouraged delegations to submit the remaining nominations and to inform the Secretariat accordingly. He also encouraged Member States to nominate more female candidates for the remaining positions of the officers and went on to gavel the decision.

17. Reverting to the agenda item on the following day, the Legal Counsel announced that the Secretariat had been informed that Member States had reached consensus in respect of some of the vacant posts and went on to read out those positions for which nominations had been made. He, once again, recalled that there were still vacant positions and reiterated the invitation to delegations to continue consultations and inform the Secretariat of the outcome thereof accordingly.

18. The Chair thanked the Legal Counsel for the information and said that at this stage, he wished to propose that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO endorse the nominations read out by the Legal Counsel on which consensus had already been reached and, with that,

they would revert to the agenda item later in the week to conclude the elections of the outstanding positions of officers.

19. The Delegation of Canada, speaking on behalf of Group B requested to return to the matter of the election of officers the next morning so that Group B could review the list of nominees that had been read out by the Legal Counsel.

20. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its support for the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B to leave the agenda item open until the following morning so that they could better understand and evaluate the proposed nominations for three Vice-Chair positions.

21. The Chair took note of the requests by the two delegations and proposed to leave the agenda item open and revert to it the following day.

22. Reopening the agenda item, the Chair invited the Legal Counsel to provide the Member States with an update on the nominations for the remaining vacant positions of officers.

23. The Legal Counsel announced that the Secretariat had been informed that Member States had reached consensus in respect of some of the remaining vacant positions which he read out. He reiterated that as there were still vacant positions he wished to invite delegations to continue their consultations on additional nominations and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.

24. The Chair proposed that Member States endorse the nominations mentioned by the Legal Counsel on which consensus had been reached. He announced that they would revert to the agenda item at a later stage to conclude the elections for the outstanding positions of officers. Seeing no objection, he gavelled the decision.

25. Reopening the agenda item during the last session of the meetings, the Legal Counsel read out the names nominated for the remaining vacant positions.

26. The Chair proposed to endorse the remaining nominations made by Member States as read out by the Legal Counsel, which was so agreed.

27. The Delegation of the United States of America took the floor to state its opposition to the election of a representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the position of Vice-Chair of the General Assembly specifically, and raised its concern with Iranian officials in leadership roles in international organizations, generally. The Delegation noted its concern that representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of) hold positions of influence. It noted further that some countries appeared to have had an excessive number of opportunities to serve on the Organization's governing bodies, including the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee.

28. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) took the floor to express surprise at the statement just made by the Delegation of the United States of America. It recalled that its country was a full member of WIPO and had the full sovereign right to put forward a nomination for any post that it deemed necessary for it and for its regional group. For all the positions for which its Delegation was nominated, it had the support of its regional group. The Delegation rejected what had been said by the Delegation of the United States of America and noted that it refused to dive into political issues and cautioned against politicization at WIPO, in which it and other delegations should be committed to the technical sphere.

29. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as appears in document A/59/INF/2.

ITEM 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO

30. The Address of the Director General is recorded as follows:

“Your Excellency Ambassador Duong Chi Dung, Chair, WIPO General Assembly, Honorable Ministers, Your Excellencies the Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

“It is a great pleasure for me to join the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly in extending a warm welcome to all delegations to the 2019 Assemblies. I thank all delegations for their presence and for their continuing engagement in, and support for, the Organization. We have a very full agenda for the meeting, both the formal agenda and the professional and social events that Member States and other interested parties have kindly undertaken to organize on the margins of the formal meeting.

“Please allow me to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Dung for his dedication and hard work over the past two years and for his efforts to shepherd a number of items that are on our agenda towards a successful resolution.

“Equally, I should like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, Ambassador Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the many chairs of the Organization’s other bodies, committees and working groups for their tremendous efforts and dedication in taking the work of the Organization forward.

“It is a pleasure for me to report very briefly on the state of intellectual property worldwide and on the Organization’s work in that context in the course of the past twelve months.

“Worldwide, as we can observe, there has never before been such interest in, and attention to, intellectual property (IP). This has not been a sudden development, but one that has unfolded at an increasing rhythm over the past years and, in particular, the past decade as a consequence of profound and rapidly developing technological changes that have given greater importance to intangible assets and intellectual capital in the economy.

“The increased prominence of IP has brought with it new challenges for both IP and the Organization. One of those challenges, which affects all national and regional IP Offices, as well as WIPO, is the management of the growing demand for IP titles in a way that ensures the timely and high-quality administration of IP applications. In 2017, there were 3.2 million patent applications filed worldwide, 12.4 million trademark applications and 1.2 million design applications. The number of those national and regional applications translated into international applications through the Global IP Systems administered by WIPO is likewise increasing rapidly, as I shall mention below. It is clear that these volumes of applications cannot be managed without the aid of new tools. Here, artificial intelligence (AI) is coming to our rescue. The Organization has been at the forefront of the development and deployment of new AI applications for this purpose through its Advanced Technologies Application Center (ATAC). These applications include WIPO Translate, which is licensed free-of-charge to 11 UN and international entities and made available to Member States; a world-first brand image search system; and classification tools. Other applications are under development. We have also developed a new and improved system for the management of records of meetings that features on the agenda of these Assemblies. It will deliver improved service at a considerably lower cost and widespread interest in its adoption has already been expressed by a wide range of other

UN and international entities. All these applications are, or will be, shared with Member States. I hope that, as an international community, we can work together in the development and deployment of these useful applications without duplicating each other's work.

"The increasingly important position of IP has also resulted in new challenges for the substance of IP policy. New technologies, such as AI, are raising new questions about the application of existing IP policy, as well as the major question of whether the classical system of IP needs adjustment to cover perceived gaps in order to ensure that the IP system continues to serve the innovation ecosystem effectively. I am delighted that, in this respect, the Organization has commenced a conversation on AI and has started the process of developing a list of questions that may need to be addressed.

"The conversation on AI is occurring at a time when the multilateral system is under a large number of pressures that are impairing its capacity to produce timely results in the normative area, not the least of which is the faltering political will to adopt a multilateral approach and to develop multilateral solutions. It is important to remember the consequences of failure or, even, of neglect of the multilateral approach. They include incoherence in the regulatory framework that applies to technologies that are, by their very nature, internationally deployed through the Internet and other networks, whose power and application are about to increase significantly with the deployment of 5G. Ultimately, a race to develop the global rule or solution through national or regional regulatory competition, as opposed to a multilateral approach, will erode the value of the technologies themselves and their useful economic and social deployment. Technical interoperability depends on regulatory interoperability.

"Let me turn now to a brief mention of some of the results of the Organization over the past year. Here, we see that the Organization has benefitted in a number of ways from the new prominence of IP.

"The financial situation of the Organization, driven by the market use of our Global IP Systems, is sound and stable. We ended 2018 with a surplus of CHF 42.5 million. At this stage of the year, we expect that 2019 will also result in a healthy surplus. These surpluses are very important for financing needed capital expenditure through the Capital Master Plan approved by the Member States, for funding the long-term liabilities of the Organization, such as after-service health insurance, and for the maintenance of an appropriate level of liquid reserves to provide assurance against sudden and unforeseen market downturns, always, regrettably, a possibility in today's volatile world.

"Our Global IP Systems continue to develop in a very positive manner. The systems are used by all the major corporations in the world, as well as by universities and research institutions and small and medium enterprises. The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) received 253,000 international patent applications in 2018, a growth rate of 3.9% over the preceding year. The Madrid System received 61,200 international trademark applications, a growth rate of 6.4% over 2017. And the Hague System received 5,429 international applications, a growth rate of 3.3% over the previous year. Each system continues to expand its geographical coverage through new accessions. Of particular note were five new accessions to the Madrid System, from Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, Malawi and Samoa. Brazil's accession means that the two largest economies in Latin America now belong to the Madrid System, raising the hope that other countries from the Latin American region, which has trailed in its participation in the system, will follow suit.

"The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center has likewise experienced very significant growth. The number of Internet domain name cases received by the Center rose to 3,447 in 2018, an increase of 12% over the preceding year. The Center now also receives

regularly a very solid caseload for general IP arbitrations, mediations and expert determinations and cooperates with over 20 IP and Copyright Offices around the world in the administration of arbitration and mediation for disputes concerning IP applications and titles.

“Two important new developments are underway at the Center. The first is the accreditation of the Center by the Cyberspace Administration of China as a service provider for Internet domain name disputes in .CN and .中国 (China), one of the largest country domains in the world. The addition of .CN and .中国 (China) to the Center’s portfolio means that the Center now administers disputes for over 75 country domains (ccTLDs). The second development is the positive encouragement for the Center to become a dispute-resolution provider in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, which hosts more than 10,000 foreign-invested enterprises. The Center would be the first non-Chinese entity providing alternative dispute resolution services for the Zone. Both of these developments will provide foreign enterprises participating in the Chinese market with an additional choice of an independent and neutral service for dispute resolution. I should like to express our deep appreciation to the relevant Chinese authorities for their expression of confidence in the Center and for their commitment to international cooperation.

“We have also launched a new Global IP Portal that seeks to integrate the different IT systems that underlie the various Global IP Services offered by the Organization. It has been developed in recognition of the fact that many users of WIPO’s Global IP Services use more than one of those services. It seeks to provide a more uniform customer experience that presents the full range of services offered by the Organization in a single interface, with a unified navigation bar, standard features across all applications, a modernized look-and-feel, streamlined payment systems and a single messaging system.

“The past year has also been a record year for accessions to WIPO-administered treaties, with 59 new accessions received in 2018. This is another positive sign for multilateralism. We are expecting a number of other important accessions to be made this week. I am also very pleased to report that we are getting very close to the numbers of accessions required to bring into force the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications and the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances. We hope that both of these instruments will reach the required numbers before the end of 2019.

“There have been many other positive developments in the Organization. Details of these are set out in my Report. Here, I shall only mention a select few and then only very briefly.

“The databases and IT platforms, systems and services of the Organization continue to gather strength and to attract widening participation among the Member States and the interested public. They have become also the basis of extremely important technical assistance. Our IT system for IP administration (IPAS) is now used in 84 countries. Over 750 Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) have been established in 79 countries. Free or low-cost access to scientific, medical and technical publications is offered to thousands of users in developing and least developed countries, thanks to the cooperation of scientific, medical and technical publishers and commercial database services. The WIPO Academy is thriving and engaged over 90,000 participants in our distance-learning programs. Our public-private partnerships, particularly WIPO Re:Search and the Accessible Books Consortium, continue to grow. The ABC Consortium, for example, has a repertoire of over 500,000 works in 76 languages in accessible formats available for international exchange for the benefit of blind, visually impaired and print-disabled persons. An important new database for cooperation in the

enforcement of IP is getting underway and will be showcased in a side event this week. Our flagship reports in economics, statistics and technology trends, including the Global Innovation Index, attract global audiences. A number of successful projects for appropriate technology have been undertaken for least developed countries. And the WIPO Judicial Institute has struck a timely note in fostering the exchange of experience and capacity building, with a very active participation from judiciaries worldwide.

“All these programs are examples of the mainstreaming of development in the Organization and of active support for the Sustainable Development Goals in numerous ways.

“Turning to the agenda for the Assemblies this week, please allow me to mention four specific items. The first is the draft Program and Budget. I am grateful to the Program and Budget Committee for its positive recommendations for approval. Only one item, the allocation of common expenses among the Unions, remains outstanding. Two proposals for the resolution of that item are on the table. The amount of money in question is trivial. I urge the Member States to find a pragmatic solution for this long-standing difference and to approve the draft Program and Budget so as to ensure stability in a period of transition for the Organization.

“The second item is the proposed Design Law Treaty. I see no reason why it should not be submitted to a diplomatic conference for the conclusion of the treaty. The continued delay in completing this exercise is an unwanted sign of the lack of capacity of the Organization to move forward on the normative agenda at a time when the development of technology is calling for a demonstration of that capacity, as I mentioned above.

“The third item is our proposal, to which I referred above, to adopt a new, improved and less costly system for the management of the records of meetings. In our consultations, the proposal has been very favorably received and I urge the Member States to move to adoption as a demonstration of the capacity of the Organization to continue to innovate in the true sense of the word.

“The final item is the proposed introduction of a new service for digital time stamping. I thank the Member States for their positive response in the Program and Budget Committee. The introduction of the service will be a small step towards providing IP services that are appropriate for the digital age.

“I should like to thank the staff of the Organization for its dedicated professionalism. Productivity continues to improve and increases in costs continue to be contained. Overall, the Organization is well down the track in its digital transformation, both in terms of our working and management systems, and in terms of the services provided to the public. We have asked a lot from the staff in the process of digital transformation and they have responded extremely well. I am deeply appreciative of their positive attitude to the rather constant change that the contemporary world demands.

“Geographical and gender diversity remain priorities. We have improved in geographical diversity, which is a long process, given the low rate of attrition of staff. One hundred and twenty-three (123) nationalities are now represented on the staff. We need to make further progress on gender diversity in the upper ranks of the Organization and our eye is firmly focused on achieving this.

“I thank once again all the Member States for their very positive engagement in, and support for, the Organization and I wish you all successful deliberations and positive outcomes of those deliberations.”

31. The [Report](#) of the Director General is available on the WIPO website.

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

32. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 123 States, four intergovernmental organizations and seven non-governmental organizations provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia (the), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), South Centre (CS), All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), European Public Law Organization (EPLO), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) and Third World Network (TWN).

33. The Statements on this agenda item are included in the Annex.

ITEM 6 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

34. Discussions were based on document A/59/3 Rev.

35. Introducing the Agenda item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/59/3 Rev., and recalled that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO were invited to consider applications by three international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and six national NGOs as listed in paragraph 4 of the said document for observer status in the meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO.

36. The Legal Counsel pointed out that, in respect of the six NGOs, and in conformity with the principles applicable to national NGOs that had been adopted by Member States, the Secretariat had consulted with the Member States from which the NGOs originated prior to the submission of the requests to these Assemblies. In that regard, the Legal Counsel confirmed that the necessary agreement had been received in respect of all of the six applications concerned.

37. The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following:

(a) International non-governmental organizations: (i) Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN); (ii) International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA); and (iii) Knowmad Institute;

(b) National non-governmental organizations: (i) Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society Ltd (ALCS); (ii) Brand Protection Group – Lebanon (BPG); (iii) Friends of the Creator Artistic Foundation (FCF); (iv) Myanmar Intellectual Property Proprietors' Association (MIPPA); (v) Native American Rights Fund (NARF); and (vi) Professional Union of Broadcasting Organizations (RATEM).

ITEM 7 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

38. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/76/4).

ITEM 8 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 2020

39. Discussions were based on document A/59/4.

40. Introducing Agenda Item 8 on the appointment of the Director General in 2020, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/59/4. He recalled that the term of office of the Director General would expire on September 30, 2020. He noted that the working document recapitulated the constitutional provisions concerning the nomination and appointment of Directors General of WIPO, and the procedures for the nomination and appointment of Directors General of WIPO adopted by the WIPO General Assembly in 1998. With respect to the 1998 procedures, the Legal Counsel noted that the prescribed timetable of procedural steps and proposed the adoption of two amendments necessary to ensure that such procedures continued to provide sufficient flexibility and durability in their application to future elections of Directors General. The first amendment concerned the timing for the convocation of the extraordinary session of the WIPO General Assembly. The second amendment pertained to the timing of the convocation of the extraordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee. Subject to their approval by the WIPO General Assembly and the WIPO Coordination Committee, the Legal Counsel noted that the proposed new 2019 procedures would govern the remainder of the process regarding the nomination and appointment of the Director General in 2020 and future elections. In addition, due to a particular feature of the timetable as applied to the current election process, the present document also proposed a one-time derogation from the 1998 procedures. The one-time derogation concerned the minimum time allowed between the dispatch of the circular inviting proposals for candidates for the position of Director General and the extraordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee that will nominate the candidate for appointment to the post of Director General. The Legal Counsel recalled that, currently, the minimum time interval allowed was six months. As a general matter, a six-month period remained reasonable and sound and, therefore, no permanent amendments were proposed to this particular provision. However, in order to implement the current timeline with regard to the newly proposed procedures, it was proposed to make a one-time derogation from the procedures for the minimal time period allowed, that is, five months instead of the required six. He recalled that the rationale and background information was provided in the relevant working document. The document concludes by setting forth the timeline for the implementation of the procedural steps which includes: December 30th, 2019, the deadline for submission of candidatures; March 5 and 6, 2020, the convening of an extraordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee to

nominate a candidate for appointment to the post of Director General; and, May 7 and 8, 2020, the extraordinary sessions of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly to appoint the Director General.

41. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, said that its Group wished to express its appreciation to the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, and his team for the hard work and contributions to WIPO. It stated that the Asia and the Pacific Group had no objections to the proposed changes to the 1998 procedures for the nomination and appointment of Directors General of WIPO and to adopt the one-time derogation from the 1998 procedures as contained in document A/59/4. The Asia and the Pacific Group also had no objections to the convening of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union and the Berne Union Assemblies, as well as the timeline of procedural steps as contained in the document.

42. The WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies, each in so far as it is concerned:

- (i) took note of the dispatch of the circular set out in Annex II of document A/59/4;
- (ii) amended the 1998 "Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO" as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the same document to create new 2019 "Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO", as set out in its Annex III;
- (iii) adopted a one-time derogation from the 1998 "Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO" as set out in paragraph 12 of the same document to convene the WIPO Coordination Committee on March 5 and 6, 2020;
- (iv) approved the convening of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly on May 7 and 8, 2020; and
- (v) approved the timeline of procedural steps set out in paragraph 13 of the same document.

ITEM 9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS

43. Discussions were based on documents A/59/5 and A/59/12.

44. The Chair recalled that informal consultations were ongoing concerning various agenda items including Agenda Item 9 on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee. In the absence of consensus on this agenda item, he proposed that delegations continue informal consultations before reverting to them in a plenary session.

45. The Delegation of Switzerland pointed out that it was already late on the last day of the meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO. That being the case, the Delegation expressed concern that there were still important agenda items outstanding. The Delegation observed that for some time now Member States had a very good tradition of concluding the Assemblies on time and stated that it did not support lengthy discussions or night sessions. The Delegation was of the view that it should be possible to conclude these discussions by the end of the day.

46. The Delegation of Monaco endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Switzerland. It noted that it was regrettable, and damaging for the Organization, for Member

States to find themselves already beyond the scheduled closure of the Assemblies and to have points, which were known to be controversial from the beginning, still not settled.

47. The Chair stated that all delegations were well aware of the outstanding issues and they were doing their very best to ensure that discussions could be concluded on time. He undertook to keep delegations fully updated on the progress of the informal consultations.

48. The Delegation of Indonesia supported the statements made by the Delegations of Switzerland and Monaco, adding that it wanted to make sure that there would be no parallel informal consultations scheduled since its Delegation had previously missed some of the informal consultations due to other parallel meetings.

49. In response to the Delegation's question, the Chair referred to the detailed program that the Secretariat had just provided, which showed the schedule and the sequence of the informal consultations.

50. The Delegation of Canada, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its support for the statements made by the Delegations of Switzerland, Monaco and Indonesia. The Delegation said that its Group was quite anxious that while it was 4 p.m., there was still no agreement on the membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee, which, in its view, had to be sorted out before concluding the work of the Assemblies.

51. Reacting to Group B's intervention, the Chair thanked the Group and reiterated that they were all actively consulting on the issue. The Chair subsequently gave the floor to the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry.

52. The Director General noted that he wished to share information and some thoughts on the question of the election of the members of the WIPO Coordination Committee. He pointed out that he spoke under the guidance of the Legal Counsel who would correct him as necessary given the detailed questions concerned. He noted that there was no other option under the WIPO Convention than for the membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee to be constituted, which was also important as the Committee has to nominate the next Director General. The Director General recalled that, in order to elect the members of the WIPO Coordination Committee, for which there were rather complex provisions in the Organization's constituent documents, there had been a long-standing informal practice. Member States decided the allocation of the number of seats to each group, and each group decided which countries within its group would fill the designated number of positions. He noted that this year, unfortunately, Member States found themselves in a position in which there was one group that had been unable to decide which of its members would assume the designated number of seats on the WIPO Coordination Committee. At this stage, given the little time that was left, the Director General noted that, in his view, there were only three paths forward. The first possibility would be to allow the concerned group some brief additional time to see if they could come to an agreement. The second option was to rely on a rather archaic procedure that was set out in the Special Rules of Procedure for the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies, respectively. He noted that these rules were available to delegations, but explained that it provided for a procedure that had never been used and added that, in his opinion, it was a very arbitrary procedure. Essentially, the Director General explained that it would consist of drawing by lot the name of one Member State and starting at that point, alphabetically, with all of the members voting upon that Member State and each subsequent Member State until the number of places in each of the Executive Committees that make up the WIPO Coordination Committee were filled. This would result in a composition that would not correspond to the informal practice and understanding Member States had reached about the numbers of seats allocated to each group. He reiterated that this process would be complicated and difficult to implement. The third possibility was that if the Member States were unable to reach agreement tonight, then there would be a need to convene an extraordinary session of the relevant bodies. These were

the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies, because they each nominate the members of their executive committees who together constitute the WIPO Coordination Committee, and the WIPO Conference, which was the body that designated the *ad hoc* members of the WIPO Coordination Committee. He observed that this was entirely possible and meant that a meeting, in the Secretariat's view, should take place in mid-December, at the very latest. He recalled, however, that, a two-month notice is normally required for the convocation of an extraordinary or ordinary session of any of those bodies. It would require that these bodies be convened by the Director General upon the request of a quarter of the members of the Paris Union Assembly, a quarter of the members of the Berne Union Assembly and a majority of the members of the WIPO Conference. In other words, the Secretariat's suggestion would be that Member States take the decision tonight that an extraordinary session should be convened or to request the Director General to convene that extraordinary session. The Director General added that this option would leave open the possibility for the incoming Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to conduct consultations between now and the meeting of the extraordinary session of those bodies, to try to resolve the issue so that Member States could come to a decision by the suggested time of mid-December. Member States needed to convene the extraordinary session before the closure of nominations for the next Director General so that this issue would not become inextricably connected with the election.

53. The Chair thanked the Director General for his views and information. As Agenda Item 9 was to be discussed under the presiding officer of the WIPO Conference, the Chair invited the Chair of the WIPO Conference, Ms. Vivienne Katjuongua (Namibia), to preside over the session.

54. The Chair thanked the Member States for having elected her as Chair for the WIPO Conference and took the opportunity to also thank the Director General for his explanatory remarks. She recalled that as the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly had been conducting informal consultations on the issue, she wished to invite him to take the floor.

55. Briefing the delegations, the Chair of the General Assembly advised that he had conducted several informal consultations on the proposal of the Asia and the Pacific Group on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee. He stated that there had been thorough discussions and that some concrete proposals had been tabled, on which Group Coordinators had consulted their respective Groups. It was now clear that consensus had not been reached. He noted that some delegates stressed the principle of equitable geographical representation for the WIPO Coordination Committee while other delegates insisted that the groupings in WIPO were not only regional. Due to this divergence, consensus could not be reached at the moment.

56. The Chair of the WIPO Conference expressed her thanks to the Chair of the General Assembly and concluded from his presentation that further consultations on the matter were needed. On that basis, she requested the Chair to conduct further consultations on the issue, with the aim to reach consensus. She then adjourned the plenary meeting so the Chair could consult further on the matter.

57. Reverting to the agenda item, the Chair of the WIPO Conference invited the Legal Counsel to brief the Assembly on the matter of the constitution of the Coordination Committee. The Legal Counsel confirmed that informal consultations had not yielded agreement on the composition of the Committees, and that a draft decision paragraph had been prepared reflecting that an extraordinary session of the Paris and Berne Assemblies be convened in the first half of December 2019. These bodies would be invited to elect members to their respective Executive Committees, to comprise the Coordination Committee.

58. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted its agreement in principle with the draft decision, but requested clarification on the length of the proposed extraordinary session. The Legal Counsel noted the Director General would reserve two days for the extraordinary session, although it may be resolved more quickly.

59. The Delegation of the United States of America inquired about the cost of the meeting, and whether language could be included in the decision paragraph to ensure that the meeting would be a short meeting.

60. In response to the question from the Delegation of the United States of America, the Director General noted that the Organization would foresee that this could be handled by Geneva-based delegates, therefore it was in part on each Member State to determine the cost of the meeting. From the Secretariat's perspective there would be interpretation costs, as well as opportunity costs of any officials involved in the extraordinary session.

61. The Delegation of Brazil asked for the legal basis of this decision, and any potential legal impediment to the Coordination Committee being established without members from the Asia and Pacific Group. The Delegation recalled that other groups had submitted their lists on time; there have been long and difficult negotiations. The Delegation expressed concern with any precedent that may be established by this decision on an extraordinary session. The Delegation requested that all of the legal rules and procedures on all possible options on the constitution of the Coordination Committee be presented. The Delegation did not think that establishing a Coordination Committee during an extraordinary session would be short, given how long had already been spent on this today. The Delegation noted that it is in principle against this type of decision and that all Member States who would constitute the Coordination Committee were present now.

62. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Chair of the WIPO Conference and the Director General for answering its previous questions. The United States of America asked further, similar to the Delegation of Brazil, why it was not possible to elect the members presented already. The Delegation asked if a decision could be drafted including at least the names of the countries already submitted by the other groups. The Delegation hoped to receive information that would ensure success at the extraordinary session, should it be held.

63. The Director General acknowledged the frustration on the part of delegations regarding this indispensable decision to constitute a Coordination Committee. The Director General noted that this decision was entirely in the hands of the Member States, and noted further the important task of the Coordination Committee to elect the next Director General. He asked Member States to help the Secretariat find a reasonable way forward.

64. The Legal Counsel referenced Article 7.4(b) of the WIPO Convention in relation to the question from Brazil on the convocation of an extraordinary session of the WIPO Conference, and that similar provisions exist in the Paris and Berne Conventions. The Coordination Committee had to be constituted as a statutory reality. In response to the question from the Delegation of the United States of America and whether the Assemblies could elect those Member States that had already been submitted by their respective groups, the Legal Counsel noted this was up to the Member States. In the past, Member States had only been able to elect up to 83 of the 88 members of the Coordination Committee. This would be exceptional, as the objective is to follow the rules.

65. The Delegation of the United States of America agreed that this was a dramatic and extraordinary situation. The Delegation requested a few minutes to consult to explore electing those countries that were already submitted by their groups.

66. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) noted its regret regarding the situation. The Delegation had put forward many ideas to resolve this issue within the group. The Delegation requested additional time to consult to resolve this item.
67. The Delegation of Mexico, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), noted that it had been able to come to an understanding within its group. The Delegation expressed its desire to elect those GRULAC Member States to the Coordination Committee that had been submitted previously.
68. The Delegation of Hungary asked for clarification on the number of seats that would have to be elected now; 88 or 83.
69. The Legal Counsel referred to document A/59/5 setting out the composition of the Coordination Committee, and the Paris and Berne Executive Committees, and explained in detail how the membership of the Coordination Committee is established to arrive at the total number of seats on the Coordination Committee of 88. It was recognized that two years ago when the total number of seats was 87, Member States, unable to elect 87 members, elected, exceptionally, 83 members. The Legal Counsel repeated that the Coordination Committee had 88 seats to be filled.
70. The Delegation of the United States of America asked the Legal Counsel whether the membership had to elect 83 members, or fewer. The Delegation noted that 68 of the members were already nominated, representing 82 per cent of the Coordination Committee if 83 members were elected.
71. The Legal Counsel reiterated that the Coordination Committee had 88 seats in accordance with treaty provisions, and Member States had been unable to fill all vacant seats in the past, electing instead 83 (out of the previous 87) members to the Coordination Committee as a result of informal consultations. The election of 83 members was entirely a function of the informal consultations that took place over the years, and not a number that was based on treaty provisions.
72. There being no further requests from the floor, the Chair of the WIPO Conference adjourned the meeting for further consultations, and suggested the meeting resume in one hour.
73. Reverting to the agenda item, the Chair thanked delegations for their indulgence and gave the floor to the Delegation of the United States of America.
74. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Chair for having allowed delegations more time to consult to work out favorable solutions. It added that they were all waiting to hear from the Asia and the Pacific Group on the outcome of the informal consultations on the Group's nominees for the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies.
75. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, said that taking into account the late hour, it wished to inform the delegations that it had submitted its list for candidates for the WIPO Coordination Committee to the Legal Counsel.
76. The Delegation of Pakistan stated that the list of countries submitted as the Asia and the Pacific Group representatives on the WIPO Coordination Committee by the Group's Regional Coordinator did not reflect the Group's decision. It was a forced, not an agreed, outcome, which raised more questions than it answered. The Delegation expressed concern about the arbitrary nature in which a farcical voting was conducted, not on any legal ballot paper but on shredded pieces of paper which the Delegation did not know would exist as a record or not. The Delegation said that it could use some adjectives to describe the process, but it left a lot to be desired. The Delegation stressed that the list of candidates could not legally or rationally be

considered as a decision of the Asia and the Pacific Group as, in the Delegation's view, it was one subgroup ganging up on another which, unfortunately, was fragmented.

77. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, emphasized that the list of candidates for the WIPO Coordination Committee it had submitted was a collective decision taken by its Group. In the absence of consensus, the Group had decided to put the matter to a vote and, given the extraordinary circumstances in which the Group found itself, the Asia and the Pacific Group had agreed and decided to proceed with a vote and the outcome of that vote had been submitted to the Legal Counsel.

78. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its full support for the statement by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and reiterated that the submitted list of nominees for the WIPO Coordination Committee had been approved within the Asia and the Pacific Group.

79. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Asia and the Pacific Group for coming together and resolving the issue, knowing very well that such internal deliberations could be some of the toughest ones. The Delegation was happy to note that finally the WIPO Coordination Committee could finally be established.

80. The Delegation of China thanked the Chair and all delegations who had made efforts and wished to reiterate that, according to the Delegation, WIPO decisions should follow certain rules and that, based on those rules, such decisions should be made and respected.

81. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates echoed the statement made by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea, which was factual, and expressed its support for the statement that had been made by its Group's Coordinator and for the list that had been submitted to the Legal Counsel.

82. The Delegation of Pakistan noted that it had already recorded its observations on the process that was followed to arrive at the list submitted on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. It was raising the matter again because it set some precedent for the workings of the Organization that needed to be clarified and raised questions regarding the election process used and the proposition that was part of it. The Delegation wondered if the Coordinator of the Asia and the Pacific Group had a record of what had actually been proposed and if it was in writing, given that there had been different interpretations of the propositions, as well as the ballot paper itself that was used to reach that outcome. The Delegation was basically questioning the entire process, only for the sake of clarity on the rules of procedure that were to be followed. Whilst it had already registered its disassociation with the Asia and the Pacific Group decision, it wished to seek the view of the Legal Counsel or the Secretariat on the legality of the exercise that had been conducted within the Asia and the Pacific Group.

83. The Delegation of Thailand acknowledged that the situation had been difficult within its Group, but expressed its support for the decision by its Group as submitted by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group.

84. The Delegation of Indonesia said that it fully aligned itself and agreed with the explanation given earlier by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and as supported by previous interventions by other members of the Asia and the Pacific Group.

85. The Delegation of Malaysia confirmed that it had taken part in the process and expressed its full support for the list submitted by the Coordinator of the Asia and the Pacific Group.

86. The Delegation of Mongolia said that it also wished to join colleagues in the Asia and the Pacific Group and expressed its support for the list submitted by the Coordinator of the Asia and the Pacific Group.

87. The Delegation of the Philippines also acknowledged that the situation had not been easy within its Group and, because the Group could not reach consensus in any other way, it made sense to proceed with voting. The Delegation stressed that it supported the results arising therefrom.

88. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea confirmed that the agreement reached by its Group was the result of hard work, which should be respected. It therefore supported the statements by all the previous speakers from its Group.

89. The Delegation of China reiterated that rules of procedures should be respected. Creating an inappropriate precedent would damage the unity of the Organization, and would not be favorable for its development. The Delegation hoped that the Legal Counsel would provide explanations as regards the objections put forward by the Delegation of Pakistan on the matter.

90. The Delegation of India added its support for the process that had been followed, the decision that had been taken by the Asia and the Pacific Group as a result, and the names of the nominees that had been conveyed to the Secretariat.

91. The Legal Counsel noted that in respect of the question raised by the Delegation of Pakistan regarding the process chosen by the Asia and the Pacific Group to reach agreement on the list of its nominees, he could only repeat what had already been said in informal consultations, namely that the methods applied by groups in order to propose their nominations fall outside the rules of procedure that apply to the formal sessions of WIPO bodies. As such, as Legal Counsel, he would have no view on the process that had been followed within the Groups to reach a decision on those nominees. He recalled that, as the Director General had said earlier, the situation left limited options available to reach an outcome. The consensus approach had been the traditional approach for the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and, in view of the fact that the other possible options had been deemed undesirable, he reiterated that there were no rules applicable to the consensus-based approach on which he could advise.

92. The Chair thanked the delegations for their indulgence while the decision paragraph had been prepared for circulation among delegations and gave the floor to the Legal Counsel to read out the decision paragraph.

93. Regarding the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, the Legal Counsel announced that following informal consultations among regional Groups, in accordance with their own procedures, consensus had been reached and the list of countries nominated by their respective groups had been communicated to the Secretariat following the practice of the Organization. He pointed out that, as explained in the working document, the new composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee was to consist of 88 members, an increase above the current membership of 83. However, in the absence of agreement on how to best allocate the remaining five additional seats of the WIPO Coordination Committee, consensus among the Member States was that the WIPO Coordination Committee shall remain, exceptionally, at 83 members. Moreover, there was agreement that the allocation of the vacant seats of the WIPO Coordination Committee should be considered further and, in that context, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly would undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO in 2021. He drew the attention to the informal document that had been circulated to the delegations listing the 83 members proposed for the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee. He explained that the proposal consisted of the 41 countries nominated for the Paris Union Executive Committee and 40 countries nominated for the Berne Union Executive Committee, one *ad hoc* member designated by the WIPO Conference and the host State as the *ex-officio* member. The proposed composition of membership of the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees and of the WPO Coordination

Committee would take effect from the close of the present session until the close of the 2021 session of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO. In view of this decision, the Legal Counsel added that an additional paragraph was being proposed confirming explicitly that all Member States of WIPO unanimously agreed that the WIPO Coordination Committee, as exceptionally composed of 83 members, had been properly constituted, including, in particular, in view of its functions with respect to the process of appointment of the next Director General, and that the composition shall not be the basis for any challenge with respect to the validity of the nomination by the WIPO Coordination Committee of a candidate for appointment to the position of Director General in 2020.

94. The Chair thanked the Legal Counsel and, noting that there was no request for the floor, proposed that the Conference approve the entire decision paragraph as read out by the Legal Counsel.

95. Following informal consultations among Member States,

(i) The Paris Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Paris Union Executive Committee*: Angola, Argentina (2019-2020), Bangladesh, Belarus (member as per rotation)¹, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan (member as per rotation)², Latvia, Morocco, Oman, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan (member as per rotation)³, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2020-2021), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe (41);

(ii) The Berne Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*: Algeria, Armenia (member as per rotation)⁴, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (member as per rotation)⁵, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico (2019-2020), Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama (2020-2021), Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom (40);

(iii) The WIPO Conference unanimously designated the following State as an *ad hoc* member of the *WIPO Coordination Committee*: Ethiopia (1);

(iv) The WIPO Conference and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions noted that Switzerland will continue to be an *ex officio* member of the *Paris Union Executive Committee* and of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*.

¹ Member from January 10 to April 9, 2020, from July 10 to October 9, 2020, and from April 10 to July 9, 2021.

² Member from January 10 to April 9, 2020, and from October 10, 2020 to January 9, 2021, and from April 10 to July 9, 2021.

³ Member from April 10 to July 9, 2020, and from October 10, 2020 to January 9, 2021 and from July 10 to October 9, 2021.

⁴ Member from October 10, 2019 to January 9, 2020, and from July 10 to October 9, 2020, and from January 10 to April 9, 2021.

⁵ Member from October 10, 2019 to January 9, 2020, and from April 10 to July 9, 2020, and from January 10 to April 9, 2021, and from July 10 to October 9, 2021.

As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period October 2019 to October 2021 is composed of the following States:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina (2019-2020), Armenia (member as per rotation)⁴, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (member as per rotation)⁵, Bangladesh, Belarus (member as per rotation)¹, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia (*ad hoc*), Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan (member as per rotation)², Latvia, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Mexico (2019-2020), Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama (2020-2021), Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Tajikistan (member as per rotation)³, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2020-2021), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe (83).

96. The Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, and the WIPO Conference, each in so far as it is concerned, decided, per unanimous agreement by all Member States of WIPO, that the Coordination Committee, as exceptionally composed at 83 members, has been properly constituted, including, in particular, in view of its functions with respect to the process of appointment of the next Director General, and shall not be the basis for challenge, by any State Member of any pertinent WIPO body, to the validity of the nomination by the Coordination Committee of a candidate for appointment to the position of Director General in 2020.

97. The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided that the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2021, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, at the same WIPO Assemblies.

98. Following the adoption of the decision, the Delegation of China emphasized that consensus was the basis for the Organization to develop and to unite. It reiterated that WIPO had always insisted on that principle. It observed that the voting process was not based on rules of procedure, and would harm this consensus-oriented tradition. The Delegation queried if delegations could also solve other issues through a ballot on matters like the composition of the Program and Budget Committee and the opening of new WIPO External Offices. The Delegation pointed out that it considered the aforementioned approach unfavorable for the development of the Organization and creating a bad precedent for the Organization.

99. The Delegation of Pakistan reiterated that it disassociated itself from the decision taken on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee as contained in the document circulated to delegations for reasons already stated in its earlier interventions.

100. The Chair noted that there were no further requests for the floor, and in light of discussions and taking note of the views that had been expressed, declared Agenda Item 9 closed.

ITEM 10 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

101. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 11 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

(i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

102. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

(ii) Report by the External Auditor

103. Discussions were based on documents A/59/6 and A/59/7.

104. On behalf of the External Auditor, Mr. Damian Brewitt, Director, National Audit Office of the United Kingdom, delivered his report as follows:

“Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, good morning. On behalf of the Controller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom, I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to present this report directly to you, the General Assembly, and this follows our attendance at the PBC. It is very important that we engage you in the issues we highlight in our audit which gives you independent and objective insight.

“In my presentation, I would like to cover the three main areas of our work which we identified as important in the first year of our mandate. The areas were the audit of the financial statements and financial management, governance and assurance and finally work Results-Based Management focusing on the human resources program.

“Turning first to the audit of the financial statements, I am very pleased to confirm that our opinion was unqualified and that the audit revealed no errors or weaknesses that we considered material to the accuracy, the completeness or the validity of the financial statements as a whole. It also confirms that the expenditures that have been incurred and reported in the statements are in accordance with the authorities and the regulations set by you as Member States. Overall, WIPO's financial statements and accompanying commentary were prepared to a high quality with good support for the key accounting judgments. We identified some scope to make the disclosures and commentary more concise, to ensure they focus the user on the most important material and key financial performance elements and we're having a good discussion with the Secretariat about taking that forward over the coming year.

“Overall, our audit results were positive and identified no significant errors or control weaknesses. We reported the detail of this work to the IAOC with whom we had a very productive and fruitful engagement during the course of our year. So we would like to pass our thanks to the IAOC.

“On financial management, WIPO enjoys a strong financial position with good cash flows and a pipeline of future revenue. It has a clear plan to resource future liabilities, such as the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), and has dedicated resources and funds for other capital investment initiatives using prior years' surpluses. Having a high level of cash-backed reserves requires a sound investment policy, with appropriate oversight mechanisms.

“During 2018, WIPO divested itself of its investment property in line with the overall policy on investments. Strategic cash is invested over the long-term to achieve capital growth with the objective to generate an overall positive return over time. In taking a longer term view, these will inevitably be periods when investments will decline in value. In 2018, WIPO reported unrealized losses of 17 million Swiss francs and this was consistent with

wider market volatility over that period. In our report, we made recommendations for more comprehensive reporting on investments to be made to you as Member States and also on whether IAOC is appropriate to provide specialist assurance in this area.

“We reported that WIPO paid all qualifying staff members an organizational performance reward grant of 2,000 Swiss francs under the rewards and recognition program. The total awards accrued in 2017 were within the limits recommended by the International Civil Service Commission, and their guidelines do not specifically preclude such an award. WIPO's legal office also confirmed that they considered that the Director General had the authority to make such an award. Subsequently the Commission and the UN Fifth Committee expressed concern about the decision of WIPO to pay such an award to all staff. Our understanding is that the PBC at its 30th session explicitly excluded any organizational-wide reward within the context of the 2020/21 biennium budget.

“Moving now to governance and assurance. These are key processes which provide you as Member States with assurance over the stewardship of resources. We were pleased to note that WIPO has taken a positive and proactive approach to developing sound governance mechanisms and from our experience, we consider that you were at the forefront of developments within the wider UN system. Within WIPO's accountability framework, we found that management had actively engaged in reviewing and developing the quality of internal control systems, and WIPO has a sound basis to support the assertions made in its statement on internal control. The Secretariat is developing an approach to data analytics to leverage more from the IT systems by automating controls, and utilizing reporting functionality to validate compliance. We fully support these developments which follow best practice and we will engage with the Secretariat to share our wider experience and how such analytics can support effective continuous monitoring.

“Fraud can result in significant loss to any organization, both in terms of resource and reputation. In our experience, international organizations' fraud prevention and response measures can be weak and instances of reported fraud across all UN organizations are well below expected benchmarks. During 2018, WIPO has made good progress in establishing systemic fraud risk assessments to identify where it is susceptible to fraud. WIPO is also revising the anti-fraud policies, providing staff with additional guidance and training on fraud awareness. We support all of these approaches and our forthcoming audit will assess the effectiveness of these developments.

“In line with good corporate governance, the Director General provides a Statement on Internal Control to Member States, which is a vehicle to provide a transparent and accountable report of the control environment. WIPO was an early adopter of the concept of the Statement, and from our experience, it is one of the most mature within the UN system and supported by assessments of the control environment. We have recommended three areas for improvement in this area to build on the good progress that has been made, and these are to enhance the visibility of the work of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD), and of the results of the risk management processes, to focus the statement on providing a conclusion on the operational effectiveness of the internal control environment, and as you have heard earlier, to align the assurances provided from assurance providers such as IOD so that they are consistent with the annual reporting of the financial statements, the financial period.

“Turning now to our observations on WIPO's results-based management (RBM) framework and human resources. Reporting the outcomes from the use of resources is a key element of WIPO's accountability framework. We combined a high level assessment of WIPO's approach with a more detailed consideration of the results for the Human

Resources Management and Development program, one of the 31 programs reported under WIPO's RBM framework.

“Overall, we found that WIPO had a well-established framework for RBM, with a biennial Program and Budget listing expected results against each strategic goal, with key performance indicators intended to measure progress in the achievement of each program. IOD validates a sample of these key performance indicators to assess the adequacy of data systems and have generally concluded positively on the data collection.

“Turning to human resources in program 23, we reviewed the detail of the performance indicators in the context of the program as a whole. In doing so, we identified a number of areas which could be further developed to measure progress. The substance of our observations may have wider application across other programs in the RBM framework.

“We highlighted that in the July 2018 performance report, the most recent available at the time of our audit, four out of 12 indicators were not assessed due to the absence of data systems to capture performance or where targets were not specified. Consequently, some important measures such as staff satisfaction and the measure of efficiency of HR operations were removed from the 2018/19 Program and Budget. While the RBM framework supports formal accountability to Member States, we consider that this is scope to align it to WIPO's internal reporting through the human resources balance scorecard. For example, the measures of recruitment in the program budget were not included in the internal balance scorecard, whereas data on sickness absence was reported in the scorecard but not in the Program and Budget. They should be measured internally on a regular basis. We also found that the various indicators set out in the Program and Budget did not fully correlate with the expected results and we believe that there is scope to broaden the range of indicators to provide a more rounded assessment against each of the expected results.

“In reviewing indicators we noted a number of targets were repeatedly met and question whether these remain sufficiently challenging as a performance measure. Baselines and targets should provide a real indication of progress between biennia.

“I will now highlight the main areas we identified in assessing performance information supported priority areas set out in the 2017-2021 human resources strategy. We identified scope to ensure indicators adequately addressed the priority areas within this strategy. In support of a sustainable future, for example, WIPO could include indicators to report on alignment of linguistic skills with geographical demand and the acquisition of artificial intelligence skills. With respect to a diverse workforce, we noticed progress on gender parity following targets and an action plan by Member States.

“In measuring the effectiveness of talent management, we noted that measures did not exist to consider the adequacy and the effectiveness of learning and development or staff well-being. The recent evaluation reports have found that the structure and the resources for career development were insufficient to meet future organizational needs. In our view, there is scope for a general review of learning and development across the Organization and to establish indicators to measure the effectiveness of the program.

“While resignation trends and measures of productivity provide partial insights on staff well-being we noted other measures from recent surveys which have been sponsored by the UN in the area of health and performance that were less positive. These results indicate to us that there would be benefits in deploying wider staff surveys as a means of assessing the effectiveness of HR management and well-being. They could also measure whether the HR function has efficient customer-oriented processes and communications. Measuring survey results on an annual or biannual basis would provide

a clear baseline against which future performance could be assessed, and provide valuable data on staff morale.

“To conclude, I can confirm the good progress was made in closing and implementing recommendations from previous years, and we are pleased to note the positive responses from the Secretariat on recommendations that we made in our report this year. We will review these implementation plans later this autumn.

“I would like to thank the Director General and his staff for his support and cooperation in facilitating our audit, especially in the first year of our mandate. I would now be happy to take any questions or provide further background to our report. I did note the question from the Croatian Delegation and if you are willing I'm happy to respond to that now or later in the agenda item.”

105. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the External Auditor for preparing his report and noted with satisfaction that there had been a positive audit opinion about the financial state of WIPO, which indicated that the work of the Organization had been effective. The Delegation added that it appreciated the conclusion that, on various aspects, WIPO's practice was one of the best in the wider United Nations (UN) system. Furthermore, the Delegation emphasized that the internal control system had been approved and that there were considerable reserves for ensuring the continued stability of WIPO's financial situation, as well as the policy of risk management and governance and results-based budgeting. The Delegation wished to draw attention to the recommendations made by the External Auditor in various areas where improvements could be made, including the systematic review of reserves, and strengthening the results-based management system. The Delegation stated that bearing in mind the importance of an effective policy on risk management, it believed it appropriate that meetings be held on a regular basis with the External Auditor for an exchange of information, particularly with respect to the operation of the risk management system and ensuring WIPO's accountability. It added that the recommendations made by the External Auditor on the human resources program should be carefully taken into account, particularly the development of geographical distribution, enhancing language skills among the staff in order to meet the requirements of the Organization, particularly when it comes to treaties administered by WIPO, and Recommendation 12 in particular so that indications about the geographical representation of Member States among WIPO staff could be clearly indicated. The Delegation wished to continue to work constructively in the WIPO Coordination Committee and added that it would find it appropriate also to look at the capital investment system, particularly given the scale of investment and the importance of it to the Organization.

106. The Delegation of Mexico, speaking in its national capacity, expressed its warm welcome to the External Auditor and thanked him for his first report containing observations which were extremely interesting. It noted with pleasure the points raised about the healthy financial position of the Organization. Also, it had taken careful note of the areas where the day-to-day work of the Organization could be improved and where opportunities could be developed, such as the human resources strategy, the Organization's gender equality program, training, and incentives to staff. The Delegation urged the Secretariat to follow up on those recommendations and take action in response to them.

107. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Auditor General of the United Kingdom and the National Audit Office for his report and clarification offered at the 30th PBC session. The Delegation stated that reviews by the External Auditor were an important part of WIPO's oversight structure, to ensure funds were used in the most efficient and effective manner. The Delegation encouraged the Secretariat to continue to adopt the audit recommendations in a timely manner. The Delegation also noted that the External Auditor believed that the duty to regularly report investments made by WIPO fell on the Secretariat. The External Auditor had explained that he would work with both the PBC and the Secretariat to

further develop this reporting policy. The Delegation stated that it would welcome more information on how the External Auditor planned to work in conjunction with the Secretariat and the PBC to strengthen consistent reporting on investments. The External Auditor had also explained that there was a system-wide reluctance to report fraud, however, it was also noted that WIPO was going further than most organizations in the system by implementing fraud risk assessments. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the initiatives that had been implemented or were underway to improve fraud awareness among staff members at WIPO, and looked forward to updates on the implementation of the fraud risk assessments and other anti-fraud initiatives.

108. The External Auditor thanked the Member States for their kind comments in respect of the audit report and stated that there were three areas that he would respond to from the questions, turning first to the observation from the Delegation of the Russian Federation. The External Auditor was pleased to support Member States in whatever capacity, have dialogue with the IAOC which reported to the Member States on a regular basis and to attend the PBC. Nonetheless, he would be eager to consider any requests from Member States to provide more clarity around his reporting or to answer observations around his audit and the issues raised. In respect of the comments from the Delegation of the United States of America, he confirmed that he would be pleased to review the developments of the investment policy. He added that, as auditors, they did not get involved in setting the policy themselves but were well positioned to support the Secretariat, provide observations on their proposed reporting, and also share best practice in that area. Referring to the question raised by the Delegation of Croatia, the External Auditor stated that he had shared his audit strategy and his audit plan with the Secretariat and also had very productive discussions with the IAOC which had reviewed the areas that were proposed for his 2019 audit. He confirmed that he would continue to look at the area of governance as this was very important to the Organization. The External Auditor further said that this was central to the assurances and the confidence that Member States could have in the competency of the Organization and, as reflected in his presentation, confirmed that he was keen to continue to look at the arrangements that had been put in place in respect of anti-fraud measures, and also to look in more detail at the area of risk management and the progress that the Organization had made in ensuring that this was systematic, embedded and useful within the Organization itself. Moreover, picking up on observations made by the Chair of the IAOC, he would also be very interested in looking at the ethics framework and whistle-blowing and how that was developing within the Organization. There were some common concerns around the ethics function across the UN system and the External Auditor would be pleased to bring insights from other organizations that he audited across the system. In terms of performance reporting, the External Auditor said that he was very keen to look at the strategy that the Organization had in respect of field offices and although this was an agenda item that was part of the WIPO General Assembly, it was a key area where he could add value by shining a light on the extent to which the Organization's strategy was being delivered through its field offices.

109. The Director General thanked the Controller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Brewitt in particular, for all their work over the course of the previous year and for the extremely cooperative nature of the relationship that had been established with the External Auditor. All the comments made by delegations had been noted, the 16 recommendations made by the External Auditor had been accepted and the Secretariat was working on them.

110. The General Assembly and other Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO took note of the "Report by the External Auditor" (document A/59/6).

(iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

111. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 12 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

OPENING OF NEW WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICES

112. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

113. Discussions were based on documents A/59/7, A/59/8, A/59/INF/3, A/59/10, A/59/INF/6 and A/59/11.

114. The Chair noted that the item covered all Program and Budget Committee (PBC) matters except the reports on audit and oversight which had been discussed under Agenda Item 11. As delegations were aware, the PBC had made very good progress. Nevertheless, as mentioned in the "List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee" (document A/59/7), there were two outstanding issues under the "Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium". The Chair proposed that, as per past practice, those outstanding issues be set aside and that all others that were fully noted and recommended for approval by the PBC be first addressed. The Chair proposed that the decision paragraph related to all matters covered by this agenda item be considered, except for the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium which would be addressed immediately afterwards. The Chair proposed the decision paragraph set out in paragraph two of document A/59/7, entitled "List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee", and read out the draft decision.

115. With respect to all matters under this agenda item, except for the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned,

- (i) took note of the "List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee" (document A/59/7); and
- (ii) approved the recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee as contained in the same document.

116. Before turning to the last outstanding issue under the agenda item, the Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to update the Assemblies on the Status of Member States' Contributions.

117. The Secretariat stated that document A/59/INF/4 provided the Status of the Payment of Contributions as of August 31, 2019, and between September 1 and October 1, 2019, the following contributions had been received: Greece, 1,446 Swiss francs; Honduras, 2,849 Swiss francs; India, 3,749 Swiss francs; Mali, 42 Swiss francs; Niger, 42 Swiss francs; Saint Kitts and Nevis, 2,849 Swiss francs; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2,849 Swiss francs; Senegal, 233 Swiss francs; Seychelles, 2,849 Swiss francs; United Republic of Tanzania, 1,424 Swiss francs; and Vanuatu, 1,024 Swiss francs.

118. Turning to the last outstanding issue under Agenda Item 13, the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, as submitted under document A/59/8, the Chair gave the floor to the Director General.

119. The Director General stated that the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium had been the subject of two comprehensive readings at the 29th and 30th Sessions of the Program Budget Committee. The Director General then elaborated on three sets of observations on the subject. The first observation was that the Secretariat was budgeting for an income of 882 million Swiss francs (rounded), which represented an overall

increase of 6.4 per cent which was in line with the forecasts of WIPO's Chief Economist. The Secretariat had budgeted for a 5.9 per cent increase in expenditure to 768 million, which resulted in a surplus. The Director General then alluded to the comments that he had previously made about the importance of the surpluses in the Organization to finance the Capital Master Plan, and noted that one of the items on the Capital Master Plan related to the lifts, with which some delegations had experienced difficulty. That was the overall picture. On his second observation, the Director General referred to the main changes that had occurred since the meetings of the PBC. The first change was the reduction of 1.6 million Swiss francs (rounded), in the provisions for the WIPO Rewards and Recognition Program in Program 23. The total new provision amounted to 1.15 million Swiss francs. The second change was in the personnel costs following the decision of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization in Judgment No. 4138 as reflected in document WO/PBC/30/10 Corr. The third change was the inclusion of two new performance indicators in Program 19 related to multilingualism. In this respect it was to be noted, firstly, that there was a provision for the translation of the Executive Summary of WIPO Flagship Publications into all official UN languages and, secondly, for the translation of the WIPO global publications on substantive IP topics into all official UN languages. For Program 27, there was an increase in the non-personnel budget of 800,000 Swiss francs for the translation of WIPO global publications on substantive IP issues. Those were the changes introduced in accordance with the instructions of the PBC. In his third observation, the Director General turned to the two outstanding issues on the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. The first outstanding issue related to the allocation of income and expenditure in the unions. The second outstanding issue related to the PBC's agreement to revert to the issue reflected in document WO/PBC/30/10 Corr. which related to updating personnel costs. The PBC requested the Secretariat to present to the 2019 Assemblies "...a working document on the exact amount, details of calculations, sources and modalities of funding needed in connection with the Judgment No. 4138 of the ILOAT." This was presented in the information document titled "Information Requested by the Program and Budget Committee as referred in document WO/PBC/30/15 under Agenda Item 11(iv)" (document A/59/INF/3). The Secretariat had provided additional clarifications on the information document during informal consultations that had been held. In particular, it had been clarified that the difference in personnel costs between the approved Program and Budget for the 2018/19 Biennium and the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, which amounted to 15.9 million Swiss francs, pertained to the increase in the provision for After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) from 6 to 8 percent, to statutory step increases of all staff amounting to 2.7 million Swiss francs and to the pension contributions that were associated with the new pensionable remuneration scales that had been decided by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) in February 2019, amounting to 4.1 million Swiss francs.

120. The Chair thanked the Director General for his remarks and recalled that one additional document had been received from the Delegation of Switzerland, and two from the Delegation of the United States of America. Before giving the floor to the Delegations of Switzerland and the United States of America for the introduction of their documents, the Chair informed that the Facilitator for the present item, Ambassador Andrew Staines (United Kingdom), had conducted informal consultations on Monday evening, September 30, 2019. The Chair then passed the floor to the Delegation of Switzerland for the presentation of its document.

121. The Delegation of Switzerland had submitted a proposal contained in document A/59/11 which, it said, offered a simple, transparent and long-term solution to an issue which it had been faced with for too long. Looking at the general situation, the financial situation of the Organization was a very healthy one. The Program and Budget over recent years had been balanced, the results-based management system worked, and the methodology for allocating income had been a tried and tested one for many years. In spite of that, for the last four years, the system had been brought into question and, in the Delegation's view, those discussions had taken up a lot of time and energy on the part of many Member States and the Secretariat in an

attempt to resolve a problem, which did not exist. In fact, the discussions called into question the adoption of the Program and Budget every time, even though the financial situation of the Organization was a very healthy one. That was why the Delegation was proposing a long-term solution to that systemic discussion. The Delegation's proposal contained the following two points: firstly, in the short-term, there was a need to adopt the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. The Delegation's proposal was to maintain the current methodology applied for the Program and Budget over many previous biennia and that was a pragmatic and appropriate solution for WIPO. It did not allocate additional expenditure to unions that were not generating profits. As the Delegation had mentioned during previous meetings of the PBC, it was not rational to add supplementary expenditure to unions that could not afford such expenditure. If such logic was followed, then the poor would be paying for the rich. WIPO had sufficient resources. The second point of the Delegation's proposal, which was a logical follow-on from that, was a long-term solution to make permanent the logic that underscored the current allocation methodology, avoiding outdated and complex discussions on a regular basis concerning the financial management of the Organization. The Delegation proposed a unified budget for WIPO, given that the finances of all unions were *de facto* considered as an integral part of the budget for the Organization. The Delegation's proposal for a unified budget, which was happening and had been happening in WIPO for some years taking into account the overall Organization, was normal practice for any international organization. The Delegation's proposal would, therefore, resolve once and for all the systemic issues which had used up far too much time, energy and money on the part of Member States, the Secretariat and the Organization, without having had any useful outcome. With a long-term approach of that nature, the Delegation was sure that its discussions concerning the budget would be more serene and more effective. The Delegation had always defended the unified approach for WIPO because it believed that all of the activities carried out by the Organization were legitimate. Taking it back to 20 or 30 years in the past and following documents and practices that were followed in the 1970s and 1980s was nonsensical. The Delegation called to look to the future for the good of the Organization and for its Member States. Therefore, the Delegation hoped that the approach that it was proposing would make a decisive contribution to finding a solution that responded to the present and future needs of the Organization and its Member States. The Delegation concluded that it was willing to participate constructively in discussions in order to reach that objective.

122. The Chair then passed the floor to the Delegation of the United States of America for the presentation of its documents.

123. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the PBC Chair, Ambassador Staines. The Delegation valued the work of WIPO and critical services that WIPO provided to stakeholders worldwide. It also valued the work of the Secretariat in preparing the Program and Budget, the annual financial statements and all their other work to support the good governance of the Organization. The Delegation believed that the budget documents in their current form fairly and transparently conveyed the information needed for Member States to make decisions. The Delegation supported the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, document A/59/8, and hoped that members would adopt the budget at the WIPO General Assembly. In proposing the budget, the Secretariat had suggested that each union contribute a nominal amount toward the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation believed that this was not too much to ask, and it fully endorsed the Secretariat's proposal. The Delegation had listened to the concerns of several delegations and had proposed possible solutions in the past. The Delegation's information document addressed the reallocation of miscellaneous income so that the CF Unions received a larger share, thus reducing their deficits. The Delegation remained open to other solutions and stood ready to constructively engage on that very important issue. Nevertheless, there were some delegations who spoke of solidarity, but then insisted that the revenue for their Union only be used for their purposes. Those delegations agreed to cover their own costs mostly through loans and refused to contribute even a minimal amount, 4,000 Swiss francs a year, towards the expenses involved

in the overall running of the Organization. The Delegation thought of solidarity in another way, one that involved bearing a proportional level of financial responsibility as their fellow fee-funded unions. The Delegation hoped that delegations would support the Secretariat by agreeing that each registration system, the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Union, would agree to demonstrate their support for the Secretariat as proposed in document A/59/8. The Delegation hoped to find a solution for the 2020/21 biennium that would result in a better outcome for the Organization. The Delegation stated that the past practice of reducing the money available for the common good should not be prolonged because the Lisbon Union had chosen to ignore the advice of the Secretariat as to how they could cover their own costs, i.e. increase fees to an appropriate level. Lastly, the Delegation placed significant value in the UN common system, including the principle of providing equivalent compensation for similar work between different multilateral organizations. That function, performed by the ICSC since its founding, was critical. The Delegation was concerned that the decisions of the ILO Administrative Tribunal could have major ramifications for the integrity of the UN common system and significant financial and other potential implications. The Delegation urged the Secretariat to ensure that integrity would be preserved and that it would implement any future ICSC decisions or UN General Assembly resolutions that addressed the ILO Administrative Tribunal decisions. The Delegation looked forward to adopting the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium at the 2019 WIPO General Assembly and was open to discussing the matter further with Member States. The Delegation stated that WIPO was fortunate to enjoy a strong financial position due to the success of the PCT System. The Delegation was concerned that if unions were not required to contribute to the overhead of the Organization, if they set their fees too low to cover expenses, or did not have a certain level of reserves, the Organization would eventually be destabilized. During the 29th and 30th Sessions of the PBC, the Delegation recalled that it had clearly stated that it supported the inclusion, in Annex III, of the nominal one per cent of revenue that the CF, Hague and Lisbon Unions would pay towards the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation was ready at the close of PBC 30 and were ready at the 2019 Assemblies to approve the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, as presented, since the PBC was not able to reach agreement during PBC 30. The Delegation noted that it had since tabled language in document A/59/10 and document A/59/INF/6. In response to the Delegation of Switzerland's intervention, the Delegation stated that the Delegation of Switzerland's proposal that Annex III be removed from the proposed Program and Budget, in essence, was because the Delegation of Switzerland believed it was too complicated and the budget would be simpler without it. Annex III included the budget by union and was the only place where WIPO projects the income and expenses by Union. Annex III provided transparency and it enabled Member States to readily assess the financial situation of each union. The Delegation had confirmed with the Secretariat that the Program and Budget document alone did not have sufficient information, even with extensive research lasting several days, for Member States to gather and understand the information currently included in Annex III. The Delegation of Switzerland's proposal therefore significantly undermined the fairness and transparency of the budget and the Delegation could not support it. The Delegation of Switzerland was clearly frustrated with the discussions to date as to whether the Lisbon Union should be financially self-sufficient and contribute to the common expenses, but throwing the baby out with the bath water was not a sensible approach. The Delegation fully understood the concerns of the Delegation of Switzerland and other non-Lisbon members who might consider joining the Lisbon Agreement and Geneva Act, notably the resulting long-term financial commitment to keep the system operating, not by fees but by member contributions. The Delegation stressed the need to remember that Lisbon was a fee-financed Union with unambiguous treaty obligations in the Lisbon Agreement regarding financing for the system. Nowhere in the Lisbon Agreement did it state that contracting parties could ignore their responsibilities to the Organization. The Delegation recognized that the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement did not include any provision for the Lisbon Union contributing toward common expenses. Sadly, as was well-known, the Geneva Act was agreed upon by only 28 Member States of WIPO. Furthermore, no decision had been made by WIPO members to accept the Geneva Act as a

WIPO Agreement. Given the Lisbon Union's unwillingness to contribute positively toward the financial well-being of the Organization, the Delegation believed that it was important that the provisions of the WIPO Conventions be followed and WIPO members take a decision whether to accept the Geneva Act as a WIPO Treaty. That decision was not currently before WIPO members and the Delegation would not belabor the point. The Delegation stated that the Delegation of Switzerland had also proposed that WIPO adopt a unified budget. Around the year 2000, WIPO members thoroughly discussed whether to have that unified budget and ultimately decided to keep the existing structure of a separate budget for registration system unions. At that time, having a unified budget and a unitary assembly was linked and it seemed members did not want to give up decision-making authority for the unions and thus did not move forward with the unified budget/unified assembly. The Delegation saw no reason to revisit that issue simply to justify an underperforming system continuing to avoid paying its fair share.

124. The Delegation of Croatia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group, thanked Ambassador Andrew Staines for his able chairmanship of the PBC as well as the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing the 29th and 30th Sessions of the PBC. The Group noted with satisfaction the financial results for 2018 with a net surplus of 42.5 million Swiss francs, which was to be attributed mainly to the continued growing demand for WIPO services. The Group welcomed the sound performance of WIPO and appreciated the fact that the Organization, for the 7th consecutive year, enjoyed such positive financial results and looked forward to the continuation of the trend. The Group reminded with pleasure that the 29th and 30th Sessions of the PBC managed to reach an agreement on the two new Performance Indicators regarding WIPO's flagship publications (Program 19) and WIPO's Rewards and Recognition Program (Program 23). However, the Group noted with regret that no agreement had been reached on the outstanding issue of the union allocation methodology and reiterated its position on the need to support the principle of solidarity among unions. The Group took note of the proposals from the Delegations of the United States of America and Switzerland regarding budget allocation methodology, an issue under discussion since 2015. The Delegation found the Swiss proposal worth considering, and appreciated further clarifications regarding its actual implementation. Along with the PBC 30 decision, the Group was in position to approve, from the WIPO reserves, the funding of the project presented in the Capital Master Plan 2020-29 for the 2020/21 biennium amounting to 90 million Swiss francs. The Delegation equally thanked the Secretariat for providing document A/59/INF/3 with information on the funding needed in connection with the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization (ILOAT) Judgment No. 4138.

125. The Delegation of Mexico, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, expressed its satisfaction with the very strong performance of WIPO in providing intellectual property (IP) services of a very high quality which had clearly led to an increase in the demand for services and, as a result, healthy finances, with 95.8 million Swiss francs of surplus for the 2020/21 biennium. Regarding the proposals on the union allocation methodology, the Group believed it was important that whatever decision was taken in that regard would not have a negative impact on the achievement of the strategic goals and programs established under the agenda for a balanced and effective IP system at the international level, promoting creativity and inventiveness for the benefit of all and, as a result, reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

126. The Delegation of Canada, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked Ambassador Andrew Staines for his continued efforts in chairing the 29th and 30th Sessions of the PBC. The Group appreciated the progress made in the 29th and 30th Sessions of the PBC and noted that no agreement had been reached on Annex III, and thus no recommendation was provided to the WIPO General Assembly. The Group remained hopeful that it would be able to resolve that during the 2019 Assemblies with the support of all Member States.

127. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the PBC and the Secretariat for the excellent work done thus far to support the PBC and for the preparation of the documents under the agenda item as contained in documents A/59/7, A/59/8 and A/59/INF/3. On the WIPO Performance Report 2018 and relevant financial statements, the Group was heartened by the generally positive financial report and that 72 per cent of the Performance Indicator evaluations were on track. The Group looked forward to continued good progress in the coming years. The Group took note of the latest proposals tabled by members to move the discussions forward on the issue of the union allocation methodology in the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. The Group looked forward to constructive discussions on that issue with a view to reach an agreement based on mutually acceptable outcomes for all members.

128. The Delegation of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the compilation of the reports on the PBC and related documents contained in decisions of the PBC and information requested by the PBC as well as the compilation of documents containing proposals of Member States. The reports contained valuable information which gave an overview of the programmatic and financial performance of the Organization in 2018/19, as well as the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. Regarding the programmatic performance in 2018/19, the Group was pleased to note that the Organization had achieved almost all its expected results in accordance with the approved 2018/19 Program and Budget. Regarding the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, the Group was further pleased to note that the Organization continued to be in a strong financial situation with its income forecasted to grow in excess of 800 million Swiss francs in the 2020/21 biennium. That enabled the Organization to meet all of its short, medium and long-term expenditure needs. That gave the Organization the ability to deliver its mandate. As a major demander of WIPO's technical assistance and capacity-building programs, the Group underscored the need to allocate sufficient personnel and non-personnel resources to government-oriented activities to facilitate its Member States in using IP for development. In that regard, the Group welcomed the increase in resource allocation to development related activities in the 2020/21 biennium. The Group further commended the Secretariat for the much improved practice of the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda (DA) Recommendations and the SDG in the Program and Budget by linking each program to a specific DA Recommendation or SDG to which it applied. The Group envisaged making a greater contribution to the implementation of DA and SDGs by WIPO. The Group reiterated the importance attached to the work of the PBC, which constituted an institutional foundation of the Organization. In that regard, the Group remained deeply committed to the principles of balance, equity and transparency in the allocation of the income and expenditure of the Organization. However, the Group was concerned with the divergence in views regarding the methodology for the allocation of incomes and expenditure by Unions. Those divergent views impeded the ability of the PBC to conclude those discussions on the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. While the Group welcomed various proposals intended to bridge existing gaps on the matter, the Group remained convinced that the current allocation methodology as applied to the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 Biennium had already proved to be fit for purpose and should be maintained for the 2020/21 biennium. The Group urged all members to exercise maximum flexibility to ensure that the Program and Budget would be approved to enable the Organization to deliver its mandate and also deliver the results that the Group expected to be met in the 2020/21 Biennium. The Group looked forward to full and open engagement in the discussions on the agenda item.

129. The Delegation of China thanked the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the PBC as well as the Secretariat for the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. The Delegation hoped that an agreement on the remaining outstanding issues could be reached at the 2019 Assemblies. Regarding the allocation of income and expenditure by unions, the Delegation wished to reiterate that WIPO, as the world's most important international organization that managed IP matters, had the mission to lead development of a balanced and effective

international IP system that enabled innovation and creativity for the benefit of all countries in terms of their economic, social and cultural development. Therefore, when studying and planning the Organization's expenditure methodology, the current income profit and losses of the various IP service systems should not only be considered, but also examined to decide on the best way to promote the sound development of global IP service systems from a strategic and development perspective. Therefore, the Delegation called for a cautious approach with regard to the change of the existing union allocation methodology and underlined the importance of proceeding on the basis of consensus between all Member States in the matter. The Delegation stated that it would continue to adopt an open and constructive attitude in engaging in discussions on the agenda item.

130. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Geneva Group, commended the Member States and the Chair of the PBC for their constructive engagement during the 29th and 30th PBC Sessions. The Group recognized the progress made in considering the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium while recalling the position gap on the issue of the union allocation methodology as contained in Annex III of the document. The Group appreciated those delegations that put forward their proposals in that regard. The Group recognized that the issue of union allocation methodology had been intensively discussed in the previous years during the PBC sessions. However, no consensus was reached among delegations to make any changes in the current allocation method. The Group was of the view that any new proposal should contribute to narrowing a specific gap or addressing a particular problem within the system. Nevertheless, the Group did not see any problem in the current union allocation methodology, hence it was not yet satisfied of the necessity or added value in modifying the current methodology of allocation of income and expenditure by unions which had been in use since 2007. In light of that, OIC countries supported the maintenance of the current union allocation methodology for the 2020/21 biennium without the one per cent nominal contribution by the unions as it contradicted the capacity-to-pay principle.

131. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the PBC for their work. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the WIPO Secretariat for the additional explanations throughout the discussion of the financial situation of the Organization. The Delegation welcomed the efforts made on WIPO's Multilingual Policy which was one of the main values of the UN system. The Delegation stated that that approach would mitigate the existing imbalances and overcome barriers to form a more generalized access by users to the analytical and informational materials of WIPO, and would boost the growth of the registration system. The Delegation did not question, and on the whole supported, the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. However, the Delegation was opposed to the inclusion of expenses related to the implementation of the ILOAT's Judgment No. 4138. The Delegation pointed out that a final decision on that could be adopted by the UN General Assembly, which played a coordinating role in the common system of the UN regarding rules and recognition to international civil servants. In that connection, the Delegation said it would be grateful for information about possible action to be taken by the Secretariat to have another look at ILOAT's Judgment No. 4138. As regards to the methodology used for the union allocation methodology of expenditure by Unions, the Delegation believed that it was very important to maintain the basic principles of WIPO, as that was the unified approach. The Lisbon System, at that stage, was in a state of development. Increasing its financial obligations would reduce its attractiveness for possible users. The Lisbon System should work within a unified WIPO budget. The Delegation believed that the revised methodology would lead to a disintegration of an effective, international system that worked.

132. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation took note of the latest proposals tabled by the Delegations of Switzerland and the United States of America. The Delegation was hopeful that discussion on those two proposals would help guide towards

resolution on the remaining outstanding issue on the union allocation methodology so that the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium could be adopted. The Delegation added that it had studied both proposals, background information documents, and that it had followed all of the discussions and conversations since the 29th PBC Session. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the proposal in Annex III of the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium and took note of the treaty obligations of each registration system pertaining to the budgets of its registration system. However, the Delegation was not convinced at that point in time that it was the right time to adopt the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium by changing and applying a new allocation methodology that might have unintended systemic consequences, especially as it related to the CF Union. Therefore, both the proposal on a unified budget and the proposal on the new methodology for allocation of income and expenditure needed more time and thorough consideration so that whatever was decided later on would be for the betterment of the Organization and all of its Member States and stakeholders and the users of international IP services. Finally, the Delegation stood ready to work constructively and was thankful for the wise and able guidance from Ambassador Staines in chairing the 29th and 30th PBC Sessions and facilitating the work and discussions in the 2019 WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation looked forward to the adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium.

133. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates highlighted the importance of the agreement on the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium due to its importance in highlighting and promoting the importance of IP and the role of WIPO therein. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium and thanked the Member States for their negotiations and discussions during the 29th and 30th PBC Sessions and the constructive engagement in that regard. The Delegation pointed out the role of the Chair of the PBC in bringing together all of the opinions of the delegations, and wished him all of the success in his moderation task in the future. The Delegation welcomed the enhancement of the role of WIPO in taking into consideration the official languages, including Arabic, a language spoken by 400 million people. That would increase the volume of international operations within WIPO. Therefore, the Delegation commended all the efforts in that regard in allocating the necessary expenses for the 2020/21 biennium according to each Union. The Delegation thanked the Delegations of the United States of America and Switzerland for their proposals in that regard. The Delegation expressed concern with regard to the transformation of the union allocation methodology given the fact that guarantees were needed for the financial sustainability of the Organization, and therefore the Delegation would be participating in the negotiations around that matter with great interest.

134. The Delegation of Italy thanked the Secretariat for all the hard work carried out in the preparation of the 2019 Assemblies and thanked Ambassador Staines for all of his efforts as Chair of the PBC. Before entering into the discussion on the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, the Delegation wished to highlight some key principles that were fundamental in its view for WIPO to achieve its institutional goals. IP Rights (IPRs) were valuable intangible assets that contributed to boosting economic and business growth across the globe. IP assets did not solely represent an enormous economic resource for businesses and governments, but also played an important role for social and cultural development, contributing to creating wealth for civil society. That was the reason why WIPO's primary objective was to spread the IP culture worldwide and, in doing so, contributing also to the DA. As a result, the Delegation believed that all IPRs should be considered relevant and should be treated in an equal manner, helping businesses across any geographical area to access IPRs. Therefore, the respect of the principle of solidarity among Unions was paramount for the Organization, and was consistent with its United Nations' mandate. The capacity-to-pay principle applied so far in the drafting of the WIPO Program and Budget was a direct consequence, in financial terms, of a principle of solidarity. Following the capacity-to-pay-principle, until then, the Organization as a whole had proved to be financially solid and fit-for purpose, successfully fulfilling its mandate. In that regard, the Delegation recalled that it

had already heard during the general statements made by several delegations the day prior and two days prior, the appreciation for very great achievements reached at WIPO under the current topic mentioned. Therefore, the Delegation did not understand the sudden need for the introduction of a change to the present union allocation methodology which had been applied for many years. In its view, the current proposal included in Annex III of the Proposed Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium included in document A/59/8 which introduced a nominal one per cent financial contribution to common expenses, moved away from the solidarity principle. Such a change would have long-term far-reaching consequences for the Organization as a whole with a negative impact for the development of those activities that were not profitable, but that might be crucial to support economic development for small and medium-sized companies to foster innovation in rural areas and to pursue the DA Goals. WIPO's Program and Budget should not be inspired by the financial rules typical of the private sector which was profit-oriented. Therefore, the Delegation was of the opinion that the one per cent nominal contribution should be removed from Annex III in document A/59/8 and the current principle of allocation used for the 2018/19 document as prepared in the Q&A document by the Secretariat should be kept. The Delegation thanked the Delegation of Switzerland for submitting a proposal under that item. In that regard, the Delegation believed that the transformation of the WIPO budget into a unified budget would be very consistent with the mandate of the Organization and would represent a viable long-term solution to simplify its financial management and to avoid an impasse among Member States on the allocation methodology at future PBC sessions. The Delegation was open to further discussing that matter with Member States and considering any proposal to be submitted in the future by the Secretariat to the PBC as a follow-up to the 2019 Assemblies.

135. The Delegation of India took note of all the proposals tabled under the agenda item and requested Member States to work through the pending issues to reach a common position on the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. The Delegation hoped the Assemblies would approve the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium and considered that sound financial health of the Organization had been an asset for the efficient and effective working over the years.

136. The Delegation of Brazil aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat for the excellent work on managing and presenting the results of WIPO's finances as laid out in the Report on the PBC. In terms of the outstanding issue on the union allocation methodology and the stalemate concerning a conflict between a principle and pragmatic approach to the allocation of resources between Unions, the Delegation wanted to see the Delegations of the United States of America and Switzerland hand-in-hand in a focus group in order to spare the Member States the excruciating discussion on the union allocation methodology. In order to narrow the gap between such positions, only the countries themselves could reach a middle ground solution that would recognize the added value provided by no WIPO instruments and at the same time guarantee that such Unions were financially healthy enough in order to be self-sufficient. On the one hand, the Delegation supported the unitary contribution system and on the other hand, it recognized the value of administrative cooperation between Unions. It was important, however, that whatever the decision that was reached, Member States should not be split by that challenge. Both proposals were valid at that stage, but were unfortunately counterproductive in political terms right now. More reflection was needed in that regard and the Delegation was at the Secretariat's disposal to collaborate positively on reaching a long-term solution to that matter.

137. The Delegation of France recalled that in its statement on Item 5 and according to its permanent position, it defended the principles of the unitary and solidarity of WIPO under the UN, and therefore it was inflexibly opposed to any change to the union allocation methodology in respect of indirect and common expenses of WIPO which might undermine that approach and any questioning of the capacity-to-pay principle. The Delegation was against any decision that would confirm a change to the allocation of expenditure to the unions and would therefore

oppose the Delegation of the United States of America's proposal as given in document A/59/10. On the other hand, the Delegation would support any proposal whose purpose would be to strengthen the principles of the unitary functioning of WIPO in solidarity, in particular the proposal made by the Delegation of Switzerland as described in document A/59/11.

138. The Delegation of San Marino fully shared the position presented by the Delegation of Italy.

139. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B. The Delegation stated that it recognized the necessity of considering ways to correct the imbalance of income and expenditure of each Union. In that regard, the Delegation appreciated the proposal presented by the Secretariat and the proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United States of America. However, the Delegation stressed that the financial sustainability of each Union should not be forgotten. It believed that the current proposal made by the Secretariat would simply increase the deficits of the Lisbon and the Hague Unions. In that regard, the Delegation could not fully support the proposal. The Delegation also thanked the Delegation of Switzerland for submitting its proposal and welcomed the details of a unified budget of WIPO. If the unified budget of WIPO meant making drastic reform to WIPO's financial structure, the details and the effects of any reform needed to be carefully discussed. Lastly, the Delegation believed that the independence of each Union was important. In that regard, the Delegation had the same concerns as indicated by the Delegation of the United States of America, that a unified budget would deteriorate the transparency of income and expenditure.

140. The Delegation of Israel opened its remarks stating that it was happy to join the 2019 Assemblies two days after its New Year. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, which it supported. The Delegation stated that its position had always been that any union should make all efforts to be self-sufficient, that was the responsibility of the members of each union. The Delegation welcomed the transparency Annex III provided in the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium and believed that all unions should contribute to the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation hoped that an agreement would be reached in the next few days.

141. The Facilitator thanked delegations for their kind words and for the confidence they had shown in him as Facilitator. The Facilitator had held one open-ended informal meeting on Monday evening, September 30, 2019, and intended to hold a further meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2019, which would be open to Regional Coordinators and interested delegates from Member States. On the Annex III issue, the Facilitator stated that he had listened to the interventions very carefully and did not want to understate the strength of feeling on that issue. The Facilitator reminded delegations that the remaining areas of difference on the next biennium's budget for the Organization amounted to a tiny fraction of the overall budget. Quoting the Director General's opening statement on the first day of the 2019 Assemblies, the Facilitator stated "...it is essential for the smooth running of this Organization." The Facilitator stated that it was time to move into a negotiating and formal decision-making mode. There were 10 days of PBC discussions covering the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium and there had been 2.5 to 3 days in the Assemblies to discuss it. Turning to a solution-finding mode, the Ambassador stated that his approach was to follow the excellent example set by the Ambassador of Latvia in his role as the Facilitator on External Offices and he did not believe that late nights on the issues were needed as the issues were well-known to many delegations. The Facilitator concluded that he would be targeting a solution to that issue and a decision to support a budget for the Organization by the end of that week.

142. The Chair thanked the Facilitator for his statement and for his very realistic and intensive course of action. The Chair encouraged the Facilitator to accelerate the process and the outcome.

143. The Delegation of Hungary expressed its appreciation to the Director General and his team for achieving the positive financial results in 2018 and 2019. At the 30th PBC Session, the Delegation was not in the position to support the modification of the allocation methodology for income and expenditure of contribution financed and fee-financed Unions. The Delegation reiterated that its position had not changed. The Delegation believed that it was against the principle of solidarity among unions to force the Hague and Lisbon Unions, without capacity-to-pay, to contribute a nominal one per cent of the revenue towards common expenses. Nevertheless, the Delegation stood ready to participate constructively in the informal consultations to be held in that matter. The Delegation looked forward to adopting the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium.

144. The Delegation of Switzerland wished to respond to a number of questions that were raised during the discussion and a number of points made by the Delegation of the United States of America. There was a question asked about the obligations that would arise for the Organization as a consequence of the Swiss proposal. The Delegation thanked the Member States who had made their points on that subject and wished to reassure some delegations such as Japan who had talked about drastic reform. In this regard, the Delegation specified that it was not proposing drastic reform in its proposal which was only a move to make permanent what was already in place. In other words, a unified budget corresponded to what WIPO had been doing for years, i.e. a budget by program and expected results for the Organization as a whole, which is adopted by Member States. The only change would concern Annex III which would disappear. However, this would not affect the transparency of the budget which did not derive from Annex III. This Annex gave a view that had been carried over from an old system and an organization which was just an aggregation of Unions. Since that far off time, continued the Delegation, many supervisory mechanisms had been set up by WIPO, ensuring transparency at every level, and Member States always decided on the Program and Budget and on the allocation of resources by program. In summary, the Delegation explained that the system would be as transparent as the present one and if certain Member States so wished, it would be always possible to consult the expenses per union in the annual financial statements. Turning to the comments made by the Delegation of the United States of America on the discussions that had taken place 15 years or more previously on a unified budget, discussions indeed had taken place at that time but as the Delegation had just pointed out, this was more than 15 years ago. Since that time, the Organization had developed further and the Delegation considered that the time had now come to bring the discussion up again for the good of the Organization and the Member States. The Delegation added that it thought that it was the Delegation of the United States of America that had mentioned the unified Assembly. The Swiss proposal was not proposing this, it was a unified budgetary representation of the budgets and concerned the question of making permanent what was already being done by the Secretariat of WIPO.

145. The Delegation of Portugal thanked the Secretariat for its presentation of the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium. The Delegation commended the Organization for the excellent financial results achieved which clearly demonstrated the success of the current methodology on income and expenditure which had been followed for some time now, these basic principles had led to the good functioning of the Organization and the various programs and activities it developed. WIPO, continued the Delegation, had a very healthy financial situation and this had been sustained over a number of years with a surplus provided because of the excellent use of the system, the excellent way in which resources were used and the way in which services were provided through IP systems. In particular, the Delegation believed that, for the next biennium, WIPO should retain the same methodology for the budget which had been adopted so far and which had given such good results. The Delegation said

that it was worth pointing out that this was a UN organization and that it needed to ensure the smooth functioning of the various activities and programs for which it was responsible irrespective of the solution found rather than focusing on very small issues for the budget. The priority, said the Delegation, should be to ensure the financial balance of the Organization, the solidarity of the Unions and the principle of capacity to pay rather than making current imbalances worse and imposing a very individualistic approach which might have a negative systematic impact on all of WIPO's activities and compromise programs which were still being developed. Finally, the Delegation reiterated its willingness to continue to contribute in a constructive manner to the search for solutions that did not ignore the efforts made by all of the Unions and which continued to reach the overall objectives of the Organization as a whole, an organization that included all of the Global IP systems without exception. In that framework, the proposal from Switzerland, for which the Delegation was very grateful, seemed to be a most useful contribution, one that the Delegation wished to see discussed in the future bearing in mind the need to continue, not to compromise, the good performance of the Organization.

146. The Delegation of Morocco, having taken good note of the Proposed Program and Budget for the upcoming biennium and the relevant documentation, including the proposals put forward by the Delegations of Switzerland and the United States of America, reiterated its attachment to the unified nature of WIPO and supported the statement made by the Delegation of Switzerland as well as the Swiss proposal. The Delegation hoped that a consensus-based solution to this issue could be found, adding that it would participate actively and constructively to this end.

147. The Director General wished to make one or two clarifications in response to a request made by the Delegation of the Russian Federation. First of all, the possibility of making an appeal in respect of the administrative tribunal judgement of the ILO had been considered and the Secretariat had concluded that this was completely impossible. The Director General added that further details in this respect could be requested from the Legal Counsel. Secondly, as previously explained during informal consultations, the Organization was not bound by decisions of the UN General Assembly, and this was the reason for WIPO to have a General Assembly of its own. The Organization was bound by certain UN Security Council decisions, but not by those of the UN General Assembly. It was bound by the contract between the Organization and the UN establishing the recognition of the Organization as a specialized agency to apply the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission "to the extent feasible." Those words were, of course, subject to interpretation made by the ILO Administrative Tribunal.

148. The Chair informed delegations that further consultations would be made by the Facilitator and hoped that, with the constructive spirit shown, delegations would contribute to the negotiations and that a very good and consensual outcome would be obtained before coming back to this agenda item at a later stage.

149. Reverting to the agenda item, the Chair was pleased to announce that consensus had emerged during the informal consultations that were held over the previous days and to which all interested delegations had been invited. The Chair noted that the proposed decision paragraph had been distributed to the delegations.

150. The Facilitator expressed his gratitude to the delegations who had been working extremely hard during the Assemblies to reach agreement on the outstanding issues under the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. The Facilitator also thanked the Secretariat for supporting him during the Assemblies and during the 29th and 30th PBC Sessions. The Facilitator stated that being a facilitator was sometimes a lonely business and he was very grateful to the Secretariat and their teams for both their advice and for making the process slightly less lonely. The Facilitator was pleased to announce that after five sessions of informal consultations and with significant participation of interested delegations, consensus had finally emerged on Item 13. The Facilitator stated that, based on the Chair's guidance he

would not read out the decision, which had been distributed to delegations in paper form. The Facilitator concluded by again thanking the delegations for their cooperation and participation, and the Secretariat for its guidance and support.

151. The Chair thanked the Facilitator for his tireless efforts and for his briefing.

152. With respect to the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:

- (i) Approved the Proposed Program and Budget for the biennium 2020/21 (document A/59/8), subject to the allocation of income and expenditure by Union as reflected in the attached revised version of Annex III, which reverts to the allocation of income and expenditure by Union in the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium;
- (ii) Recalled that, in accordance with the treaties of the fee-financed Unions, each Union should have revenue sufficient to cover its own expenses;
- (iii) Noted that each fee-financed Union with a projected biennial deficit in the 2020/21 biennium should examine measures in accordance with its own treaty to address that deficit;
- (iv) Noted that if any Union in any given biennium does not have sufficient revenue and reserves to cover its projected expenses, the amount required to fund the operations of such Union is provided from the net assets of the Organization and is disclosed in the Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements, Revenue, Expenses and Reserves by Segment of the Organization, which includes the Surplus/Deficit of the Unions, and is to be repaid when the reserves of such Union allow it to do so;
- (v) Decided that in accordance with (iv) above, for the 2020/21 biennium, if any fee-financed Union does not have sufficient revenue to cover its expenses, the required amount mentioned in (iv) shall be provided from the reserves of the Contribution Financed Unions, if those reserves are fully sufficient, otherwise from the reserves of the other fee-financed Unions, and be disclosed in the Financial Statements as notes;
- (vi) Noted that the allocation methodology for the income and expenditure by Union is a cross cutting topic and decided to continue discussion on this topic bearing in mind the overall long-term financial sustainability of the Organization based on documents A/59/10, A/59/11 and A/59/INF/6 and other proposals by Member States at the 31st session of the PBC for the PBC to make a recommendation, by consensus, to the WIPO Assemblies in 2020 on the methodology for the allocation of income and expenditure by Unions;
- (vii) Noted that all diplomatic conferences contemplated in the 2020/21 biennium, that may be held under the auspices of WIPO during the 2020/21 biennium and funded by the resources of the Organization, will be open to the full participation of all WIPO Member States in accordance with the Recommendations of the Development Agenda;
- (viii) Noted with concern the possible effect the ILO AT Judgment No. 4138 may have in undermining the UN common system;
- (ix) Recognized that WIPO, being part of the UN Common System, will continue to fulfill its obligations in accordance with the Agreement Between the United Nations

and the World Intellectual Property Organization and further to its acceptance of the ICSC Statute;

(x) Noted that the personnel resources in the Program and Budget 2020/21 does not represent any additional personnel resources associated with the implementation of ILO AT Judgment No. 4138 as compared to the Approved Program and Budget 2018/19.

153. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Chair for leaving the item open in order to allow the Delegation to work with other delegations to find a way forward. The Delegation thanked the Facilitator for ably facilitating the discussions. The Delegation stated that while it did not object to the decision having been adopted by consensus, it had nonetheless to express its extreme displeasure with the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium which had been revised to delete the Secretariat's proposed nominal contribution of one per cent towards common expenses which appeared in Annex III of the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, document A/59/8. The Delegation disassociated from the consensus on paragraph (i) inasmuch as it omitted the nominal one per cent contribution. The Delegation believed that the language of the WIPO Treaties and the Financial Regulations and Rules were important and should be adhered to and not discarded because it was convenient to do so. The Organization had enjoyed a significant surplus and it was anticipated that this surplus would grow in the upcoming biennium. The Delegation recalled that the Director General had warned the delegations year after year that "continued caution is appropriate in view of the somewhat unpredictable and volatile state of the global economy." The Delegation stated that it could ignore its responsibility and wait until the PCT Union, like every other union, was unable to pay a fair share of the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation suggested taking a more pragmatic approach and agreeing on sound financial principles that would ensure WIPO's financial future was protected. As an example, the Delegation said that all fee-financed unions should fund their own expenses and that all unions should contribute towards the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation was disappointed that Member States could not reach agreement on the two fundamental principles which were reflected in most WIPO-administered Treaties. The Delegation regarded anything less than a proportional contribution from all unions as unfair. By allowing some unions not to contribute anything towards common expenses of the Organization would unfairly require users of the PCT and Madrid Systems to shoulder more of the burden. PCT applicants from all countries were required to pay more than needed to cover the cost of WIPO PCT services so that users of other fee-financed systems could pay less, and in some cases, nothing at all. The use of the word fairness was being emphasized, notably as WIPO Member States had agreed in 2003, to revise the WIPO Treaties to require that the registration systems had fair and transparent budgets. The current situation was far from being either. The Delegation had remained hopeful that during the WIPO General Assembly the Member States would reach consensus on the budget, as proposed by the Secretariat. In negotiating the budget, the Delegation had supported the proposal of the Secretariat for each union to contribute at least one per cent of their income towards common expenses even though that proposal fell far short of what the Delegation regarded as fair. Even though the Delegation could accept the Secretariat's proposal, there were concerns from others who could not. The Delegation had repeatedly offered constructive proposals to address those concerns. The Delegation stated that there were concerns from the Asia and the Pacific Group about the contribution-financed (CF) Unions being required to contribute one per cent. The Delegation further elaborated that it had reviewed the budget and decided that some expenses that were charged to the CF Unions could already be considered common expenses. As a result, the Delegation had suggested that the CF Unions could be exempted from contributing the nominal one per cent. The Delegation recalled that it had heard concerns about the CF Unions projecting a significant deficit and therefore had offered a proposal to reallocate the miscellaneous income, which would have almost entirely eliminated the projected deficit. The Delegation further explained that it had heard that some Lisbon members could have tolerated contributing an

inconsequential amount of one per cent to common expenses but they needed assurances that the one per cent would not grow while they were unable to cover their own operating expenses. The Delegation offered assurances to place guardrails on the one per cent. The Delegation had tried to discuss with some delegations what those guardrails might look like but unfortunately had not been taken up on its offer to engage. In the interest of finding a solution, the Delegation had gone as far as accepting that the contribution of the one percent of income be reduced down to a mere one Swiss franc but that was also rejected. The Delegation wondered what measures the Lisbon members had offered to bridge the differences and noted that not a single measure had been offered. The Delegation of Switzerland, who was not a member of the Lisbon Agreement, had made two proposals. The first proposal was to make the so-called allocation methodology permanent. The Delegation questioned freezing a system that treated unions unfairly. The Delegation of Switzerland had also proposed the creation of a unified budget but had not proposed a corresponding Unitary Assembly that would manage that budget. The Delegation did not see the logic in that proposal, so accordingly, the Delegation disassociated from consensus on paragraph (i) inasmuch as it omitted the nominal one per cent contribution.

154. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that, while supporting the proposed budget, it was against the inclusion in the budget of the costs associated with Judgment No. 4138 of the ILOAT. However, in the spirit of seeking mutually acceptable solutions, the Delegation did not insist on its initial position and joined the consensus on the budget proposal, on the clear understanding that the ILOAT Judgment would not lead to further budgetary implications. The Delegation also reiterated its commitment to the UN common system as the cornerstone for defining and coordinating terms and conditions of employment in the international agencies, including WIPO. The ICSC should play the central role in this process, as was emphasized in numerous resolutions of the UN General Assembly. The Delegation remained concerned about the ILOAT Judgment. It agreed with the ICSC members opposing the considerations set out in the above-mentioned judgment, as the judgment was illogical and might have a harmful effect on the situation inside the UN system, creating double standards in remuneration rates in various organizations of the common system, which was a result of complete misunderstanding of the ICSC's role, particularly in the determination of post-adjustment multipliers. The Delegation hoped that the WIPO Secretariat would make every effort to implement subsequent resolutions of the UN General Assembly regarding the UN common system.

155. The Chair again thanked the Facilitator for his successful facilitation in the informal consultations.

ITEM 14 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

RECORDS OF WIPO MEETINGS

156. Discussions were based on document A/59/9.

157. The Director General introduced the document with an audiovisual presentation outlining the proposal contained in the document. The Director General noted that this had been the subject of discussion throughout recent months, including at his briefing for all ambassadors, and that the response had been overwhelmingly positive. The production of meeting records was a major cost item, in particular the verbatim reports of meetings, which was a very labor-intensive, costly process. The production of meeting records, however, was an important function, providing an authentic record of Member States' meetings. The Secretariat had therefore developed a system which it believed would greatly lower the cost of producing records of meetings, as well as enhancing the quality and the user-friendliness of those records for all delegations in Geneva and in capitals. The Director General drew the attention of delegates to a side-event on the subject at lunchtime that day, including a live demonstration.

The Director General stated that the objective of the proposal was to provide Member States with an integrated (text and audiovisual), authentic, searchable, and multilingual record of meetings, which would be promptly available. This would replace the existing system of the verbatim reports, which would generate considerable cost savings, would support the six-language UN policy for meeting records and would add value. The Director General outlined the three main types of meeting records currently produced by the Secretariat as follows: Firstly, audiovisual “video on-demand” (VoD) recordings. These were available in the original spoken language, plus English interpretation, on the day following the meeting. They were available as three-hour long segments with no search or other functionality. Secondly, the Chair's Summary of decisions, available in all UN languages, and adopted on the final day of the meeting. Thirdly, the verbatim report, available in all UN languages, but only several months after the meeting because it was such a labor-intensive process. The cost of producing and translating the verbatim reporting was estimated at 2.6 million Swiss francs per biennium. The Director General showed a breakdown of these costs, including a total per biennium of about 400,000 Swiss francs for producing the verbatim reports of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), and 260,000 Swiss francs for the verbatim reports of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). Describing the proposed changes, the Director General said that the current webcasting and VoD would be replaced by an enriched VoD system, incorporating digital indexing of all videos enabling easy navigation and search by agenda item and speaker. It would also provide integrated access to the relevant documents under discussion and would be available on the same day. No change was proposed to the current language regime, namely, the original language used on the floor by the delegation, plus English interpretation. No change was proposed to the current Chair's Summary of decisions. However, the verbatim report would be replaced with a full speech-to-text transcript, using an AI-based system. The Director General mentioned that the WIPO Speech-to-Text system had been developed in-house, and trained on the video and text records of past WIPO meetings, resulting in excellent recognition of accents. The transcript was fully searchable and would be published online on the same day of the meeting. It was proposed to integrate the WIPO Translate tool (which was also AI-based), which opened the possibility of eventual, enlarged language coverage. The Director General explained that a two-phase approach was proposed. Subject to a positive decision at these Assemblies, the first phase would comprise a twelve-month trial in two Committees, CDIP and the SCP, selected on the basis of the average length of their verbatim reports. The cost savings for the biennium were estimated at some 660,000 Swiss francs. The Director General underlined again that, in place of the verbatim report, there would be a full, searchable and indexed video-on-demand record of every intervention, plus the transcript produced by the AI-based speech-to-text system. In case of doubt about the accuracy of a word or passage in the transcript, it could be checked easily against the audiovisual recording in order to ensure an authentic record. Thereafter, the Secretariat would return to this item at the 2020 Assemblies, so that Member States could make a decision, based on their evaluation of the system during the trial phase, as to whether or not to extend the system to the other WIPO Committees in Phase Two. If so, the potential additional savings for 2021 were estimated at approximately 740,000 Swiss francs. The Director General noted that Member States may wish, at that stage, to exclude the WIPO Assemblies from the new system, although a number of delegations during consultations had expressed interest in including the Assemblies due to the advantages of the new system. The Director General mentioned that there had already been widespread expressions of interest in WIPO Speech-to-Text from other UN agencies and international organizations given the potential cost savings. Extending the use of the system to other organizations would also help improve accuracy by enlarging the data pool on which the artificial intelligence (AI) was trained, including for other languages. The Director General screened a short video-demonstration to show some key features of the WIPO Speech-to-Text system and of the new digitally-indexed webcasting and VoD system. The Director General noted that these initiatives were part of the overall digital transformation of the Organization, which affected not only the Organization's internal management systems but also the delivery of all of its services. The new webcasting

and VoD solution was an early deliverable of the Integrated Conference Services Platform (ICSP) project. The Director General also mentioned the issue of poor connectivity in certain countries, which had been raised during consultations, and noted that work was ongoing into the possibilities of making content available also in an offline mode. The WIPO Speech-to-Text system would also potentially be made available to Member States to use for their own purposes. He urged delegates to move forward with what the Secretariat believed was a vastly improved system.

158. The Delegation of Portugal congratulated the Secretariat for the video and the clear presentation of the tool, which the Delegation was convinced would facilitate the work of the Organization and improve transparency and access to information for all WIPO Committees. The Delegation believed that the use of the different technologies would allow significant efficiency gains; and supported the proposal for the pilot project. The Delegation underlined the importance of guaranteeing multilingualism, and of ensuring the quality of the automated transcripts.

159. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, thanked the Director General for the comprehensive presentation, and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for its timely and comprehensive records of WIPO meetings, which were invaluable to the work of the Organization and its Member States. The Asia and Pacific Group welcomed the Secretariat's proposal for a new system that responded more effectively to the needs of Member States; delivered faster, more effective digital records and more cost effective services; continued to support the six UN language policy; and increased the value and usefulness of audiovisual conference recordings. The Asia and Pacific Group appreciated the Secretariat's commitment to reducing digital and technology gaps in accessing and sharing records of WIPO meetings; and to maintaining the security and integrity of data. They looked forward to further discussions on these proposals.

160. The Delegation of China thanked the Director General for the detailed explanations and presentation. The Delegation supported the Secretariat's work in setting up the new conference recordings system, which the Delegation believed would increase the efficiency of participation and increase audiovisual facilities and save cost. The Delegation hoped that the new system would constantly improve the language coverage, including Chinese, Arabic, Russian, etc.; and would improve accuracy. The Delegation supported the inclusion of the CDIP and the SCP in the pilot project and hoped for good results.

161. The Delegation of Canada, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for the proposal, which had the potential to better support Member States and to further enhance the already high transparency of discussions held at WIPO. With its Members States using two non-English official UN languages, Group B would closely follow the quality and usability of the automated translation during the pilot phase, and would also seek to ensure consistency with the language policy of WIPO. Group B would appreciate information from the Secretariat on this, including samples of automated translations. Group B generally supported the efforts in this direction, and commended the Secretariat for this work.

162. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) expressed gratitude to the Director General and to the Secretariat for the preparation, the introduction and the beautiful video on the interesting proposal, which the Delegation considered would contribute positively to efficiency and quality. The Delegation considered the proposal to be excellent and the objectives very relevant; and fully supported the implementation of the proposal.

163. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the intervention delivered by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, and congratulated the Director General and WIPO on the excellent work on this initiative as part of the overall digital transformation of the Organization. Indonesia welcomed the proposal. The Delegation considered it a new

system that responded to the needs of Member States, would deliver faster and more efficient digital records and would result in more cost effective services. The Delegation supported this proposal on records of WIPO meetings complemented by automatically generated text using WIPO's AI tools. The Delegation also supported the new Digital Time Stamping Initiative. Indonesia appreciated the Secretariat's commitment to reducing digital and technology gaps in the accessing and sharing of records of WIPO meetings; and to maintaining the security and integrity of the data. Since this proposal was part of the Program and Budget, the Delegation hoped that the Assemblies would soon resolve the outstanding issues on the Program and Budget so that the draft Program and Budget for the 2020/2021 biennium could be agreed.

164. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea thanked WIPO's innovation efforts to enhance the benefits of the Member States, and expected this to set an exemplary precedent for other international organizations. The Delegation hoped that the new types of record would be successfully established; and that the service could include not only UN official languages but also other languages, such as Korean.

165. The Delegation of El Salvador thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for the presentation of this very important tool, which would facilitate the search for information by delegates, and also increase savings and efficiency for the Organization. The Delegation was in accordance with digital transformation at the highest level and therefore supported the initiative.

166. The Delegation of Tunisia supported these efforts aimed at using new technologies to improve the quality of the services provided to participants. The Delegation encouraged all efforts aimed at developing the services provided, and expressed its sincere thanks.

167. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic offered congratulations for the excellent piece of work presented by the Director General. The use of AI to bring about a substantial improvement in flexibility and in the video transcriptions of meetings was impressive. The Delegation reiterated that it was very impressed by what it had seen and heard, and believed this would make an excellent contribution to the efficiency of delegates' work. The Delegation suggested that, once perfected, the tools could be made available to Member States, who would find it useful for many purposes, including for international and regional meetings.

168. The Delegation of South Africa expressed appreciation for the wonderful system. Innovation and ICT were very important in terms of communication globally, so the Delegation supported and congratulated WIPO for this initiative.

169. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B; and expressed appreciation for WIPO's initiatives to enable access to meeting records by utilizing technologies, including AI.

170. The Delegation of Nigeria welcomed the initiative as a clear indication of the advanced digital transformation and acceleration of the work of WIPO. The Delegation congratulated and supported WIPO for this landmark achievement, which would ease the work of WIPO and its Member States. The Delegation said that it had watched in awe and admiration, and hoped it would be utilized for the full benefit of globalization and unique advancement.

171. The Delegation of Guatemala expressed confidence that the tool would be extremely useful for Member States. It would help to get meeting reports back to the capitals more quickly and in a more flexible manner.

172. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed support to the efforts undertaken to use new technologies for this initiative.

173. The Director General thanked all delegations for their very positive responses. He assured delegations that the Secretariat had the multilingual dimension very much in mind, and

would rely on cooperation with Member States to enlarge the data pools for that purpose. The sharing of the WIPO Speech-to-Text tool was also very much in mind and would likewise help enlarge the data pool.

174. The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, adopted the proposal described in paragraph 11 of document A/59/9.

ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)

175. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)

176. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT)

177. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 18 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

178. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 19 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

179. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)

180. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 21 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

181. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 22 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)

182. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 23 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PCT SYSTEM

183. See the report of the session of the PCT Union Assembly (document PCT/A/51/4).

ITEM 24 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

184. See the report of the session of the Madrid Union Assembly (document MM/A/53/3).

ITEM 25 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

LISBON SYSTEM

185. See the report of the session of the Lisbon Union Assembly (document LI/A/36/2).

ITEM 26 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

186. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 27 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

187. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/51/18).

ITEM 28 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)

188. See the report of the session of the Singapore Treaty Assembly (document STLT/A/12/2).

ITEM 29 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED (MVT)

189. See the report of the session of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (document MVT/A/4/2)

ITEM 30 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

190. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/76/4).

ITEM 31 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

191. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/76/4).

ITEM 32 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

192. Discussions were based on document A/59/13.

193. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned,

- (i) adopted the Summary Report (document A/59/13 and addenda); and
- (ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by October 31, 2019. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by November 29, 2019, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 13, 2019.

ITEM 33 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

194. The Delegation of Croatia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, expressed its gratitude to the Chair and the Vice-Chairs for their tireless efforts and dedication in guiding the work of the 59th Assemblies. The CEBS Group equally commended the Director General, the Senior Management Team and the Secretariat for their efforts and efficiency demonstrated at these Assemblies and throughout the year. The CEBS Group also expressed its thanks and appreciation to the conference services and the interpreters who ensured excellent working conditions. Furthermore, the CEBS Group thanked all Regional Coordinators, especially those whose mandate would cease at the end of the session, for their cooperation during the year and the 59th Assemblies. The CEBS Group was pleased that the Program and Budget had been adopted, and that would ensure the functioning of the Organization. The CEBS Group equally noted with satisfaction that the WIPO General Assembly had agreed to proceed with the evaluation of the entire network of the WIPO External Offices in 2021, to consider the opening of up to four new WIPO external offices. It was pleased because this fell under a long-standing CEBS position to reach a decision on the external offices based on merit. However, the CEBS Group regretted that once again, no agreement had been reached on the pending issues such as the distribution of additional seats for the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, as well as the Design Law Treaty (DLT). It hoped that this would be resolved in the future. In conclusion, the Group reiterated its thanks to all the delegations, the Officers and the Secretariat for their dedication and efforts demonstrated throughout these series of meetings. The CEBS Group wished all capital-based delegates a safe trip.

195. The Delegation of Mexico, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, paid tribute to the Chair for his work over the last week and a half. The Delegation had had the opportunity to listen to the opinions of delegates from capitals specialized in IP, and considered it an essential tool of development. The countries of GRULAC believed that WIPO is a unique place to deal with IP, and it appreciated that others as well as GRULAC had called for the strengthening of WIPO's work by expanding its platforms and the services offered to all Member States. GRULAC was pleased with the hard work of Member States in reaching a positive decision on the adoption of the budget, which would enable WIPO to take action where needed and make its work more

efficient and effective. GRULAC hoped that the need to achieve the strategic goals and to implement the programs agreed upon was understood as important, as well as the need for a balanced and effective IP system to promote innovation and creativity for everyone's benefit. Furthermore, that would also help to achieve the SDGs and the DA. GRULAC regretted that decisions had not yet been reached on important issues such as the convening of a diplomatic conference on the DLT. GRULAC reiterated its dismay in the lack of political will to adopt a decision to open an external office in Colombia. GRULAC wished to put on record its great disappointment that the regions' attempt to strengthen the use of IP seemed to be ignored. GRULAC believed that the opening of an external office in Colombia would have contributed in a major way to strengthening the development of IP in its region. GRULAC was conscious of the many challenges ahead, and emphasized that, in the future, the pending issues could only be achieved by hard work for the benefit of all and of the Organization. GRULAC reiterated its commitment to work with an objective spirit to try to reach decisions for the benefit of the Organization and all the Member States. GRULAC hoped that Member States would not continue to kick issues further down the road and fail to conclude. GRULAC thanked the Director General for his tireless efforts to improve and to strengthen the work of the Organization. GRULAC also expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat, in particular, the conference services and the interpreters who contributed significantly in facilitating communication between Member States. GRULAC concluded by wishing all delegates returning to their capitals a safe trip home.

196. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, expressed its sincere appreciation to the Chair for his leadership in steering the Assemblies. The Group commended the Director General and his excellent team for their sterling support extended to Members. The Group joined all delegations in expressing its special thanks to the various facilitators for their hard work and cooperation. The Group congratulated the incoming Chair, Ambassador Omar Zniber (Morocco). The Group regretted that the WIPO General Assembly once again, was unable to come to an agreement on outstanding issues, especially the Group's proposals on the Composition of the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee. Nonetheless, the Group would continue to work closely with the Members to move WIPO's agenda forward. The Group wished everyone a good morning and safe travels.

197. The Delegation of China thanked the Chair for his able leadership during the Assemblies. The Delegation also thanked the Director General and his Senior Management Team for their outstanding performance over the past few years. In addition, the Delegation thanked the facilitators of the various agenda items for their efforts. The Delegation remarked that the meeting was not easy. The Delegation noted that Member States still had divergent opinions on important agenda items. The Delegation stated that the Assemblies had elected a few members of the WIPO Coordination Committee through a forced vote instead of a consensus. In that regard, the Delegation believed that this had brought a not very good precedence to the Organization. Moreover, this also reflected that certain set of rules of the Organization were not very clear. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would improve in that area in the future. The Delegation also took note of the election of the new members of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and it expressed its wishes to work with all Member States in an open and inclusive manner to proceed in a good manner with the work of the WIPO Coordination Committee. With regard to the pending issues, the Delegation would continue to make efforts with other delegations in a constructive manner to speed up the negotiation process to achieve consensus. In conclusion, China wished to thank the Secretariat and the interpreters for their professionalism and dedication.

198. The Delegation of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the African Group, extended its appreciation to the Chair as well as to the Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent preparation of the Assemblies, and for the support given to Member States that was vital to the success of the Assemblies. The African Group also expressed its appreciation to the interpreters, the Protocol and Event Management Division and the conference services for their

hard work, efficiency, constructive engagement and active participation in making these Assemblies a success. The African Group welcomed the consensus reached on some of the outstanding issues on the agenda. It regretted that consensus had not been reached on a number of outstanding issues but was convinced that the continued active engagement of all Member States would ensure success in future sessions. The African Group wished all capital-based delegates a safe journey home, and those based in Switzerland a restful week.

199. The Delegation of Canada, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Chair, the Officers, as well as the Chair of the WIPO Conference, who had presided over an unusual session that night. Group B also thanked the facilitators Ambassador Flores Liera, Ambassador Karklins and Ambassador Staines, as well as the Legal Counsel and his staff who had engaged in the facilitation exercises. Group B also thanked the Assemblies Affairs and Documentation Division, the conference section, the translators and interpreters for their availability and professionalism, and reiterated its thanks to the Office of the Legal Counsel for its invaluable support. Group B stated that it had been a challenging session to say the least, whereby all regional groups including Group B had made notable concessions on institutional and substantive matters. Concerning the DLT, Group B regretted that, despite the commendable work of Ambassador Flores Liera, which led to a finely balanced text, the WIPO General Assembly was unable to agree on a way forward, and it had tested the very limits of Group B's flexibility. Group B hoped that Member States would continue their future efforts towards concluding a WIPO industrial designs formalities treaty. On external offices, Group B said it was worth mentioning that the outcome was less than ideal not only for applicants but for the rest of the membership as well, as most of the membership was not part of the discussions that led to the adopted decision. Despite its reservations with the process and the substance, Group B had accepted this decision in the superior interest of consensus. Group B welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC, and the contributions of Finland and Germany to the Voluntary Fund for the participation of indigenous and local communities in the IGC. Group B was pleased that an agreement had been reached on the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium. Though Group B was certainly mindful that it was hard fought, it was glad that Member States once again, had attained an outcome based on a consensus in the end. The Group ended on a personal note as this was the speaker's last day as Group Coordinator. He took the opportunity to thank other regional coordinators and all counterparts for their cooperation, engagement and commitment.

200. The Delegation of Finland, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member states, thanked the Chair and the Vice-Chairs for their efforts and leadership in facilitating discussions during these Assemblies. It also thanked the facilitators, the Director General, the Deputy Directors-General and the Secretariat for their tireless dedication and professionalism in reconciling the different positions during these Assemblies. In addition, the European Union and its member states thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents and meetings, and the interpreters for their hard work and excellent performance. The European Union and its member states noted with appreciation that the WIPO General Assembly had adopted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Copyright And Related Rights (SCCR) regarding the broadcasting treaty, and decided to invite the SCCR to continue its work towards convening a diplomatic conference aiming for the 2020/20/21 biennium subject to Member States reaching consensus on the fundamental issues in future meetings of the Committee. The European Union and its member states reiterated its continued commitment and great interest in those discussions and remain hopeful that they would result in a meaningful treaty that would respond efficiently to both the current and future needs of broadcasting organizations. Regarding Agenda Item 18, the DLT, the European Union and its member states thanked the Facilitator, Ambassador Flores Liera for her efforts. The European Union and its member states were pleased to engage in informal discussions initiated by the circulation of the Facilitator's proposal for a possible compromise solution on outstanding issues. However, it noted with regret that, yet again, this year, no positive decision was achieved to convene a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the DLT and that the matter

remained on the agenda for the 2020 WIPO General Assembly. Turning to the IGC, the European Union and its member states were pleased that the WIPO General Assembly approved the Committee's recommendation for the renewal of the IGC mandate for another two years. It further noted that a practical mandate and a clear work plan for the 2020/2021 biennium had been obtained. It would continue to engage actively in discussions on all three topics addressed in the IGC mandate. It recalled that two of its member states, Finland and Germany had pledged to contribute to the WIPO Voluntary Fund, thus facilitating the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the IGC. The European Union and its member states hoped that other WIPO Member States would join in the positive movement and help keep the Fund from becoming depleted in the coming years. In closing, the European Union and its member states reiterated its continued commitment to WIPO's goal and work. As the only UN organization responsible for multilateral negotiations in the field of IP, the European and its member states stressed that the Organization needed positive engagements from all delegations in performing its tasks. Despite the highly politicized nature of the topics discussed, the European Union and its member states hoped that the cooperative spirit shown in all WIPO bodies and Committees would prevail and help to find pragmatic solutions to topics that could not be finalized at these Assemblies.

201. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked all delegations, facilitators, the Secretariat and the Chair, for very constructive discussions and productive work accomplished during these Assemblies. The Delegation believed that Member States were leaving with positive results. It further noted that Member States had managed to settle a series of issues that were of key importance for the future functioning and operation of the Organization, and which would help to further develop international cooperation in the area of IP. It said that Member States had decided upon the strategic approach that the Organization would take to adjust and adapt its work as digital technology moved into the area of IP. The Delegation noted that delegations had echoed the message of key importance by adopting the Program and Budget for the forthcoming biennium, as well as respecting to develop the policy of multilingualism. The Delegation believed that expanding the use of official languages in WIPO was sensible given the growing use of the international registration system and the need to enhance accessibility to services relating to IP throughout the world. The Delegation hoped that there would be fruitful work done in the future to improving and protecting the language regime of the registration system administered by WIPO, and further develop the policy of multilingualism in the Organization. The Delegation supported the draft Program and Budget presented initially with the exception of the expenditure on the compliance with the decision taken by the ILOAT. The Delegation did not insist on its original proposal, in the spirit of seeking a mutually acceptable decision, and joined the consensus on the budget allocations on the clear understanding that the decision of the ILOAT should not lead to additional budgetary consequences. The Delegation took the opportunity to reaffirm its strong attachment to the UN common system. The Delegation agreed with the opinion expressed by the ICSC that expressed the disagreement with the ruling of the ILOAT because that decision risks a two-track system of salary payments and rewards within the same UN system. It was the result of a complete misunderstanding of the role of the ICSC, particularly as far as certain post adjustment was concerned. The Delegation hoped that the WIPO Secretariat would do its possible best to ensure future compliance with UN General Assembly resolutions affecting the UN common system. The Delegation reiterated its thanks to the Director General, his team and the Secretariat for their very successful and productive work. The Delegation appreciated the level of cooperation that it had with WIPO on the wide range of issues relating to IP. The Delegation was pleased to continue to work positively and effectively with delegations in the future. In conclusion, the Delegation echoed the thanks expressed to the Protocol and Event Management Division, conference services and the interpreters.

202. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B. The Delegation thanked the Chair for his leadership during these Assemblies. The Delegation also extended its appreciation to the

conference services, the interpreters, and all WIPO staff who contributed to the smooth functioning of those meetings. The Delegation noted that while some progress was achieved, it was mindful that significant work remained in many areas. With regard to the Organization's budget, the Delegation continued to urge members of all fee-funded Unions to continue to find solutions towards their financial sustainability, and for the Unions to contribute toward the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation was disappointed that Member States could not accept the nominal one per cent income going to the common expenses of the Organization. The Delegation stated that as adopted, the CF Unions contributed over one million Swiss francs to cover the costs of the SCT, while the Lisbon Union contributed nothing. Similarly, the Lisbon Union would contribute nothing to the WIPO Academy, to building respect for IP, or many other programs that benefitted from the Lisbon Union. As described in its explanation of its position when the budget was adopted on Tuesday, October 8, the Delegation dissociated from paragraph 30(i) of the Summary Report concerning decisions adopted by the Program and Budget, but it had chosen not to block consensus on the adoption of the budget. While the Delegation regarded financial self-sufficiency as a goal for all fee-financed Unions, it also attached great importance to maintaining consensus-based decision making, a bedrock of the Organization, and had chosen not to disturb that foundation. Nevertheless, the Delegation urged members of the Lisbon Union to continue to work toward finding a solution to its long-term sustainability. The Delegation stated that, in adopting the budget, it reserved its legal position with regard to the administration of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement by WIPO; that is, the Delegation would not provide its consent on this question with the approval of the budget. The Delegation was also disappointed that despite some Members' interest in being on the PBC as well as the WIPO Coordination Committee, there had been little appetite to engage thoughtfully in the discussions. The Delegation appreciated the willingness of all Member States to finding a way to a consensus decision for the Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee before the end of the Assemblies. The Delegation suggested, that in the future, if not all the regional groups have been able to submit their nominations in time for preparation of meeting documents, the regional group nominations received by a set deadline be included in the published meeting document, with an indication that the list is not yet complete. The Delegation said that, with such a process, the meeting documents would be as comprehensive as possible before the Assemblies. The Delegation also believed that the process established for the Composition of the Program and Budget Committee was valuable. The Delegation equally regretted, that once again, the WIPO General Assembly was unable to convene a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT despite utmost efforts of the Member States and the Facilitator. Despite those impasses, the Delegation recognized the achievements made this year. The Delegation supported the decision to adopt the new IGC mandate, and would continue to constructively engage in that Committee. The Delegation also welcomed the preparations for the evaluation of the External Offices network in 2021; that review was a necessary element of Member States conducting their oversight duties with respect to the Organization. The Delegation said that given how difficult the external offices discussions had been for Member States since 2015, it believed it was essential that the evaluation be conducted by an independent external evaluator in order to ensure an impartial, objective and no-politicized assessment. The Delegation commended Ambassador Karklin's unwavering efforts over the multiple Assemblies to facilitate that discussion, which required bridging multiple positions. Concerning oversight, the Delegation took the opportunity to thank the IAOC for its invaluable role in assisting Member States conduct their oversight responsibilities, as well as the Secretariat for their availability and engagement in addressing questions or concerns regarding overall management and staff issues. Lastly, as the current Group's Regional Coordinator's term comes to an end, the Delegation took the opportunity to warmly express its deep appreciation for the hard work, dedication, steadfast efforts, leadership and positive attitude of the Coordinator over the last year. In conclusion, the Delegation applauded the Chair's efforts in the progress and advancement of the work on all of those issues. The Delegation thanked all delegations for their flexibility and willingness to engage in their collective effort to move the work of the Organization forward.

203. The Director General thanked the Chair for his leadership and his guidance throughout the past 10 days. The Director General extended his thanks, in particular, to the Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the WIPO Conference, as well as all the facilitators for their extremely hard work. He also thanked all Member States and expressed his deep appreciation for all the support that Member States gave to the Organization and for their commitment to moving the program of the Organization forward. The Director General said that, as many delegations had remarked, the results of these Assemblies were somewhat mixed. However, he believed that Member States should not be too despondent because a full program of work was adopted in the Program and Budget, which had been very carefully considered by the Member States in the course of the past months, and which provided a complete path forward for the Organization. The Director General noted that, although positive decisions were reached in some of the issues in the normative area, there were also some disappointments. He said that it was obvious that there were many issues that the Organization needed to work through by good dialogue, which he believed was installed within the Organization and in the course of the many meetings held. The Director General extended his thanks to the Senior Management Team, in particular, to the Secretary of the Assemblies, Mr. Naresh Prasad, and to all colleagues that had provided their services to ensure the successful operation of this meeting, as well as the interpreters. The Director General wished all delegates a safe return.

204. The Chair thanked the Director General for his remarks. The Chair also thanked the facilitators, Ambassador Flores Liera, Ambassador Karklins and Ambassador Staines, as well as the Regional Coordinators and all delegations for their active engagement and the good cooperation that he had enjoyed throughout these Assemblies. The Chair noted that while discussions had been difficult at times, they had managed to maintain the congenial and convivial environment that had greatly facilitated the work. The Chair said that the vast majority of items had been concluded successfully, whether related to the administration and oversight of the Organization as a whole or related to substantive IP issues. The Chair announced that the new Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber, would oversee consultations on all pending issues as he takes up his new role from that day. The Chair wished the new Chair of the WIPO General Assembly much success in his endeavors. In concluding, the Chair thanked the Director General, the Secretary of the Assemblies, and the Secretariat for the support provided to him as Chair as well as for the most efficient organizational arrangements deployed for these Assemblies. The Chair also thanked the interpreters for their work. The Chair wished all delegates, and most of all capital-based delegates, a safe trip back home.

205. The Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

[Annex follows]

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 123 States, four intergovernmental organizations and seven non-governmental organizations provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia (the), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), South Centre (CS), All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), European Public Law Organization (EPLI), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) and Third World Network (TWN).
2. Delegations and Representatives thanked the Director General for all his work and untiring efforts in the cause of intellectual property (IP), together with the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the Assemblies meetings.
3. The Delegation of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Director General for all of his work and untiring efforts in the cause of IP, and the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the Assemblies' meetings. While Member States had intensified efforts to resolve some long-standing issues on WIPO's work program, slow progress on a range of issues of great importance to the Group had been due to Member States' inability to acknowledge the diverse, but legitimate, interests of all Member States, and a lack of political flexibility and inability to comply fully with the tenets of the Development Agenda (DA), which was vital to the sustainable development of developing countries and which should continue to be financed and implemented by WIPO. Until all Member States were prepared to engage in a constructive and balanced manner that took all members' and stakeholders' interests into account, it would be difficult to achieve concrete outcomes and gradually improve the Organization's IP system and governance. The Group, considering that the texts of the three draft legal instruments for the effective protection of traditional knowledge (TK), traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) and genetic resources (GRs) were currently mature and could be submitted to a diplomatic conference for discussion, called on the 2019 Assemblies to provide concrete guidance to the substantive work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) with a view to the finalization of one or more instruments during the 2020/21 biennium. The Group regretted that matters relating to the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a Design Law Treaty (DLT) had not been resolved at the previous three Assemblies. It had taken a pragmatic, flexible and open approach to the DLT negotiations and maintained its position that the final text of the treaty should take into account, in a balanced manner, the diverse interests of all Member

States and challenges likely to be faced by developing and least developed countries (LDCs) in implementing the DLT and related substantive design laws. It regretted that the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) had not reached consensus on the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium, given the need for the draft Program and Budget to provide for appropriate and sustainable funding levels for development activities, and called for the current and theretofore effective allocation methodology to be retained. It urged the Assemblies to provide concrete guidance to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) on copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives, museums and educational and research institutions, and for persons with other disabilities. The Group reiterated its strong support for the proposal by the Delegations of the Congo and Senegal to include artists' resale right in the SCCR work program. Voicing strong support for the principle of proportionate and equitable geographical representation of WIPO members on the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, it called for informal consultations in order to continue discussions on that issue.

4. The Delegation of Singapore, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, said that it was the second largest Group in WIPO and represented one of the most dynamic regions in the world, especially in terms of innovation and IP development. Countries in the Group had made strides in the rankings of the 2019 Global Innovation Index (GII) and the pace of accessions to WIPO treaties among members was steadily accelerating. The Group accounted for nine out of the 13 accessions to the Berne Union and all four accessions to the Paris Union since 2011. It was, therefore, imperative that the Group be represented in a more balanced manner in all WIPO Committees and that the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee be expanded. The Group had again submitted two proposals to the 2019 Assemblies as contained in documents WO/GA/51/17 and A/59/12. The Group firmly believed that its proposals were fair and urged all Member States to engage constructively to reach a mutually acceptable solution during the 2019 Assemblies. A fair and balanced IP system was an important tool for economic development and the Group welcomed the important steps taken by WIPO to strengthen the Organization's development focus. The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) should continue to be guided by the principle of mainstreaming development in all WIPO activities. The Group welcomed the Director General's report in that regard, and the report on WIPO's contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its associated targets, as contained in document CDIP/23/10, and the contribution of relevant WIPO bodies to the implementation of the DA. It was imperative that Member States make progress on normative and organizational aspects of WIPO's agenda, especially considering the significant challenges facing the rules-based multilateral system. Member States should take responsibility and put aside differences to pursue larger goals, including WIPO's mission to establish an effective and balanced international IP regime and to keep pace with technological changes. In that regard, the Group welcomed the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC and expressed its support for the early finalization of a text of an international, legally binding instrument(s) for the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. The Group welcomed the recommendation contained in document WO/GA/11/5 on a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations and expressed the hope that future sessions of the SCCR would narrow the gaps so that consensus could be reached on fundamental issues including the objective, specific scope and object of protection. The Group commended members of the SCCR and the Secretariat for implementing the action plan on exceptions and limitations within the framework of the SCCR and hoped for the convening of a conference on exceptions and limitations. Further discussions were needed on the DLT, specifically on draft articles regarding the provision of technical assistance and the disclosure regime. Decisions on the opening of new External Offices should be governed by the Guiding Principles agreed to at the 2015 WIPO General Assembly, and the Group, which included six countries applying to host an External Office, was committed to being part of the solution. The Group wished to further strengthen its relationship with WIPO and commended the Organization for its robust financial health in the previous year. The Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) and Internal Oversight Division (IOD) should continue to provide independent and effective internal oversight of WIPO in line with the provisions of the Internal Oversight Charter. The Group urged WIPO to resolve

the outstanding issue of financial allocation methodology for Unions in the proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium and hoped for constructive discussions on that issue with a view to reaching unanimous endorsement of the Program and Budget and any other related issues to WIPO. The Group was willing to contribute constructively and actively to the successful conclusion of the 2019 Assemblies.

5. The Delegation of Tajikistan speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC) commended WIPO for its continued efforts to develop the system of protection of IP rights (IPRs). WIPO's activities contributed to the implementation of modern facilities to strengthen the potential and capacity of national patent offices. CACEEC had been actively cooperating in this area with WIPO and patent offices of states of other groups. The Group called upon the WIPO Secretariat to continue to place special emphasis on programs aimed at capacity building as an integral part of development in general. It stressed that WIPO's activities in the area of capacity building and development needed to be balanced and, in particular, to meet the requirements of transition economies, as well as to bridge the knowledge and technology gap, to upgrade infrastructure, and to facilitate access to specialized databases. The Group expressed its commitment to participate in constructive discussions on the issues pending, including the draft Program and Budget for the 2020/2021 biennium. Regarding the methodology on the allocation of income and expenditure by Unions, the Group highlighted the importance of respecting the fundamental principles of WIPO and keeping a single budget system for all the Unions inside the Organization. The Group believed that reviewing the methodology would lead to disintegration of the effective international system of IP registration and protection globally. The Group highly appreciated the results of the WIPO's committees. The Group welcomed introduction of the discussions on the influence of digitalization on IP as a new agenda item of the CDIP. The Group highly appreciated the legislative work of the Organization. Referring to conveying the diplomatic conference for the DLT, the Group reiterated the position of CACEEC on the desirability of holding such a conference in the region. However, the Group stated its conviction that, prior to making the decision to convene the diplomatic conference, all differences on key issues, including disclosure requirements, should be removed. Such approach would inspire confidence in the successful adoption by the conference of an international treaty that would reflect the needs and interests of WIPO Member States. CACEEC supported the inclusion of the terms related to technical assistance and capacity building into the treaty, as they were highly important for development of IP infrastructure in developing countries, economies in transition and LDCs. The Group confirmed the commitment of CACEEC to continue its constructive participation in this work. It also supported the intensification of work on the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations within the SCCR in order to decide on the convening of a diplomatic conference for its adoption in the near future. The Group strongly supported the decision of the SCCR to make an analysis of the rights of performance directors of theatrical works and hoped that work in this regard would continue. The Group also commended the work of Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) as a forum for information exchange in the field of IP rights enforcement between countries representing various regions. To solve this global issue, cooperation and coordination at national and international levels were paramount, especially between the competent authorities. Mechanisms, such as expert missions, field missions, seminars and practicums, would be very helpful in this regard. The Group commended the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and hoped that it would continue its work on the basis of a balanced program for the development of the international patent system, from which all the Member States would benefit. A number of proposals related to the examination of inventions in the field of information and communication technologies, and the use of breakthrough technologies to improve the efficiency of departments, were submitted to this Committee. The Group hoped that a productive exchange of experience and views would take place at the next sessions, which would lay the foundation for a harmonized approach by offices to this issue. The Group supported the work of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) aimed at the revision of international standards, including in the context of digital transformation in IP field. The Group looked forward to a

comprehensive study of the prospects for expanding the language regime of the Madrid and Hague Systems. CACEEC expressed its interest in including the Russian language as one of the official languages of these Systems for wider access of the applicants from the countries of the region to WIPO services. The Group noted with regret the fact that CACEEC was underrepresented in the Secretariat. It was convinced that CACEEC possessed significant expertise based on the successful functioning of national patent systems and other IP activities, and this experience could be beneficial to WIPO. The Group looked forward to further collaboration aimed at increasing the number of Secretariat staff members who were citizens of CACEEC. Finally, the Group reiterated its sincere gratitude to the Director General and all staff of the WIPO Secretariat for the constant willingness to provide necessary assistance and commitment in general to the protection of IP.

6. The Delegation of Croatia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), said that WIPO was providing support, including capacity-building activities, in CEBS, which remained important for the enhancement of IP infrastructure and capacities in those countries. WIPO's very positive financial results should make its membership delve further into how IP could be put to better use for the sustainable development of societies, as IP boosted innovation, competitiveness and growth. The responsibility of Member States also included defining appropriate policies to meet the needs of different countries and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The CEBS Group relied on WIPO to continue the provision of services to the core Unions – the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), and Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems, by allocating resources for their use. On behalf of the CEBS Group, the Delegation congratulated WIPO on its efforts to keep pace with scientific developments and to include the digital agenda in its work. Together with the developments within the SCP and Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), these efforts increased the relevance of WIPO's work. The 2019 WIPO General Assembly should devote special attention to pending legislative issues. Laudably, various regional groups had managed to narrow their positions with progress being achieved on long-standing issues within the IGC, and it was possible that an agreement could be finalized during the 2020/2021 biennium. Equally significant was that the SCCR was aiming for diplomatic conference in 2021 for the broadcasting treaty as a result of the flexibility of its members. The CEBS Group hoped that similar flexibility would culminate in the convening of a diplomatic conference on the DLT. The CEBS Group attached great importance to the progress achieved as regards the DLT, not only because the text had been ready for some time, but also because it would reflect the readiness of the membership to constructively engage in resolving thorny issues, with two other normative issues having been agreed. The DLT would provide enhanced protection for new designs and would simplify and harmonize the existing registration procedures. The CEBS Group repeated its call for constructiveness and consensus when dealing with the allocation methodology for different Unions and highlighted its strong attachment to the principle of solidarity. Adopting the Program and Budget for the next biennium was of utmost priority. The CEBS Group firmly believed that any decision on External Offices should be based on the 2015 Guiding Principles and taken by consensus. The Guiding Principles stated that equitable geographical distribution should be taken into consideration. The CEBS Group was the only group without an office and Romania had presented its candidature to host one. More importantly, the review of the WIPO External Offices network should be carried out in 2021. It was essential to reach a decision on opening External Offices based on merit. The external auditors from India and the United Kingdom had, together with the IAOC and IOD, successfully performed their oversight duties. The CEBS Group hoped that the WIPO General Assembly would find ways to resolve pending issues and that it would further contribute to the relevance of WIPO. The CEBS Group would approach issues in a spirit of constructive commitment.

7. The Delegation of China announced that October 1 was the National Day of China and marked the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of the People's Republic of China. It wished to share the joy with everyone present. It stressed that the Government of China attached great

importance to the protection of IP and would further strengthen IP protection through international cooperation. China would continue to build a sound business and innovative environment that respected the value of IP, and would comprehensively improve the relevant laws and regulations. Since the beginning of 2019, China had passed the Foreign Investment Law, amended the Trademark Law, and was expediting amendments to the Patent Law and the Copyright Law. Punitive damages for IP infringement had been introduced to enhance IP protection. Quality and efficiency in examination had been improved to meet the needs of innovation and market actors. From January to June 2019, China had received 649,000 patent applications, 341,000 design applications, and 3,438,000 trademark registrations. In the meantime, 24,000 PCT applications were filed, up by 4.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2018. The examination cycle continued to be shortened while examination quality was steadily improved. In 2018, the total number of copyright registrations reached 3.5 million. In reaffirming closer cooperation between the Government of China and WIPO in 2018, the Delegation highlighted that 17 Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) had been established in two phases. In September 2019, WIPO and China had jointly organized the first cross-regional international meeting on TISCs in Hangzhou, China. A high-level forum on the protection of copyright was scheduled for December 2019. China continued to promote the use of PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems in the country. The WIPO Office in China (WOC) had received support from the country to maintain its effective operation. In addition, satisfactory progress had been achieved through cooperation between WIPO and China in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for IP disputes. The Delegation commended WIPO for its remarkable achievements under the leadership of the Director General and his senior management team in the past years, including the positive outcomes on the international IP norm-setting agenda, as well as the impressive performance in achieving the nine strategic goals of the Organization, and in implementing the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the WIPO DA. With regard to the relevant issues within the WIPO framework and on the agenda of the 2019 Assemblies, the Delegation firstly emphasized the importance of ensuring the steady progress of WIPO's work. It looked forward to the approval of the Program and Budget for the 2020/2021 biennium by the Assemblies. It also called on the further improvement of WIPO's global IP systems and the inclusion of other UN official languages, in particular Chinese and Russian, as working languages of the Madrid and Hague Systems, to better serve innovation actors worldwide. Secondly, the Delegation looked forward to positive development in the global IP norm-setting discussions within the WIPO framework. It counted on the Assemblies to approve the new biennial mandate and work program for the IGC, to facilitate the early convening of the Diplomatic Conference on the DLT, to expedite the consensus on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, and to enable the early entry into force of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances. It also expressed its support for WIPO in leading the development of rules for the protection of new technological areas. Thirdly, the Delegation highlighted several concerns of developing countries. It appealed for the increased representation of developing countries in the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, and the mainstreaming of development aspects in the Organization's work to effectively improve the developing countries' ability to utilize IP for development. In the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong SAR) of China, the Government of the Hong Kong SAR was committed to enhancing the IP regime, with a view to supporting the development of innovation and technology and fostering IP trading. The Delegation affirmed that it was striving to implement a series of relevant measures. On reforming the patent system, the Government of the Hong Kong SAR had put in place the requisite legislation and was speeding up other preparatory work. It planned to implement the "Original Grant" patent system at the end of 2019, which would open a new chapter in its effort to encourage research and development in technology. On the copyright front, the Government of the Hong Kong SAR planned to amend the relevant Ordinance to expand the scope of the existing copyright exceptions with a view to further catering for the needs of the visually impaired and measuring up to the latest international standard. On the trading of IP, it would leverage its advantages in professional services and make the most of its role as a trading hub. It would also actively participate in

relevant development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and support the advancement of a high value-added knowledge economy in the region. The Delegation concluded by expressing its wish to share its experiences with other parties.

8. The Delegation of Canada, speaking on behalf of Group B, stated that WIPO had made significant progress in recent years, notably in providing global IP services and promoting the use of its registration systems. To ensure the effective protection of IP, WIPO must accommodate the needs of innovators, creators, IP system users and other stakeholders. Group B welcomed the positive financial result for the 2018/19 biennium. The large share of fee income in that result underlined the importance of WIPO's registration systems and in particular the PCT System as the financial backbone of the Organization. WIPO must continue to manage those services prudently, cautiously and effectively to continue that positive performance over the coming years. The technical assistance provided by WIPO in close partnership with Member States was of equal importance. Indeed, technical assistance activities played a key role in developing the IP systems of beneficiary countries. With regard to the normative agenda, Group B regretted that non-substantive considerations continued to hamper the adoption of the DLT, thus depriving users of a simpler and more streamlined industrial design environment. With regard to copyright, Group B noted the recommendation made by the SCCR to the WIPO General Assembly on the importance of continuing work towards a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. Member States must reach consensus within the SCCR on fundamental issues such as scope, object of protection and rights to be granted. Group B recognized the progress made and the cross-regional engagement fostered in the recent sessions of the SCCR and looked forward to continuing constructive discussions in that context. It also acknowledged the progress made in the IGC in 2018–19 and welcomed the recommendation on the renewal of its mandate. Further work would be necessary to bridge gaps and establish consensus on core issues related to GRs, TK and TCEs during the 2020/21 mandate. With regard to WIPO External Offices, Group B remained hopeful of finding a way forward during the current Assemblies. However, the establishment of any new office must comply with the Guiding Principles and the decisions taken by the 2015 WIPO General Assembly. Thus, any further discussion on that matter should follow the independent review of WIPO's external network in the coming biennium. Lastly, Group B appreciated the work of the IAOC, IOD and the External Auditor. A functional oversight system was essential for the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the Organization. Group B looked forward to contributing constructively to the meetings ahead.

9. The Delegation of Mexico, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), said that the proficiency with which WIPO provided IP services had doubtlessly led to higher demand for those services and contributed to the Organization's clean bill of financial health, as evidenced by the projected overall surplus of approximately 95.8 million Swiss francs for the 2020/21 biennium. The Organization should adopt a holistic approach to resource utilization to enable it to implement strategic goals and established programs and to develop a balanced IP system that benefited all Member States and contributed to the implementation of the SDGs and the DA. GRULAC recognized the work done and the collaborative efforts made by the various divisions of WIPO with members of the Latin American and Caribbean region to broaden the knowledge and use of IP, and build capacities and develop projects for the exploitation of the IP system and the promotion of innovation. It was particularly grateful to the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for its continuous support in rolling out activities that met the individual needs of GRULAC member countries. Latin American and Caribbean countries shared the long-term strategic vision and recognized the importance of utilizing information technologies and developing artificial intelligence (AI) tools to make the IP system more accessible, user friendly and efficient. GRULAC held the view that the use of such technologies should not undermine the promotion of multilingualism and access to information as key components of the United Nations (UN) system and potential drivers of cost-benefit gains. GRULAC reiterated its desire to advance work on important issues such as those under discussion by the IGC and the SCCR,

including the longstanding and particularly pressing issue of protecting broadcasting organizations. It urged the resumption of a stakeholder dialogue with a view to convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT and stood ready to contribute to such discussions. GRULAC attached particular importance to the opening of WIPO External Offices and hoped that a decision could be reached during the current Assemblies to end the three-year impasse in that regard, and to approve the establishment of an office in Colombia at the very least. It should be borne in mind that the consensus candidate presented in 2016 complied with the Guiding Principles approved by the Assemblies in October 2015. The Member States must live up to their responsibilities and reach a compromise to honor prior commitments and the decisions made during previous Assemblies and to avoid any further delay in approving the opening of an office in Colombia. GRULAC wished the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly every success and pledged to support him in his endeavors.

10. The Delegation of Viet Nam, speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN was projected to be the fourth largest economy in the world by 2030. As part of joint efforts to boost the flow of innovation into the region, in 2018 and 2019, nine ASEAN IP offices had launched a new initiative to prioritize the examination of patent applications relating to key emerging technologies. ASEAN recognized the growing role of innovation in the global economy and the pressing need to adapt in order to realize its full potential. Against that backdrop, Singapore had made great efforts to promote innovation in the region and ranked highly in the GII. Moreover, 162 patent libraries and technology transfer offices had been established under the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2016–2025. With respect to WIPO treaties, Malaysia was due to deposit its instrument of accession to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and Cambodia and Viet Nam would shortly be depositing their instruments of accession to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. Cambodia had acceded to the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances in March 2019 and Indonesia was expected to follow suit by the end of the year. The Philippines and Thailand had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (the Marrakesh Treaty) in November 2018 and January 2019 respectively. Congratulations were owed to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines for commencing operations as an international searching authority and international preliminary examining authority under the PCT. In addition, in the first quarter of 2019, Myanmar had enacted trademark and industrial design laws and established an IP office. The Heads of Intellectual Property Office Conference for Countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Mongolia, held in Singapore in August 2019, had been a great success. The fruitful discussion on managing IP assets had clarified the need to incorporate IP into the structure of national strategies for innovation and the legislative and institutional frameworks supporting them. A technical assistance program for the ASEAN region, developed with the support of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, was due to be endorsed and finalized in November 2019. In that regard, ASEAN greatly appreciated the efforts made to meet the individual needs of its member states. In August 2019, the Government of Viet Nam had approved the national IP strategy for the period up to 2030, developed with WIPO's assistance. Particular thanks were owed to WIPO's Singapore Office for its contribution to stakeholder engagement and its promotion of effective services and private sector regulation. ASEAN looked forward to enhancing its partnership with WIPO and actively participating in discussions during the Assemblies.

11. The Delegation of Finland, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member states, said that protecting and promoting IP rights was a key priority. In the light of economies becoming increasingly knowledge-based, IP was a lever to boosting innovation, competitiveness and growth, and the world of IP must evolve in line with such changes in the world's societies and economies. In that respect, developments such as that relating to AI, which was revolutionizing every aspect of life and work in the IP world and presenting a range of new challenges to the IP system, and the increasingly relevant matter of data and its use,

were being analyzed carefully within Europe with a view to defining appropriate policy responses. The European Union and its member states welcomed that those issues were high on the agenda of WIPO and many of its committees, and would continue to actively engage in discussions in that regard. Other matters that were high on the agenda of the European Union and its member states were sustainability and the way in which IP policies could best support the transformation to a greener economy and society, and enforcement and awareness-raising in relation to IP rights. The latter remained of utmost importance in light of the fact that goods and services that violated the IP rights of others and were offered *via* the Internet and traditional marketplaces concerned all citizens, consumers, businesses and societies. As WIPO was a key institution for developing a global IP infrastructure, it was important to develop a balanced international system for the protection of all categories of IP rights, noting that the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems were the core unions. WIPO was also uniquely placed for discussions on global IP policy, with new norms being prepared and best practices shared. While WIPO's normative work was essential to the current functioning of the global IP system, new improvements should be made. The European Union and its member states had made substantial progress towards becoming a contracting party to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, noting that it would be able to deposit its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act to WIPO by the end of 2019. Turning to WIPO's normative work, progress should be made on the crucial matter of the treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, addressing both their present and future needs. In light of the agreed recommendation by the SCCR to the WIPO General Assembly on the SCCR's continuing its work towards convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of such a treaty, aiming for the 2020/2021 biennium, discussions in that context should be focused and results-oriented, enabling the SCCR to reach a level of consensus on the text that would allow that timeframe to be met. Progress should also be made towards the DLT, the text of which was sufficiently mature for the convening of a diplomatic conference with a view to the treaty's adoption, which would greatly benefit all designers throughout the world and further the creativity of WIPO's legislative agenda. The WIPO General Assembly should continue to pave the way towards the convening of that diplomatic conference. Regarding the proposal to include a disclosure requirement in the DLT, the European Union and its member States remained concerned that such a requirement would undermine the harmonization and simplification of design registration formalities. Rather, the IGC was the appropriate forum for exploring the underlying issues involved. In light of ongoing discussions in the IGC and the possibility of a more thoroughly contemplated solution there, proponents were therefore invited to reconsider their proposal for a disclosure requirement in the DLT. The European Union and its member states would participate actively and open-mindedly in those discussions with a view to overcoming the remaining obstacles to convening a diplomatic conference in that context. The European Union and its member states welcomed the consensus reached by the IGC at its most recent session on a recommendation made to the present WIPO General Assembly on the terms of the IGC's new mandate and work program, and supported the renewal of the IGC's mandate for the 2020/2021 biennium, on the terms and according to the work program set out at that session. It remained engaged in continuing negotiations on its three topics, GRs, TK and TCEs, and would participate constructively in the IGC's work under the new mandate. In that context, two member states of the European Union, Finland and Germany, had pledged to contribute 15,000 euros each to the Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities. The European Union and its member states appreciated the constructive and fact-based work that had taken place in the SCP, which enhanced the mutual understanding of different national patent systems and provided ideas for better cooperation, and it hoped that future discussions would help to analyze the patent system differences which hindered trade and common development in that regard. The European Union and its member states welcomed the continued progress made by the SCT during its previous two sessions and looked forward to contributing to ongoing work in the three key areas under that committee's remit. It would also participate constructively and in a solution-oriented manner in discussions in the present WIPO General Assembly. A positive and cooperative atmosphere could help to

solve complex IP matters and other issues going forward, with a view to making progress on important issues on the agenda and maintaining WIPO's global relevance.

12. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and in its capacity as OIC Coordinator for Economic and Development Issues, said that the protection and promotion of IP, which played a critical role in addressing contemporary challenges of development across multiple dimensions, remained a key priority for OIC countries. The utilization of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in all sectors had been identified as one of the 107 goals of the OIC's 2025 program of action. That program, with its 18 priority areas, highlighted the importance of increasing the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the overall economic growth and development of OIC countries, and of promoting youth and women's entrepreneurship to make better use of economic potential in OIC Member States. As a demonstration of political leadership to support the promotion of science, technology and innovation, the OIC had convened its first summit on science and technology in Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2017, at which an implementation strategy for a ten-year OIC agenda for science, technology and innovation was approved. The second summit would take place in 2020 in Uzbekistan. The OIC's Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation also played a leading role in strengthening cooperation in science and technology among OIC Member States. In the context of the 2003 Cooperation Agreement between the OIC and WIPO, the OIC stood ready to enhance cooperation on issues relating to the role of IP in development, and ways of addressing related challenges. The OIC was of the firm belief that the recommendations under the WIPO DA should be regarded as a process to be constantly mainstreamed across all WIPO programs. While WIPO's ongoing endeavors to implement and mainstream those recommendations in its regular program activities were welcome, all WIPO committees should take due account of those recommendations in their policy-making decisions. As a specialized agency of the UN, WIPO should adopt an IP-oriented approach towards development with a view to stepping up developing countries' capacity to meet their development goals through technical assistance and implementation of national IP and innovation policies and strategies. As regards the potential DLT, the final decision on convening a diplomatic conference required an inclusive approach that took into account the legitimate concerns of all parties. In that respect, all delegations should engage in a meaningful discussion with a view to overcoming any remaining differences. The OIC looked forward to resolving that matter through a consensus decision, to the satisfaction of all Member States. With regard to the IGC, the OIC welcomed the agreement that had been reached at its fortieth session on the renewal of the IGC's mandate, the terms thereof and on its work program. Significant progress had been made on draft instruments relating to the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs and, in that context, by respecting basic principles of multilateralism and demonstrating political will, the IGC should be able to achieve its aim of finalizing an agreement on international legal instruments for such protection. In view of the steady progress made in recent sessions of the SCCR on the issue of a broadcasting treaty, the OIC took note of the recommendation made by the SCCR to the WIPO General Assembly in that regard. The OIC remained committed to continuing the SCCR's work towards convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a broadcasting treaty, subject to Member States' reaching consensus in the SCCR on the fundamental issues at stake. The OIC also welcomed discussions about the resale royalties right within the SCCR. With respect to the draft Program and Budget, while recognizing WIPO's stable and progressive financial situation, the OIC was of the view that there was no added value in modifying the current long-standing methodology for the allocation of income and expenditure by Unions. Accordingly, the current allocation methodology should be maintained and the proposal contained in Annex III of the draft Program and Budget should be modified to reflect the current methodology. Lastly, the OIC welcomed the proposals on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, and invited all Member States to explore constructive, pragmatic and consensus-based solutions in relation to those issues.

13. The Delegation of Afghanistan said that, as a least developed country (LDC), it had different needs than some other Member States. Although its needs could appear basic, they illustrated the type of help that it was expected that WIPO could provide to LDCs. Afghanistan was setting up a legal framework on protection and the implementation of the country's obligations. That process had enabled the country to identify two important areas in which it needed support. One area was legal support; the country needed to review its laws and regulations, and ensure that international standards were properly reflected. Although some work had been done, the support of WIPO experts was required to make further progress. The country also requested assistance in programs for judges, arbitrators and mediators in support of the establishment of dispute resolution mechanisms. The other key area was the creation of a proper educational environment for IP. The country's educational institutions were eager to train a new generation of IP specialists and the private sector was interested in expanding its knowledge of IP. However, as with many LDCs, Afghanistan required the support of WIPO and other Member States in that area. WIPO could help countries like Afghanistan by facilitating seminars, workshops and specialized programs and the Delegation therefore proposed that WIPO should provide tailored packages to educational institutions and the private sector in LDCs as a priority. Such services should also be extended to all Member States, in particular those wishing to host WIPO External Offices. Member States in all regions should feel that they were able to benefit from regional offices. Afghanistan stood by its commitments and expressed its strong desire to continue its constructive engagement with WIPO and its Member States.

14. The Delegation of Algeria aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The opening of a WIPO External Office (had given fresh impetus to cooperation between Algeria and the Organization and reflected the country's desire to make IP a driver of progress and socio-economic development. The Delegation noted with satisfaction that the new External Office – a cornerstone of fruitful cooperation based on technical assistance and human and institutional capacity-building – was already up and running and discharging its technical cooperation duties. It stressed the importance of strengthening the External Office and providing it with the resources that it needed to carry out its mission, and thanked the Secretariat for its enthusiastic and effective support in operationalizing the External Office. The high esteem in which IP was held in Algeria reflected the Government's endeavor to create a favorable environment for businesses to enable them to develop their innovation potential and capitalize on the opportunities offered by the IP system. That vision was more relevant than ever with the rise of the knowledge economy and the emergence of new areas of global competition, such as AI. The Delegation believed that WIPO should play a leading role in that area by serving as a multilateral forum for discussion and experience sharing. It welcomed the Secretariat's initiatives in that regard and commended WIPO's progress in implementing the DA but stressed the need to raise its profile in the work program, within the Organization and in technical assistance activities that promoted innovation and facilitated knowledge and technology transfer. The Delegation further believed that the development of the normative framework should be at the heart of WIPO's mandate. The Organization must redouble its efforts to make progress on issues still under discussion within various committees – including the IGC, the SCT and the SCCR – with a view to convening diplomatic conferences for the adoption of new instruments under its auspices. To that end, it was essential to demonstrate flexibility and work in a spirit of compromise in the interests of all stakeholders. The Delegation supported the proposals to redress imbalances in regional representation in the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee based on equitable geographical distribution and taking into account the actual size of underrepresented regional groups. Finally, with regard to the planned opening of new External Offices, the Delegation hoped that the matter would be resolved on a consensual basis and reiterated its willingness to support any initiative to that effect.

15. The Delegation of Angola aligned itself with the Statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. In tandem with decision makers, academics, the judiciary, business and the public, the Government of Angola had undertaken reforms and

rationalized administrative power structures, with a focus on raising awareness of the importance of using and protecting IPRs. Angola was grateful to WIPO for supporting the draft Law on Industrial Property, which was unveiled in November 2018. Following public consultations, the draft law was improved by contributions and would be further discussed in the Council of Ministers. WIPO provided further support by organizing PCT seminars for Lusophone African countries in July 2019 and the International Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights in September 2019. Angola maintained its interest in benefiting from Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) technological support. At WIPO's invitation, the Angolan Institute of Industrial Property (IAPI) was providing all general statistical data, including that within the scope of the PCT. Given the specificity and complexity of the subject matter, training of patent examiners was one of the main difficulties facing IAPI, and the Delegation made a special appeal for WIPO support. Angola joined other Member States to acknowledge the importance of the work done in the CDIP. The CDIP should play a leading role in implementing the DA, and all WIPO bodies should incorporate DA recommendations in their activities. Technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer and similar matters should take pride of place in WIPO's program of work. Regarding ongoing discussions in the IGC, since the Committee had agreed to a recommendation for the renewal of its mandate for 2020/2021, the WIPO General Assembly should provide clear and specific guidelines so that the Committee could finalize one or more instruments for the protection of GRs, TK or TCEs for the 2020/2021 biennium. The Delegation expressed the sincere hope that after almost two decades of negotiations, WIPO Member States would agree on the creation of a binding international instrument to promote and protect TK held by local and indigenous communities, protecting them against abuse, exploitation and the failure to share the benefits of commercial exploitation. It was regrettable that after three Assemblies, it has not been possible to agree on convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT. Accordingly, the Delegation emphasized the importance of the disclosure obligation with respect to TK or traditional designs as a fundamental condition for the convening of a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the DLT. The Delegation restated its commitment to participate constructively in the discussions on all agenda items.

16. The Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda supported the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. The country remained unwavering in its aspirations and commitments to create a modern IP office to effectively govern its national system and its participation in regional and international activities. The Delegation therefore expressed its appreciation to WIPO for coordinating successful meetings and workshops over the past year, and for its excellent administrative and technical support to ensure success at all levels. The country would continue to work with WIPO in areas of common interest and anticipated continued support from WIPO for its ongoing endeavors. The Delegation noted the importance of IP to its national development plans and goals, and said that Antigua and Barbuda had adopted a dynamic legislative and administrative agenda to ensure that its IP laws reflected ongoing global developments in the sector. In 2018, the country had passed a new Patents Act and patent regulations, and it was in the process of having applications examined through horizontal cooperation. Antigua and Barbuda had recently acceded to the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) and the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure (the Budapest Treaty). In March 2020, the country would be celebrating 20 years since it had become a party to the Madrid Protocol, and it was hoped that a new Trademark Act and Copyright Act would be passed in that year. A national IP strategy had recently been completed and relevant recommendations made by a consultant from the University of the West Indies would be implemented. In light of the country's sporting history, particularly its success in cricket, the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office had fully endorsed and supported the theme of World IP Day 2019: "Reach for Gold: Sports and Intellectual Property". World IP Day 2019 had been celebrated with Cricket West Indies and, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, an art competition had been held for pupils at primary and secondary schools nationwide. In addition, a sports symposium had been held at Coolidge Cricket Ground, where well-known sports

personalities from the country had been invited to speak and share their stories of success; the event had been extremely well attended. The Delegation commended the work carried out to build respect for IP and noted that its video on that topic was scheduled for completion in early 2020. The Ministry of Education continued to work on its program for innovation and IP, which would be included in future school curricula. In 2019, the country had hosted a very successful workshop on enforcement with local stakeholders in law enforcement, including the police, customs officials and the Bureau of Standards. As a result, a manual for IP prosecutors would soon be completed by the Director of Public Prosecutions. In addition, the Government was holding discussions with the Royal Police Force on the creation of a specialized unit and a training manual for new recruits. Strides had also been made in the area of copyright, with the establishment of the Copyright Tribunal under relevant national legislation. The Delegation wished to thank WIPO and the Trinidad and Tobago IP Office for hosting a recent copyright conference, which had addressed many issues of concern. It also appreciated the recent Caribbean and Latin American conference on copyright limitations related to libraries, archives and museums and looked forward to further discussion and interaction on those issues. Given the range of national and regional initiatives undertaken by Antigua and Barbuda and other small Caribbean states, it was evident that increasing demands were being placed on the Caribbean Section in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for the Bureau's continued support and looked forward to greater collaboration with the countries it served. Antigua and Barbuda remained committed to advancing its regional work and ensuring the sustainability of the Bureau and the Caribbean Section. The country commended the work of the SCCR, the SCP, the SCT and all other Committees, and looked forward to their continued progress.

17. The Delegation of Argentina aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. It thanked the Director General and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for their technical assistance, capacity-building and training support. Argentina was proud to be the host country for a Master's degree in IP jointly offered by the University of San Andrés, the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) and WIPO to students from all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more than three years, Argentina had been working to modernize the laws on patents, trademarks and industrial designs and facilitate the procedure for obtaining IP rights. INPI had also been deploying tools for presenting, processing and issuing titles electronically. Argentina was pleased with WIPO's healthy financial situation, including the surpluses achieved to date and projected for the next biennium. The Delegation stressed the importance of resource allocation to support the implementation of strategic goals and agreed programs, taking a balanced, developmental approach to IP in line with the SDGs and the 45 recommendations covered in the WIPO DA, which legitimized WIPO's work and its status as a specialized agency of the UN system. Given IP's contribution to innovation and economic, social and cultural development, Argentina was striving for a balanced system, with the protection of IP rights accompanied by access to health, nutrition and the transfer and dissemination of knowledge and technology in line with national policies for promoting public interest in sectors of vital national importance. The flexibilities afforded by a multilateral approach were compatible with the protection and enforcement of IP rights to the benefit of all. With regard to WIPO's various Committees, the Delegation emphasized its contribution to and interest in the SCCR, in particular, its efforts to update the protection of broadcasting organizations. At its most recent meeting, the SCCR had agreed that the WIPO General Assembly should invite members to pursue their work towards convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, to be held in the 2020/2021 biennium. The Delegation considered it essential to have a work plan enabling Member States to reach a consensus on fundamental issues, and leading to a diplomatic conference during the next biennium. Concerning its contribution to the SCP, the Delegation highlighted the work being done by government officials and the constructive spirit of the Committee's members, which had been reflected in their joint proposals. The Delegation was willing to move forward with these discussions within the framework of the ICG. As per the decision adopted by the 2018 Assemblies, the Delegation

requested that dialogue be resumed to overcome existing differences and that a diplomatic conference be convened to adopt the DLT. With respect to WIPO's External Offices – an issue that had been discussed for several years and which had a specific mandate for the current Assemblies session, The Delegation urged members to demonstrate responsibility and commit to addressing the issue, expressing its hope that the 2019 Assemblies would conclude with a consensus decision to open four new WIPO External Offices, including one in Colombia.

18. The Delegation of Australia said that Australia appreciated the goodwill and constructive spirit with which Member States had engaged with the IGC and hoped that Member States could continue to build upon the positive progress of recent meetings, so as to assist in the recognition of indigenous peoples' cultures, communities and identities, including for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The results of these discussions could also provide greater certainty to innovators and creators. Australia would continue its support of the WIPO Australia Funds-in-Trust (FIT) program in 2020 with a contribution of 800,000 Australian dollars. It was proud of achievements in the second iteration of the program, in particular the development of online training modules on the Madrid System, to be hosted by the WIPO Academy, the contribution to meeting global health challenges by supporting WIPO Re:Search and providing access to reading materials to the visually impaired through the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). It hoped that the third iteration would have a similar positive impact. Australia maintained its strong support for ongoing improvements to the global IP system, particularly to the PCT and the Madrid Protocol. It welcomed the recent and imminent accessions to the Madrid Protocol of Brazil, Canada, Malawi, Malaysia, and Samoa, and the growing membership of the Madrid System, which contributed to the ease of doing business in the global economy, as demonstrated by record growth in the number of applicants using the Madrid System to protect their trademarks internationally. Australia continued to support the goals of the Marrakesh Treaty and welcomed the increase in membership of the Treaty since the 2018 Assemblies. As a member of the advisory board of the ABC, it was pleased to have helped achieve a number of WIPO DA goals. This initiative helped to implement the Marrakesh Treaty at a practical level. The Delegation expressed its strong and ongoing commitment to working with WIPO and Member States to ensure the international IP system continued to promote global growth and development and served innovators, creators and businesses.

19. The Delegation of Austria aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and the statement made by the Delegation Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states. As IP stimulated creativity and innovation, contributing to the economic, cultural and social development of all countries, the Delegation noted with appreciation the record of WIPO's activities and positive achievements contained in the Report of the Director General to the 2019 WIPO Assemblies, in particular the technical assistance activities and programs, accessions to WIPO-administered treaties and the growing use of the treaty-based IP systems and Unions. Positive developments had also been made towards the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by the International Bureau. Furthermore, the constant developments and improvements made to the PCT and Madrid Systems, which were the main generators of WIPO's income and responsible for its positive financial results, were of great value to Member States and users. WIPO and its staff should build on efforts and activities aiming to further strengthen the overall IP environment, in order to perpetuate WIPO's viability and its efficiency in providing timely and high-quality services to users. That would help to ensure a balanced and effective international IP system, encompassing all categories of IPRs and benefiting all stakeholders. In light of the lack of consensus within the PBC on certain methodology issues relating to the preparation of Annex III of the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium, and the PBC's resulting inability to recommend the adoption of the Program and Budget to the Assemblies, the Delegation stood ready to work constructively with all Member States and the Secretariat to solve the outstanding issues during the current sessions of the Assemblies and to provide WIPO with a sound, reasonable and timely Program and Budget for the forthcoming biennium. With regard to the report of the prior session of the SCCR, the Delegation supported the

SCCR's recommendation to continue its work on a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, with a view to convening a diplomatic conference in the 2020/2021 biennium. It took note of the report about the most recent sessions of the SCP, acknowledging with satisfaction the constructive, realistic and objective deliberations which had enabled considerable progress *vis-à-vis* the five topics of discussion under the SCP mandate. It noted with satisfaction the SCP's decision to adopt a balanced program for its future work, and stood ready to work with all delegations to further mutual understanding relating to differences in patent systems around the world, including in relation to substantive patent law. It welcomed the continued progress achieved in discussions on all key topics in the SCT, as reflected in the report to the Assemblies, and looked forward to remaining actively engaged in future sessions of the SCT. The Delegation remained open to discussing possible solutions to pending issues in relation to the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, of which the aim was to harmonize and simplify design application formalities, which would greatly benefit designers from around the world. Concerning the CDIP, which was continuing to discuss implementation of the recommendations of the WIPO DA and other IP and development-related issues, the Delegation took note of the corresponding reports to the present Assemblies as well as the Director General's Report on Implementation of the DA of 2018, which, together with the reports of all the relevant WIPO bodies, demonstrated numerous positive developments and achievements, particularly concerning technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which would help to further enhance WIPO's focus on development. The Director General and WIPO staff should thus continue to successfully implement the DA Recommendations as an integral part of WIPO's core activities to promote the protection of IP throughout the world. The Delegation commended the CDIP's decision on "Women and IP" and looked forward to its forthcoming sessions on the topic of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), innovation and IP, as well as that of IP and the Creative Economy. The Delegation commended the work of the IGC and the progress achieved in the IGC's six sessions in the present biennium, which was a solid basis for continued discussions on narrowing gaps relating to the three relevant items under consideration. It welcomed the IGC's constructive spirit and was pleased with the consensus that had been reached on the recommendations to the present WIPO General Assembly in regard to the renewal of the IGC's mandate and work program for the next biennium, both of which the Delegation fully supported. Austria had actively participated in the sessions of the PCT Working Group under consideration and thus welcomed and fully endorsed the proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations as contained in document PCT/A/51/2, as well as the recommendations concerning the future work of the PCT Working Group in document PCT/A/51/1, particularly with regard to convening one session of the PCT Working Group prior to the 2020 Assemblies. The Delegation supported the Working Group's recommendation, in document PCT/A/51/3, to maintain the criteria set out under item 5 of the PCT schedule of fees, and to review those criteria in five years. With regard to the Madrid System, the Delegation stood ready to adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol as contained in document MM/A/53/1, which clarified and simplified certain Madrid System procedures, especially relating to the renewal of international registrations. Lastly, the Delegation would continue to support the pursuit of WIPO's global goals.

20. The Delegation of Azerbaijan said that its Government had initiated a new era of reforms that reflected social needs and affected all spheres of public life. According to the World Bank's Doing Business 2019 ranking, Azerbaijan was one of the 10 most improved countries in undertaking business reforms and was ranked first in terms of the number of reforms underway; it was ranked 25 out of 190 countries for the overall ease of doing business. The country's development had been confirmed by the 2018 Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, which ranked the country 36th under its sub-index on IP protection, 22nd in the sub-index on the effectiveness of the legal framework in challenging regulations and 20th in the sub-index on the future orientation of government. The IP sector was subject to innovative reforms and had undergone large-scale institutional and operational changes. An IP agency had also been created, with a mandate covering both copyright and related rights and industrial

property. The agency was in charge of managing the country's scientific and technical library, as well as two centers for the examination of patents and trademarks and the enforcement of IP rights. Large-scale work was taking place to set up centers for the transfer and commercialization of technologies, in addition to innovation support centers. Thanks to the reforms that had been carried out, an innovative management model had been established. Innovation was not possible without the development of an IP system to promote investment and innovation, although the challenges facing the IP system were determined by the country's innovation policy and economic reforms. The country was actively working on establishing new digital services and information systems in IP to speed up patent-related activities and ensure transparency, in addition to developing and applying new systems for the protection of digital IP rights, including using Blockchain technologies. The Delegation noted that the country cooperated with WIPO as part of its policy on IP in universities and scientific institutions and was also working with the countries of the European Union in the field of digital IP.

21. The Delegation of Bangladesh thanked the Director General for his untiring efforts to meet the needs of developing countries. IP was playing an ever greater role in the innovation-based and knowledge-driven global economy and Bangladesh had been reorienting its development policy to harness the benefits of IP for its overall economic growth. In recent years, the country had improved IP management by adopting a national IP policy, digitizing its IP offices, building institutional capacities and conducting awareness-raising activities. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's continued cooperation and assistance in the areas of IP and development and recognized the Organization's efforts to implement and mainstream the DA in its programs and activities while honoring its commitments under the SDGs. It urged WIPO to continue to foster the conditions for innovation in developing countries. Bangladesh expected to graduate from LDC status by 2024 and hoped that WIPO would continue to assist former LDCs in establishing and promoting an innovation-friendly and well-managed IP environment. The Organization should consider designing and delivering programs for graduating LDCs to help them address pre- and post-registration issues. Bangladesh stood ready and willing to assist in that regard. The Delegation reiterated its full support for the proposal made by the Asia and the Pacific Group on the composition of the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee. It held the view that only legally binding agreements could safeguard the benefits that developing countries sought to derive from GRs, TK and TCEs. With regard to the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT and a broadcasting treaty, the Delegation hoped that constructive dialogue would help to reconcile Member States' differences.

22. The Delegation of Barbados aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2020/21 biennium so that negotiations on outstanding critical issues could be continued, and called for the SCCR to continue its work so that a diplomatic conference could be convened to adopt the treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. It looked forward to further progress in the ongoing work of the SCT to protect country names in particular. It announced that Barbados had just submitted its instruments of accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and to the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) and had nearly completed work on recommended legislative amendments. Furthermore, Barbados had continued in the past year to receive WIPO technical assistance in the form of training, including on the WIPO Industrial Property Administration System and the Vienna and Nice classification systems, and would shortly host a WIPO regional workshop on IP and design. The Delegation expressed sincere thanks to WIPO for its ongoing support for the development of the IP rights system in Barbados, in furtherance of its economic development, and voiced full support for the work of WIPO.

23. The Delegation of Belarus stated that Belarus, having identified innovative development as the top priority, attached great importance to the role of IP in ensuring its scientific, technological, trade, industrial, social and cultural development. Belarus was already implementing its third state-sponsored innovation development program, carrying out 16 state-

sponsored research programs and improving its innovation activity indicators. The objectives of accelerating innovation-based development could not be accomplished without an efficient IP management system, therefore continuing improvement of the legal and infrastructure framework in this area remained a major objective for Belarus. Today, Belarus had in place six specialized laws fully compliant with international standards and covering all the categories of IP. Belarus was a party to 17 out of 26 WIPO treaties. The willingness of Belarus to follow the generally accepted global standards of IPRs protection was evidenced by the work aimed at facilitating its accession to the Marrakesh Treaty and the Hague Agreement. Belarus was an active user of the global systems run by WIPO; in this context, the Delegation mentioned the support by Belarus of the Russian Federation's initiative for making the Russian language one of the official languages of the Madrid and the Hague Systems. The Delegation emphasized that the current year was special for Belarus, being the year of the official visit of the WIPO Director General Mr. Francis Gurry to the country. During Mr. Gurry's meeting with the President and the Prime Minister of Belarus, the two sides highly praised the level of cooperation between Belarus and WIPO. Another important outcome of the visit was the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that outlined the areas of prospective cooperation of the two sides, including the development of the IP strategy of Belarus for 2020-2030. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to WIPO for its technical assistance aimed at promoting an efficient national IP system and its support in conducting national and regional seminars on various aspects of IP. The Delegation extended its special thanks to the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its constructive work for the most efficient implementation of its projects and its program for the country. It supported a substantive discussion on the draft DLT and called upon all the WIPO Member States to promptly resolve their differences on the text of the draft Treaty in order to hold the diplomatic conference in 2020. The Delegation stressed that Belarus was one of the founding states of the UN and one of the first countries to have joined WIPO. In that regard, it suggested, on behalf of the Government of Belarus, that the city of Minsk be chosen as a venue for holding the diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT. Today, Belarus was actively developing its digital economy. The High Technologies Park launched in the country was one of the world's leading platforms for the development of IT products. It was obvious that the digital economy could not be developed without a new approach to IP protection. Belarus had allowed monthly visa-free entry for nationals of 73 countries, while Minsk had repeatedly hosted major international diplomatic, conference and sports events with the highest level of hospitality. The capital city of Belarus, therefore, was highly suitable as a venue for holding a diplomatic conference of WIPO. In conclusion, the Delegation said it was looking forward to fruitful work at the Assemblies in line with the agenda.

24. The Delegation of Belize said that the country continued striving to build a modern IP system that valued and protected the vibrant and creative culture of Belize. On November 9, 2018, Belize had deposited its instruments of accession to the Beijing Treaty, the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs, the Marrakesh Treaty, the WCT and the WPPT. The Delegation was grateful to the Caribbean Section of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for continuously supporting the Belize IP Office to achieve its vision. In April 2019, in keeping with the World IP Day theme "Reach for Gold: IP and Sports", the Belize IP Office, in collaboration with the National Sports Council, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, had hosted a workshop for all Belizean sporting federations to raise awareness of the importance of IP in developing sports and athletes in the country. In August 2019, the Belize IP Office had committed to becoming an active contributor to the Street Law 101 Belize Program by assisting, training and guiding teachers from secondary schools piloting the IP program. That venture was the beginning phase in introducing IP into the national education system, which was a part of the IP awareness-raising mission of the Belize IP Office. Belize remained committed to working with WIPO and each Member State to drive innovation and IP development across all spectrums.

25. The Delegation of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC and said that IP should be an instrument not only for the economic development of peoples, but also for their social and cultural development. It was essential for the incentive for creativity and innovation to achieve the proper balance, guaranteeing the fulfillment of such rights as access to medicines and access to knowledge for all. The CDIP was an important forum for the implementation of the DA Recommendations, since its programs and activities were of great importance for the consolidation and achievement of development cooperation, for capacity-building among Member States, with a view to ensuring a balanced IP system, and for the development of related national policies. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) was determined to continue working with the IGC to achieve a concrete solution and to create an instrument that was adapted to the realities of Member States, in particular those with large indigenous populations and vast biodiversity. The Delegation announced that Bolivia (Plurinational State of) had made great strides in IP with the support of WIPO, such as the establishment of TISCs. It had also aligned itself with the legal Depository Library Program. In addition, it had deposited its instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. Lastly, the Delegation affirmed its profound interest in continuing to strengthen its ties with WIPO.

26. The Delegation of Botswana endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. It recognized the work of the SCT on the development of the DLT, supported the African Group's proposal for the inclusion of a disclosure requirement and provisions for technical assistance in that treaty, and hoped that a diplomatic conference to consider the adoption of the DLT could be convened at the earliest time possible. Botswana was a country rich in GRs and TK that continued to be misappropriated. It was thus of concern that the IGC had yet to finalize its work or present any specific proposal on how to protect GRs, TK and TCEs since, without an international legally binding instrument, such misappropriation and the biopiracy of its resources would continue. The IGC was thus urged to finalize its work and develop legally binding instruments to protect the GRs, TK and TCEs that would benefit many citizens and improve their livelihoods. The Delegation was also concerned about the slow progress being made towards finalizing a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, as technology continued to advance and further delays meant a risk of adopting a treaty that dealt with issues that may no longer be relevant. Nevertheless, it welcomed the progress made in implementing an action plan for limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, museums and educational and research institutions and was grateful for the WIPO-organized regional seminar for the African Group on libraries, archives, museums and education and research institutions in the field of copyright held on June 12 and 13, 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya, which gave copyright offices from across Africa a rare opportunity to gather and assess how progress could be made on the agenda of the SCCR. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's support in helping Botswana with the development and growth of its IP system, including through its "Building Respect for IP" initiative, which had helped to develop a prosecutors' manual and with the training of police and prosecutors to deal with IP crimes. Those efforts would continue to help further IP enforcement. It was also grateful to WIPO for funding the Japan Patent Office project to brand Botswana baskets, supporting women basket weavers in the Chobe region in northwestern Botswana. That project helped to develop quality standards, a grading system and a brand to market those baskets internationally, and would no doubt foster the economic empowerment of and better living standards for those rural women. The Delegation underscored that an emerging consensus within the international community at large was essential to national and regional processes for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs and in relation to other IP issues.

27. The Delegation of Brazil said that the country had been endeavoring to regain the trust of the world, lower unemployment, crime and business risk through the reduction of bureaucracy, deregulation and, especially, by example, as stated by its President. Brazil was experiencing a period of economic openness and integration into global value chains. Within the scope of MERCOSUR negotiations, it had entered into the two biggest commercial agreements in its

history, with the European Union and with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and would soon be concluding agreements with other partners. Brazil was also prepared to begin its accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), aligning its practices in the most diverse sectors with the highest of global standards. The promotion and protection of IPRs was an important facet of this strategy and Brazil was building and guaranteeing an enabling domestic environment for innovation and business. In order to achieve these objectives, Brazil would take measure to increase efficiency, legal predictability and firmly combat illegal activities. The country was committed to increasing its commitment to the international IP system and to offering inventors, businesspeople and end users throughout the world the benefits of the major WIPO-administered agreements. To that end, it had joined the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks. The Protocol, which would enter into force concerning Brazil during the 2019 Assemblies, would cut costs and simplify procedures, facilitating the registration of Brazilian and foreign trademarks within a group of countries which represented more than 80 per cent of global trade. In addition to the Madrid System, the Executive Branch of Government was in the process of treating the Budapest Treaty. An internal assessment of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs had already been conducted, in addition to other important copyright agreements such as the Internet Treaties, the WCT and the WPPT. Another important aspect of Brazil's strategy was to improve the efficiency of its IP Office. The Plan to Combat Patent Backlog, which was already being implemented, would make for faster patent examinations by increasing the use of reports from foreign patent Offices on the patentability of the subject matter of applications. Patent claims already assessed in other countries accounted for 80 per cent of applications in Brazil. The Delegation emphasized Brazil's efforts to combat counterfeiting, smuggling and piracy. The National Council for Combatting Piracy and Crimes against Intellectual Property (CNCP) had been very active in IP rights enforcement. The recent signature of an MoU with WIPO concerning the "Building Respect for IP" project in which Brazil committed to regularly reporting lists of sites that stored and made available pirated content to prevent such sites from financing their activities from the proceeds of advertising, was a case in point. Brazil would spare no effort to strengthen the IP system and would contribute constructively to discussions that were crucial to the future of IP, such as GRs, TK and AI.

28. The Delegation of Bulgaria aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation continued to support the overall activities of WIPO, which, by helping to promote creativity and economic growth, was a major driver in raising IP knowledge and supporting innovations globally. It noted the considerable efforts that had been made on all the outstanding issues which had been deliberated in WIPO's various committees during the reporting period and, on the legislative front, welcomed the progress that had been achieved in narrowing positions on many long-standing topics. As highlighted in the most recent report of the Director General, WIPO had consistently supported improvements in IP business systems and the technical infrastructure of national and regional agencies in order to make them more efficient and provide better quality services for stakeholders and end users. As part of WIPO's ongoing efforts to develop and modernize IP systems throughout the world, the Delegation appreciated WIPO's support in relation to Bulgaria's IP system, noting that the good partnership between WIPO and the Bulgarian Patent Office over the years had led to a number of initiatives. For example, with WIPO's support, a series of discussions had been organized in Sofia in April 2019 with a view to establishing the status of technology transfer centers in Bulgaria and to supporting those centers' activities for the benefit of educational and research institutions, as well as for business in Bulgaria. A seminar had also been organized jointly by the Bulgarian Patent Office and WIPO in Sofia in September 2019, focusing on WIPO services provided to export-oriented small enterprises. That seminar had addressed the capabilities and benefits of international systems as regards the protection of inventions, brands and designs, as well as the current topic of the conflict between domain names and Internet-based trademarks. It had also given an overview of how WIPO's global database, tools and platforms could be used to assist SMEs in applying to protect their industrial property rights. As

such events were of considerable benefit to businesses, the Bulgarian Patent Office was exploring ways to facilitate local companies' access to the IP system and to raise their awareness on the opportunities it provided. The Delegation would continue to support WIPO in its efforts to promote IP rights and to raise IP knowledge worldwide with a view to adequately responding to emerging developments and requirements. It was hoped that the deliberations of the current Assemblies would be proactive, constructive and solution-oriented with a view to achieving tangible results on all outstanding issues.

29. The Delegation of Burkina Faso aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. Burkina Faso remained convinced that the IP system was an important vehicle for progress and socio-economic development and had thus taken countless measures over the years to utilize the advantages offered by IP to the full. The implementation of these many measures had been facilitated by WIPO's support in many forms, including technical assistance and capacity building. The Delegation also welcomed its fruitful cooperation with WIPO and lauded WIPO's important role in promoting IP as an instrument for wealth creation, with an emphasis on assistance to LDCs and developing countries. It also welcomed the fact that the WIPO Academy, which played a fundamental role in enhancing the professional capabilities of national IP Offices, had made it possible for the current year to hold, for the first time in Africa and specifically in Burkina Faso, a training session on the collective management of copyright and related rights for professionals from 15 African countries. The Delegation also welcomed the adoption by the CDIP of the project to strengthen and develop the music sector and for new economic models under DA activities. Burkina Faso's various initiatives demonstrated that the country was pursuing growth through the effective use of IP for its socio-economic development. However, despite the efforts made, many challenges remained. Accordingly, the Government of Burkina Faso would always seek WIPO's support in order to take full advantage of the IP system. In conclusion, the Delegation hoped that the concerns raised by the African Group would be taken into account and that the deliberations during the Assemblies would be successful.

30. The Delegation of Cambodia associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and the Delegation of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN. The Delegation welcomed the expansion of WIPO's global IP range of services and the alternative dispute resolution mechanism. Such initiatives would foster the strategic development of WIPO. Cambodia, having recognized IP as a tool for development, had espoused a number of international agreements, conventions, and treaties. It had so far signed the Madrid Protocol, the PCT, the Hague Agreement, the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and the Beijing Treaty. It was, in principle, ready to sign the Bern Convention and would be depositing the instrument of accession with WIPO in subsequent months. Cambodia had committed to joining other treaties so as to fully utilize the IP system. With the cooperation of WIPO and other development partners, Cambodia had endeavored to establish an IP protection system, adopting most IP laws and regulations as from 2002. Thereafter, it had been implementing various projects in the areas of branding, national IP strategy, resource and management diagnostics, drafting and amendment of IP legislation and the establishment of a TISC. The country had made effective use of the available technical assistance in the area of patents, the processing of PCT applications and the updating of the e-filing system. Furthermore, together with WIPO, the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and other cooperating agencies, had helped it implement a number of IP capacity-building programs. Subject to the resources and experience at its disposal, Cambodia hoped to increase its involvement by becoming a member of the WIPO Coordination Committee. With its experience as an LDC, it would play an active role in upholding the principles underpinning IP, and was committed to working closely with WIPO and its Member States to achieve effective implementation of IP-related agreements and conventions. It echoed the call to expand membership in the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. WIPO had been instrumental to the support of IP development in Cambodia. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO and all development partners. Further assistance would

be welcome to support the branding of local products, to strengthen and improve IP administration, innovation, invention and enforcement, as Cambodia responded to changes in the global IP environment and the needs of its people. It hoped for constructive discussions during the Assemblies.

31. The Delegation of Cameroon endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group and said that it was working tirelessly to tackle the numerous challenges faced in the area of IP. IP remained a linchpin in the development of states, and in improving goods and services and people's wellbeing. In that respect, the Delegation welcomed the cooperation between Cameroon and WIPO, including the visit, in 2017, of WIPO's Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, to Cameroon, whose working sessions had focused on the book industry, and the visit, in June 2019, of the Deputy Director General, Brands and Designs Sector, followed by an awareness-raising workshop on geographical indications. During that visit, the Deputy Director General had held fruitful discussions with top Cameroonian authorities, including Mr. Joseph Dion Ngute, Prime Minister and Head of Government; Mr. Gabriel Dodo Ndoke, Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development; and H.E. Mr. Mbella Mbella, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Delegation noted that against that backdrop, Cameroon would be organizing its IP Week, which was of vital importance, in October 2019. Cameroon had two products with geographical indications: the Penja Pepper and Oku White Honey. In that context, during a high-level regional roundtable and a related awareness-raising workshop, the recommendations made had strengthened the country's position to widen its range of geographical indications with a view to considering other products like red cocoa. Activities on that product were also being monitored under phase two of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) program to support the implementation of geographical indications (PAMPIG 2). The Delegation underscored that geographical indications extended to other sectors like handicrafts, and noted that all of those efforts needed to be addressed within a legal framework. The Delegation affirmed that Cameroon would make every effort to align itself with international standards through the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. In addition, in the area of copyright and related rights, it was important to consider persons with disabilities, a matter which had been taken up in Cameroon's national legislation. Similar efforts were being made at the international level, in the context of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation took a great interest in the current discussions on certain aspects of IP in the various committees, especially in relation to the budget, the promotion of culinary tourism, limitations and exceptions, broadcasting organizations, and industrial designs and GRs, and hoped for a successful outcome. The Delegation was firmly committed to contributing to the development of IP and, in particular, to the development of IP ecosystems in accordance with a declaration adopted at a high-level forum which had been held in Tokyo in February 2018. Lastly, the Delegation noted that the IP sector could only be successfully developed by effectively tackling such issues as inequalities.

32. The Delegation of Canada said that Canada's commitment to WIPO and its normative work was evident from the country's engagement in various WIPO committees and membership in WIPO treaties. Over the previous year, Canada had joined four WIPO treaties: the Hague Agreement in November 2018 and the Madrid Protocol, Singapore Treaty and Nice Agreement in June 2019. It would also join the PLT in October 2019. Canada remained active at the domestic level and had developed initiatives to support innovation, promote IP as a tool for growth and ensure the inclusiveness of the IP system. Initiatives included an IP awareness and education program, the launch of a new Patent Collective and IP marketplace, funding for IP legal clinics at Canadian universities, data collection on awareness and use of the IP system in Canada, and a grant program for indigenous people to increase participation in domestic and international fora on IP issues, among other aims. The Delegation noted WIPO's achievements throughout the year, including more than 40 accessions or ratifications to WIPO treaties; 15 additional accessions to the Marrakesh Treaty; a 41 per cent rise in the number of books loaned annually through WIPO's ABC (to 233,000 loans); and a record year for the use of

WIPO services overall. The Delegation also noted the collaborative engagement it had experienced during the year, including in the development of a model proposal to assist Member States in the preparation of their respective project proposals for consideration by the CDIP. Canada was pleased to have contributed to the WIPO Voluntary Fund in March 2019 to support the participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in the IGC in efforts to protect GRs, TK and TCEs. Canada viewed WIPO as the premier international IP forum and encouraged consensus-based decision-making, good governance and financial stewardship in all WIPO work and committees. The Delegation was grateful to the Secretariat and WIPO staff for their support and to all Member States and users of WIPO programs.

33. The Delegation of Chile aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. It thanked the Director General and the various divisions of WIPO, in particular the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their unwavering commitment and support. The Delegation recognized the important role of IP systems in the innovation ecosystem and the development of countries, and considered balanced IP systems a fundamental tool for fostering innovation and competitiveness, generating added value, facilitating access to culture and information and improving the quality of life of all citizens. The efforts made by Chile to modernize its IP system had borne fruit: the country's GII ranking was the highest in the region and its open economy was attracting foreign investment in innovation under a series of commercial agreements concluded by the Government. Moreover, the National Institute of Industrial Property of Chile (INAPI) was the second most innovative in the world. INAPI served not only as a registry, but also as a driver of entrepreneurialism, innovation and technology transfer. Among the great strides made in the 10 years since its establishment, INAPI had gone paperless, harnessed AI to create a search engine for figurative elements in its trademark database, continued the Sello de Origen ("Seal of Origin") program, introduced teleworking, provided services in English and begun operating as international searching and preliminary examining authority under the PCT. It had also taken steps to strengthen the activities of technology transfer and licensing offices in universities and INAPI's role as a donor to South-South cooperation projects, including those implemented under the aegis of the Forum for the Progress and Development of South America. The new INAPI administration would continue to contribute substantively and effectively to the IP system by building on the work done so far and laying a particular emphasis on the integration of IP tools as strategic factors in SMEs and larger companies while meeting modern-day needs with respect to climate change and renewable energies. Chile would continue to support WIPO as the principal forum for the development of international standards to promote an efficient, balanced and accessible IP system through good governance and fact-based deliberation. It trusted that the Organization's encouraging financial results would enable further progress to be made in the various items under discussion on the basis of a balanced approach that incorporated the development perspective and the pursuit of the SDGs in all WIPO activities. The current Assemblies were an opportunity to show the world that multilateralism was the best means of concluding balanced and ambitious agreements. The Delegation urged the Member States to advance their discussions on industrial designs and WIPO External Offices to set a clear example and inspire deliberations within other Geneva-based organizations.

34. The Delegation of Colombia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC and restated Colombia's commitment to the Organization. The Government of Colombia attached particular importance to promoting the model of the orange economy, based on creative industries, whose goods and services may be protected through IP. The 2018-2022 National Development Plan envisaged a series of strategies for the development and consolidation of cultural and creative industries, with a view to diversifying production and exports. The plan also restated the Government's commitment to develop Colombia as a knowledge-based society, creating new fiscal and financial instruments for public and private actors of the National Science, Technology and Innovation System to double current investment. For creative industries to drive social development as a strategic bid for long-term growth, it was necessary to understand their specific needs, which included IP. Thus,

establishing a WIPO External Office in Colombia was particularly relevant for achieving the country's IP goals. The presence of an External Office in Colombia would also bring WIPO services and activities closer to the region and complement regional efforts by covering common interests, generating a more direct means of communication between WIPO and its Member States. The Assemblies should take a decision on establishing a WIPO External Office in Colombia. The proposal to do so was a consensual candidacy agreed by GRULAC, consistent with the Guiding Principles agreed on by the Assemblies in 2015 and expressly included in the decisions of previous Assemblies. Colombia was updating its national IP policy and therefore considered it a priority to continue active collaboration with WIPO in order to devise a forward-looking policy that consolidated IP as a tool to increase productivity and competitiveness through the promotion of innovation, creativity and technology transfer. It was important to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2020/2021 biennium, which would encourage progress in deliberations on the creation of one or more instruments that would reflect a common understanding of fundamental issues related to IP, biodiversity and TK held by communities. The Delegation also restated its willingness to continue working for a consensus-building dialogue for the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT in the near future. Lastly, the Delegation emphasized Colombia's interest in joining the Hague Agreement concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Colombia was making progress in that direction and hence WIPO's technical and legal assistance would be crucial for its effective and appropriate implementation.

35. The Delegation of Costa Rica endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC, and thanked WIPO and, in particular, its Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for the support provided over the years to the Costa Rican IP Office, helping it to build and strengthen national capacity and to implement the country's obligations under international IP law. That had enabled the IP Office to continue to bolster its training and professionalization processes both within that Office and benefiting other stakeholders and users of the IP system as well. The Delegation noted that the next priority would be to implement the WIPO File project. The Government of Costa Rica was proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its accession to the PCT, which had provided users with a competitive platform for the effective management of patent registration. In the context of the tools provided by WIPO to help users make the most of the international IP system, a WIPO mission to Costa Rica would be undertaken soon to provide more information on the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks. With regard to copyright, the Delegation thanked WIPO for the legislative advice provided and the technical and legal mission for implementing the Marrakesh Treaty and the Beijing Treaty, noting that the latter had been ratified on September 4, 2019. Turning to global matters, the Delegation was concerned about the lack of specific progress made in substantive negotiations on both the normative and institutional fronts. With regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries, the global IP system must strike a balance as regards its benefits and scope. The Delegation urged all to shoulder their responsibilities and act in good faith in negotiations with a view to clearing the hurdles on the more complex issues, such as in relation to the IGC and the DLT, the selection of External Offices and, in particular, the opening of an office in Colombia, and the adoption of the Program and Budget for the forthcoming biennium.

36. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. It lauded the progress that had been made in 2019 on the PCT, Hague and Madrid Systems. The Delegation also highlighted the importance of technical assistance and capacity building through the implementation of the DA. In that respect, the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC) and OAPI had granted scholarships to nationals of Côte d'Ivoire, and there were plans to conduct a capacity building program for lecturers of two universities within the context of the network of TISCs. The Delegation thanked the Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, for having selected Côte d'Ivoire as a pilot country in the project "Development of the Music Sector

and New Economic Models of Music in Burkina Faso and in Certain Countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)". The Delegation recalled that IP, as a strategic tool for socio-economic development, had helped alleviate poverty in rural areas through the promotion of geographical indications and collective marks, and that the expansion of TISCs in relation to patent documents had also been a key activity. It also noted that the Marrakesh Treaty had been approved by the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, with a view to its ratification. On collective management, WIPO's robust support had resulted in collections amounting to 3.034 billion CFA francs, about 6.1 million United States dollars, in 2018. The Delegation hoped that fresh impetus could be injected into the normative framework through a decision of the Assemblies to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, addressing broadcasting in the traditional sense, following a signal-based approach. Moreover, it believed that negotiations on the draft DLT required a more inclusive approach that took on board the legitimate concerns of stakeholders, with a view to breaking the current deadlock. Lastly, the Delegation underscored that Côte d'Ivoire, a party to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, endorsed the principle of solidarity for the proper functioning of WIPO and its Unions, and would fully cooperate with others to ensure successful deliberations.

37. The Delegation of Croatia expressed its satisfaction with the financial results for the 2018/19 biennium and the sound approach taken to financial planning for the 2020/21 biennium. It was also pleased with the continuing improvements being made to programs and to the methodology and presentation of financial planning. The Delegation had observed continuing positive developments as well within various WIPO Committees, in particular regarding a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations in the SCCR. It hoped that Member States would adequately and effectively respond to new technological challenges in that area. The Delegation supported the new Program and Budget's emphasis on addressing the challenges of new technological developments and their impact on the IP system. Modern digital economies, relying heavily on data, demanded a rapidly and effectively responsive IP system, and Croatia had been gratified by WIPO's prompt, active and solution-orientated reactions to such developments. The new Program and Budget included enhanced support for SMEs and entrepreneurship in the effective use of IP. SMEs contributed significantly to economic growth and social stability but required that appropriate action be taken to gain full advantage of the IP system and enhance their innovative and creative capacity and competitiveness. Such support for SMEs would be one of Croatia's key priorities in the first half of 2020, while presiding over the Council of the European Union. The Delegation regretted that no consensus had been reached on adoption of the DLT. The Delegation hoped that Member States would take a constructive approach to bring the enormous efforts already invested toward that end to fruition. The Delegation encouraged Member States to work jointly with the WIPO Secretariat to advance WIPO governance and help the Organization tackle future challenges in an increasingly complex field of work. The Delegation asked Member States to be open-minded and ready to move away from entrenched positions that were stifling progress, including the longstanding impasse over the allocation of WIPO's External Offices, a clear obstacle to the advancement of modern communication technology. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its valuable cooperation in other areas as well: finalizing a joint project to assist Technology Transfer Offices in Croatia; promoting the importance of creativity and innovation among children; and delivering various IP training programs.

38. The Delegation of Cuba announced that the new Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, promulgated on April 10, 2019, following a consultative process and a constitutional referendum, affirmed the role of education, culture, science, technology and innovation as essential factors in the economic and social development of the country. The Cuban Magna Carta recognized the rights of persons to the creations of their minds, as exercised by creators and rightholders in accordance with law and public policy. Cuba was making strides in the implementation of public policies, such as the reorganization of the Science, Technology and Innovation System and the policy to create advanced technology enterprises and science and

technology centers to promote knowledge and the transfer of high value-added scientific and technological services, in which intellectual assets played a fundamental role. Progress had also been made in foreign investment and the establishment of economic development zones that promoted the acquisition of technology and the strengthening of industry value chains at the national level. The industrial property system adopted by the Council of Ministers – whose legal framework had been updated in August 2018 – supported those national development goals and policies within the context of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development 2030: a national vision with strategic goals and targets. Efforts had also been made to foster the institutional development of a culture of engagement with and management of IP rights. Cuba had ratified the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), which had entered into force in Cuba on June 6, 2019. That amendment provided legal certainty for the export of low-cost generic medicines to countries that had no capacity or limited capacity to produce pharmaceutical products. More important, however, was its vindication of the right to health and access to medicines for all, economic interests aside. The Delegation affirmed that those results had been achieved despite the escalation of the cruel economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, hampering Cuban access to technologies and funding sources. Those measures had a negative impact on the economic development of the country, directly affecting the people of Cuba. The extraterritorial scope of the blockade prevented citizens and enterprises in other States from investing in that country. On November 6 and 7, 2019, it would be the 29th time that the draft resolution demanding a halt to that unjust blockade would come before the UN General Assembly. The international community could again demonstrate its dislike for that outdated and criminal policy. The Delegation urged the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2020/21 biennium, commending progress made in reaching an agreement on international legal instruments. The DA was one of the priorities of WIPO and its Member States. Integrating development into all WIPO activities, continuing the discussion on IP and development as part of the implementation of the third pillar of the CDIP, and achieving the full implementation of the 45 adopted Recommendations of the WIPO DA continued to constitute a challenge for Member States and validated the efforts of WIPO. Another challenge was integrating the 17 SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda into its activities and initiatives. With regard to the future work of the SCP, it should continue its studies of limitations and exceptions to industrial property rights, with emphasis on the impediments patents posed to technology transfers. Those studies should take into consideration questions related to development and conditions for the implementation of such limitations and exceptions. As for the negotiations on the DLT, it was essential that the text of that instrument should address the interests of all Member States, in particular technical assistance and the obligation to disclose the origin of the forms of TK that were represented in those designs. The SCCR should work toward achieving a concrete proposal on exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives, educational and research institutions, and guarantee access to those resources for disabled persons. Lastly, the Delegation drew attention to the assistance provided by WIPO, in particular by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, to its national capacity-building for national industrial property systems and the Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure for the implementation of the WIPO Intellectual Property Automation System, including new developments in the automated system and the new support system. The Delegation also welcomed the support given by the PCT and the Madrid Systems in technical assistance and capacity-building. The Delegation hailed the decision to broaden participation in the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program for 2020. It also wished to acknowledge the work carried out by the WIPO Academy to promote an understanding of IP at the national level.

39. The Delegation of the Czech Republic aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Czech Republic continued to support WIPO as a global forum for IP services, policy information and cooperation and attached great importance to its efficient and accessible IP rights system, which encouraged innovation and

creativity, promoted the diffusion of knowledge and facilitated technology transfer for economic and social growth. It also supported all of WIPO's activities that took account of the needs of users of the IP system and continued to attach great value to the improvement of WIPO's global IP protection systems. The Delegation appreciated the efforts of the members of the Lisbon Union to eliminate the Union's budget deficit and had been actively engaged in the deliberations of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System to ensure the Union's long-term financial sustainability. Turning to WIPO's normative activities, the Delegation hoped that Member States could finally agree to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT. The Delegation was convinced that the IGC was the appropriate forum for discussions on disclosure requirements in such a treaty. The Czech Republic was actively involved in the work of the SCCR and believed that the Committee would reach consensus on a treaty text for the protection of broadcasting organizations that met current and future protection needs. The Delegation supported the proposal to include resale rights on the agenda of the SCCR. It was satisfied with the progress made by the SCP but expected it to hold a more technical debate on substantive patent law harmonization. The Government continued to support the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) and welcomed the growing contribution of Member States from all regions to its work. It noted WIPO's effort in the area of IP education, the WIPO Academy and IP policies for universities and public research institutions. It recognized the cooperation and assistance WIPO had provided in organizing a roving seminar on WIPO services and initiatives in October 2018 and would welcome further study visits by WIPO entities. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its technical assistance with activities relating to the 100th anniversary of the Industrial Property Office in Prague. The Delegation was ready to continue close cooperation with WIPO.

40. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said that WIPO had achieved great success over the previous year in its work to develop the global IP system and to strengthen collaboration among Member States. At its session in May 2019, the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System had discussed and made decisions on issues relating to the System's financial sustainability, while underlining the importance of increasing its membership, including accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration, and of promoting coordination among its members to enable the System to operate efficiently. The WIPO Secretariat had paid due attention to the technical assistance and cooperation needed to implement the PLT, in accordance with the decision taken by the diplomatic conference held in June 2000 to adopt the PLT. The Delegation would welcome the accession of more countries to the Marrakesh Treaty, as well as efforts made by the WIPO Secretariat to support national, regional and interregional activities related to its implementation. In view of the progress made by the SCT in drafting the framework of the draft DLT, the Delegation looked forward to the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT. Kim Jong Un, Chair of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had made the policy speech at the first session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly in April 2019, where he had identified the country's main task as solidifying the material foundations of socialism by concentrating all national efforts on economic construction. The Government's strategic policy to promote economic construction aimed to make the national economy modern, scientific, based on IT and oriented around the national Juche ideology. The country therefore valued the contributions of talented personnel and science, and paid close attention to IP protection. The cabinet and other relevant bodies were taking practical measures to further improve the IP protection system. A national IP development strategy had been drawn up, which had constituted a turning point in the development of science and technology. Various activities had been undertaken in the country to mark World IP Day 2019. IP-related topics had featured widely in newspapers, such as Rodong Sinmun, and on television, and lectures and seminars on an IP protection system had been arranged. The WIPO Secretariat had been informed of all such initiatives. In addition, a national workshop on the Geneva Act had been organized in collaboration with the WIPO Secretariat to increase awareness of the Act among the country's experts. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would continue to actively promote the development

of science and technology on the basis of IP protection and to further strengthen technical cooperation with WIPO and its Member States.

41. The Delegation of Denmark said that, as innovation was a key driver for economic growth, research and development were needed to ensure sustainable growth and thereby combat the multitude of global challenges facing society at all levels of development. Accordingly, there should be adequate incentives to ensure returns on the significant investment in such efforts. IPRs were a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for development, the economy, knowledge sharing and technology transfer. Since WIPO played a key role to that end, through its promotion of the protection of IP globally through cooperation among States, ongoing efforts should be continued to help the Organization to deliver cost-efficient and fit-for-purpose IP services, providing users with premier products. The Delegation applauded WIPO's efforts to improve the global IP systems, including the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems, and supported the continuing development of IT services for both users and offices. Smooth systems, simplification and cost savings for the benefit of users were crucial to continued and increased use of such global IP services, and the systems' working groups continued to make progress towards improving regulations, guidelines and practices. In relation to the DLT, the 2014 text was sufficiently mature for the convening of a diplomatic conference. The Delegation supported the efforts of the SCP to develop patent law and hoped that patent laws could be further harmonized to the benefit of users and society, in line with the SCP's original aims, as Danish users attached a high premium to such substantive harmonization. Since that aim was yet to be achieved, however, it was time to explore initiatives to speed up that process in the SCP. The Delegation acknowledged and looked forward to continuing the progress made in other committees. It drew attention to recent IP developments in Denmark, including the modernization of the Danish Consolidated Trademarks Act to bring it in line with the European Union trademark system, allowing trademarks to be presented by modern technological means, such as sound files, enabling applicants to request a reasoned search report and fast-track processing of trademark application, and including provisions for enforcing trademark protection and combatting counterfeiting. Another development was the Nordic Patent Institute's continued delivery of high-quality products to its applicants. The Delegation underlined its continuing commitment to making positive, constructive and pragmatic contributions to WIPO and its bodies so that it could continue to deliver the world-class services that Danish users prized.

42. The Delegation of Djibouti aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. It praised WIPO's efforts to meet the needs of Member States, as well as the quality of the regular updates on the Organization and its activities and development. Technological evolution was recognized as a main driver of long-term growth. In the coming decades, radical innovations, such as mobile Internet, the Internet of Things and cloud computing, would revolutionize the production process and raise living standards, especially in developing countries. SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), adopted on September 26, 2015, implied that without technology or innovation, there could be no industrialization, and without industrialization, there could be no development. The tourism and energy sectors would be important for economic development prospects in Djibouti, the latter being the basis of a successful industrialization policy. Djibouti was dependent on imported energy resources, which slowed down industrialization, as it could not harness the abundance of photovoltaic and geothermal energy to develop its own resources, owing to lack of technology and know-how. The Delegation had requested more technical assistance in that area to achieve the SDGs. The protection and observance of IPRs had supported the promotion of technological innovation and the transfer and dissemination of technology. It was therefore essential to stimulate innovation in developing countries and LDCs, in particular by protecting inventors and strengthening the IPR framework, thereby fostering creativity, research and technological development. The Delegation supported the establishment of a binding international instrument for the protection of TK associated with GRs and expressions of folklore. To that end, Member

States would need to demonstrate more flexibility to achieve successful outcomes. Lastly, the Delegation commended the work and efficient and effective cooperation of the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries and the Regional Bureau for Africa, and wished the Assemblies every success in its tasks.

43. The Delegation of Ecuador, thanking the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for its invaluable work and support for the activities of those countries, aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. It restated its commitment to promoting the strategic regulation of IP as a useful tool for fostering research and innovation, balancing it against the full enjoyment of other rights, such as the right to health, as stated in Articles 27 to 31 of the TRIPS Agreement TRIPS. As a country that was megadiverse in biological resources and GRs, the questions addressed by the IGC were of vital importance to Ecuador. In its view, a fair and balanced system would only be possible if substantive questions were integrated into the discussion, along with a comprehensive set of rules that would ensure effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. Those rules must take into consideration such matters as disclosure of the source and origin, prior and informed consent, and equitable distribution of benefits, as collective rights that are inalienable, imprescriptible and guaranteed against seizure. The Delegation therefore supported the renewal of the IGC mandate. It also maintained its view that adequate protection must be balanced, with a regime of limitations and exceptions that would be strategically designed in relation to the flexibilities allowable under international law. For developing countries to achieve a better quality of life and narrow the technological gap, that balance was essential. Therefore the matters under consideration by the SCCR called for flexibility, so as to seek balance in the establishment of limitations and exceptions, including access to knowledge for persons with disabilities different from those addressed in the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation said that it had played an active role in the SCCR, and had presented a number of proposals. It therefore felt that it was important to continue with a text-based and open approach, without prejudice to the readiness of each of those topics under discussion or the importance of studies to guide the work. As for the Marrakesh Treaty, Ecuador had made a firm commitment to the full enjoyment of rights for persons with disabilities, with a view to protecting their fundamental rights under the Constitution and as provided by international law. The National Service of Intellectual Rights (SENADI) had been designated by the executive branch as the competent national authority for the coordination and implementation of the Treaty. SENADI was therefore working in coordination with civil society institutions and educational bodies to promote a national network of authorized entities. That network would create spaces equipped with texts accessible for persons with disabilities. In the view of the Delegation, the CDIP was vital for achieving the goals sought by the various Member States. Ecuador had taken part in the pilot project on tourism, culture and IP, and that, in its view, had contributed to the coordinated efforts of the competent authorities related to the generation of intangible assets by those involved in the tourism industry. Recently, one of the results of that project was offered for use by WIPO to assist Member States and universities. The second result of that project was expected to be presented to the CDIP in late 2019, demonstrating the broad influence of IP in the areas of economy and knowledge. The growing importance of technology in the domain of IP explained the success of the IP offices and the national and international respect for intangible assets. The Delegation therefore called for the continuing investment of resources in programs that championed those tools and supported their implementation for the benefit of users in all Member States. In that regard, WIPO cooperation was essential. A sub-regional seminar would be held in Quito from November 11 to 13, 2019, on innovation support services and value-added services for the staff of TISCs. Ecuador was actively working to disseminate the Inventor Assistance Program, and there were currently a number of users who had initiated the process of obtaining patents with a view to regional and eventually international coverage. It acknowledged the importance of galvanizing the cultural sectors in the area of ideas, and had therefore created the Comprehensive Plan for the Promotion of Culture, entitled "Creative Ecuador." Under that plan, public policies, projects and mechanisms had been established to generate economic activity among all players in the Ecuadorian cultural sphere. In accordance with national law, efforts

were being made to encourage the development of creative projects and businesses devoted to the management and sustainable production of artistic and cultural goods and services. Last but not least, the Delegation expressed its thanks to WIPO for all the technical cooperation it had provided to Ecuador with a view to strengthening technical capacities at the national level, and reaffirmed its continuing support and commitment to the work of that organization.

44. The Delegation of Egypt expressed its full support to the Chair in order to achieve positive results on all agenda items. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the Director General's report and commended the Secretariat for its role in promoting IP, research and innovation across all countries as well as strengthening Member States' capacity to implement the SDGs. The Delegation aligned itself with the statements made by its regional groups. The Delegation looked forward to further technical assistance and capacity-building activities being undertaken, especially in developing countries, across the entire spectrum of the DA objectives for 2020-2030. The Delegation noted that the stable financial situation of the Organization had contributed to strengthening its capacity to fulfill its mandate and achieve its objectives. The Delegation hoped that the present WIPO General Assembly would be able to adopt the draft budget for 2020/2021. The Delegation reiterated its support for all efforts made to move forward with the ambitious international instruments pending on WIPO's agenda that would enhance the international IP system. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the Organization's interest in modern technology as reflected in the January 2019 report on AI, as well as the dialogue held on September 27, 2019, on AI, which provided an opportunity to share experiences on relevant opportunities and challenges. The Delegation emphasized that Egypt attached great importance to the interface between patents, public health and access to medicines, harnessing the power of innovation to support public efforts aimed at developing the health sector. In that regard, the Delegation commended WIPO's efforts in preparing the GII 2019 Report, to which Egypt had contributed a section on modern health technologies. The Delegation underlined Egypt's firm belief in the importance of creating an enabling environment for authors and creators that protects their rights. In that spirit, Egypt would host the Regional Meeting for Heads of Copyright Offices in Arab Countries in November 2019. Furthermore, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina concluded an MoU with WIPO enabling the ABC to obtain copies of its catalogue of accessible books under the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation recalled that Egypt's Vision 2030 included a number of IP-related themes to achieve sustainable development, considering scientific research and technology major components of the overall development process. In that regard, the Delegation wished to highlight a few developments: (i) a national education development project had been initiated; (ii) Egypt's President proclaimed 2019 as the Year of Education in Egypt; (iii) the Law on incentives for science, technology and innovation was promulgated to create an environment conducive to innovation; (iv) the Knowledge and Innovation Bank and a Fund for Innovators and Geniuses were created to support and fund researchers and innovators; (v) the Regional Initiative for Knowledge and Innovation in the Arab and African regions was launched to build an education system focused on promoting innovation and creativity; (vi) the Global Forum for Higher Education and Scientific Research would be hosted in April 2019 to share experiences in the fields of education, scientific research and innovation; and (vii) the Cairo International Innovation Fair 2019 would be hosted in November and would provide an opportunity for inventors and innovators to market their inventions and innovations. The Fair would be organized under theme "Africa Innovates" in connection with Egypt's chairing the African Union. In conclusion, the Delegation looked forward to engaging constructively in the session, hoping that all discussions would produce the desired outcomes

45. The Delegation of El Salvador thanked the Director General and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for the technical assistance and training provided for ongoing dissemination, awareness-raising and training on IP. El Salvador was at a key point in its history, with effective action being taken and substantial changes being made to benefit all Salvadorans. Heeding the call of digitalization, the country was investing in innovation, the creative industries, business network strengthening, infrastructure renovation and security. In

his statement to the UN General Assembly, the President of El Salvador had spoken of his country's efforts to join the global digital and communications revolution, contributing El Salvador's new and unconventional way of doing things. The effective use of IP tools would be key to stimulating development for the population's benefit. From this new digital perspective, El Salvador was motivated to continue strengthening its ties with WIPO and its Member States and helping to build a stronger Organization and IP system. WIPO's role in generating knowledge and leading discussion – on new technologies, creativity and innovation – was beneficial for all. The Delegation firmly supported the Organization's multilateral normative agenda and the projects taking place within that framework.

46. The Delegation of Eswatini endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The country eagerly awaited WIPO's support in achieving more balanced IP development and addressing issues raised by many projects in the WIPO DA, including the construction of national legal frameworks and the formulation of IP policies and strategies. Observing that IP had evolved from a purely academic field into a vehicle for stimulating economic growth, creating jobs and alleviating poverty, the Delegation thanked WIPO for its assistance with programs and activities during the 2018/2019 biennium. These included the development of a National IP Development Plan and National IP Policy; the introduction and maintenance of IPAS; an IP needs assessment with recommendations to strengthen the national IP legal and institutional framework; a high level visit by WIPO and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) to sensitize the country's cabinet to the importance of IP for economic development; a meeting with the new IP Inter-Ministerial Committee to provide guidance on future projects – and in particular the development of a national IP policy and assistance in drafting Patent Act No. 19/2018, Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act No. 4/2018 and Intellectual Property Tribunal Act No.18/2018 – and the establishment of TISCs in the country. For these and other priorities, the WIPO DA, which Eswatini endorsed, had offered the only solutions to challenges faced by the country in dealing with IP. Going forward, the country was hopeful that WIPO would continue to assist it with effective implementation of recently enacted IP legislation. This would entail a major restructuring of the IP Office, the drafting of implementing regulations and the development of technical skills and capacity-building. The country was also counting on further support during the 2019/2020 biennium for the following priorities: formulating an IP strategy and policy; restructuring and strengthening the IP Office (capacity-building and other technical assistance); organizing an IP symposium to raise awareness about the importance of IP for national development; conducting stakeholder training workshops for the Judiciary, the Parliament, the IP Office, SMEs, the police, customs officials, relevant IP stakeholders and others; establishing a Copyright Collective Management Society; ratifying the Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties and acceding to the Hague Convention. The Delegation was fully committed to all of WIPO's IP development initiatives for Member States and looked forward to the Organization's continuing support in realizing its vision of becoming a First World country by 2022.

47. The Delegation of Ethiopia associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. With its rapidly growing economy and home-grown economic reforms, Ethiopia was seeking to enhance the country's competitiveness and linkage to global value chains, which required a well-developed IP system conducive to innovation, creativity and increased productivity. Support from WIPO, one of the country's strongest development partners, had been critical and timely, producing significant results in various areas. Among them, a draft national IP policy and strategy promised to strengthen protections for patent rights and copyrighted materials and address challenges with respect to trademarks. WIPO's support for human and institutional capacity-building in Ethiopia had laid a strong foundation for development of a national IP system, including a National IP Academy that would commence operations in 2020. Ethiopia had also benefitted from the Joint WIPO- Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV)-Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Advanced International Training Program on Intellectual Property Rights for Least Developed Countries. Together with the Government of Japan, WIPO had helped the Ethiopian

IP Office automate its operations with the IPAS system and the digitization of its registries. The Office had recently installed online IP customer service for trademarks and would soon do so for patents and designs. Support from experts in WIPO's Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, in the form of awareness workshops and training sessions, had also been vital in developing legal infrastructure for copyrights, particularly for collective management organizations. The Delegation also thanked the Traditional Knowledge Division for its support in drafting domestic TK legislation and its continuous awareness-enhancing activities. The country had participated in WIPO's Transfer of Appropriate Technology Project to enhance its capacity for the management and use of technical and scientific information and build the national technological base while meeting nationally identified development needs. This project had identified sustainable solutions for development-related issues and helped transfer technologies for two areas of economic activity: solar coffee drying and aquaculture. Ethiopia had undertaken major reforms on all fronts to promote sustainable economic growth and development but said additional effort was still needed in some areas to strengthen the IP system and tailor it to the country's specific needs. In particular, greater knowledge was needed about IP, innovation and collaboration together with mindfulness of the country's rich culture and the products specific to its geographical position, such as coffee and teff. The Delegation welcomed renewal of the IGC mandate for TK, GRs and folklore and said the time had come to conclude the IGC's work.

48. The Delegation of France said that, with multilateralism being challenged and even attacked, it wished to reaffirm the support of the Government of France for a strong and efficient multilateralism that was modern yet modest, of which WIPO provided a good example. It noted that the great challenges of the century were global ones and therefore the responses to them must be too. It was erroneous to believe that success could be achieved alone, particularly in view of the close connections between countries and the reliance of citizens on one another. Unilateralism, like isolationism, was outdated. Multilateralism offered the only possible response, but it should embody a particular type of ethical code in international relations that was not based on the rule of the strongest or the richest, but on responsibility and solidarity. Multilateralism should make it possible to protect shared global assets, with a focus on the environment, health, trade, climate issues and even digital technology. WIPO played a major role in all of those areas. It should be noted that the future of all societies was dependent on innovation in science, technology and the arts, and that those required both freedom and security owing to the extraordinarily difficult and demanding nature of inventing. Inventors must be secure in the knowledge that they would not be cheated but rewarded, and that they would be able to share and exchange in a market that was no longer national, or even regional, but global. WIPO was vital in that regard. For all of those reasons, the country supported WIPO and its Director General in current and future endeavors. It was also for those reasons that the country hoped that WIPO would carry out its activities under appropriate conditions and that its integrity would remain fully intact. France continued to respect the principal objectives of WIPO, as set out in article 3 of the Convention Establishing WIPO in 1967, which highlighted the unity and solidarity of WIPO and its Unions. Those principles had been enshrined by consensus and France remained deeply committed to them. It should be noted that certain technical discussions had not yet reached successful conclusions, in some cases after 20 years of work, such as those on the draft DLT or a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. Other discussions remained ongoing, as in the IGC. New projects were set to begin, in particular in relation to life sciences, AI, robotics and metadata. Time should be spent on the discussions but it was not reasonable to expect results to be produced only in a future so distant that it became unreal. The main challenge facing multilateralism was the future and, at the level of WIPO, it appeared necessary to consider adapting and allowing the methods of discussion to evolve, while maintaining a concerted mode of action. It could be advisable to reflect on a general mode of administrative and budgetary operations that would be simpler, more modern and structured in a way that was easier to understand, as well as to apply rules and standards that were more future-oriented. A balance would need to be found in order to make decisions in that regard and some delegations, notably the Delegation of Switzerland, had already reflected on such issues in their interventions. To conclude, the Delegation wished to convey its

assurances that it would play an active and constructive role in discussions at the various sessions.

49. The Delegation of the Gambia endorsed the statement delivered by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. It reported that the Gambia Industrial Property Office, in partnership with WIPO, had successfully organized a National Symposium on IP education at the University of the Gambia, in April 2019. The University had then partnered with the Office in introducing IP where relevant in the University's programs and raising awareness about IP around the country. The Delegation thanked the WIPO Academy for its support in that endeavor. It reported that the Gambia had attained the Second Maturity Level in establishing a TISC. A TISC Service-Legal Agreement, having been signed, as well as institutional agreements with three institutions in the country, advisory services were now being offered to clients. The Delegation commended the TISC team for successfully organizing two regional workshops with the ARIPO Secretariat, in Harare, Zimbabwe. These had immensely enhanced efforts to establish a national TISC Network in the Gambia, and the Regional Bureau for Africa had been instrumental in fostering collaboration with the relevant WIPO departments. The Delegation also recognized the role of WIPO and ARIPO in the Joint Master's Program on IP, offered at Africa University, in Mutare, Zimbabwe. It would prove useful in building a strong team of knowledgeable and skilled professionals to staff the country's IP Office.

50. The Delegation of Georgia fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The WIPO Academy had carried out excellent work in raising public awareness and improving qualifications in the field of IP. The country welcomed the Academy's projects and initiatives, in particular its customization of distance learning courses, support for countries in setting up national IP academies and extension of professional development programs (PDP). The Delegation was grateful to the Academy for having launched a distance learning course in the Georgian language and for the successful completion of a project for staff of the National Intellectual Property Center. It also greatly appreciated the continued support of WIPO in conducting PDP in Georgia, which had been successful, had enabled officials from various countries to expand their knowledge and had contributed to improving the qualifications of local staff. The Delegation further expressed its gratitude to the WIPO Academy and the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for their regular and active engagement and professional guidance in planning and implementing priority projects for Georgia. The regular assessment of those projects had led to continuous improvements, although upcoming projects could benefit from a broader approach. As the result of fruitful cooperation with the WIPO Department for Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, the National Intellectual Property Center had become the third IP office to participate in the Madrid e-Filing service, which allowed trademark applicants to expand the scope of international protection for their marks through the Madrid System in a secure and simple way. The Delegation welcomed the efforts and activities of WIPO in developing and strengthening the global IP system by promoting innovation and creativity, thereby contributing to economic growth and social welfare. The country was confident that WIPO would continue to respond to the needs of all Member States efficiently and provide services through the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems by allocating the resources needed for their use and promotion, with equal treatment for all systems, including geographical indications. It was hoped that an agreement on convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the draft DLT would be reached during the present Assemblies. In relation to the establishment of WIPO External Offices, the principle of equitable geographical distribution should not be neglected and priority should be given to regions without any External Offices. CEBS remained the only region without an External Office and the country therefore strongly supported the application of Romania to host one, in keeping with the Delegation's wish to support WIPO's best interests. It was also vital to improve the geographical representation in WIPO of unrepresented and under-represented countries. Through close cooperation with Member States, it would be possible to achieve a balance in geographical representation in the near future.

51. The Delegation of Germany fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states. IPRs were not only essential for enterprises and developers but also benefitted consumers and society as a whole. As the premier global organization for IP, WIPO remained the focal point for global discussion, the exchange of views and legislative advancement. Advancing the normative agenda could add significant value both to WIPO and to every Member State. The Delegation encouraged all delegations and regional groups to work constructively, guided by a genuine spirit of compromise to overcome remaining differences in various areas. WIPO had taken significant initiatives. Its partnership platforms had enabled efficient and effective international cooperation. Within WIPO Re:Search, the Delegation was pleased to observe over 150 research collaborations in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases, malaria and tuberculosis. It marked a significant milestone for the partnership, to improve global health through the sharing of IP-protected materials and other expertise. AI held all the promises and challenges of a disruptive technology. In that context, the IP system was a decisive driver for innovation and creativity. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's engagement with AI, as it could play a key role as an international observatory and as a global forum for the exchange of ideas and the coordination of efforts. The Government of Germany considered the complex and globally debated issue of IPRs as an integral part of the legal, economic and cultural framework within which enterprises and society as a whole operated. WIPO faced the challenge of providing guidance in the search for an adequate response to that complexity, while fulfilling its mission to promote IP and to protect it effectively in order to create sustainable development and wealth. One of WIPO's chief and yet delicate tasks was to allay recurring fears of favoritism and demonstrate continuously its aim to strike the best balance between rightholders and different segments of society. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to contribute actively to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifying areas for its own possible input, in close cooperation with other Geneva-based institutions. The Government of Germany supported a robust and coherent international IP framework that was fit for purpose, struck a balance between different interests and concerns, encouraged innovation, and fostered the development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Stakeholders, including IP offices, would benefit from a simpler and more harmonized international framework. As the guardian of global legislation and harmonized practices, WIPO was the forum uniquely suited to mastering these challenges. As deliberations within the SCCR had demonstrated, the international harmonization of legal concepts was a complex task. However, if Member States worked together in a spirit of consensus and with the firm aim of striking a fair balance between all interests involved, WIPO could continue to provide the framework within which positive results could be achieved. The Delegation was committed to improving the protection of broadcasting organizations by reaching a consensus on an international treaty. In order for the treaty to be sustainable and successful, its scope of application should reflect the latest technical developments. The Delegation would continue to actively support the efforts of the SCCR in order to advance text-based work on an international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation was interested in sharing national experiences regarding exceptions and limitations for certain organizations and purposes, as well as for people with disabilities other than print disabilities. Although the Delegation firmly believed that there was no need for a legally binding international instrument in this area, it was receptive to other Member States' legal concepts. It was also interested in sharing views on further issues such as the resale right and challenges for copyright in the digital environment. Users of patent law were calling for the further development and improvement of the system and WIPO, in particular the SCP, should heed that call. The Delegation was satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on patent quality, including opposition systems, and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, and welcomed agreements on future work reached at the SCP's previous sessions. The Delegation was looking forward to the study compiling the information shared that the Secretariat would submit during SCP/31 and particularly welcomed the fact that the future work program for SCP/31 and SCP/32 entailed sharing sessions on the

topic of AI and patents. AI technology raised numerous important legal questions regarding patent protection for AI-related inventions. Given the opportunities and challenges it presented to the administration of the patent system, the sharing of experiences and information in the SCP was useful. Germany would continue its close involvement in the area of patents and health, taking account of efforts and activities undertaken by other WIPO committees and international organizations. Germany looked forward to the Secretariat's review of existing research on patents and access to medical products and health technologies at SCP/31. Latest figures on application numbers under the PCT showed the importance of the PCT System in promoting innovation and generating wealth. The Delegation was pleased to report a significant increase of 16 per cent, compared to the previous year, in the number of PCT applications from abroad that entered the national phase at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) in 2018. These results testified to WIPO's salutary alignment of spirit and resources. Germany, a patent-intensive country, lauded the efficiency of the PCT system. In 2018, the DPMA had processed 7,027 international applications, over 85 per cent of them from applicants from outside Germany. There had been many, highly desirable improvements in the PCT System and the Delegation welcomed the constructive approach of the PCT Working Group. Discussions at the 2018 WIPO General Assembly on convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT had failed to reach agreement on technical assistance and the disclosure requirement. Germany and other European Union Member States remained convinced that the disclosure requirement was not relevant to industrial designs and that its inclusion in the treaty would run counter to the aim of simplifying and harmonising design registration procedures. However, the Delegation remained open to any reasonable proposals. After successful establishment of the Geneva Act, there was now an opportunity to stabilize the Lisbon System. The Delegation strongly supported efforts by Lisbon Union members to build an efficient and sustainable system for the future. The protection of geographical indications served as a means of protecting traditional regional knowledge for both agricultural and non-agricultural products. Germany recognized the enormous efforts of the IGC and welcomed the constructive discussions that had led to agreement on a mandate for the IGC, and the inclusion of indigenous and local communities. The WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities had played a key role in enabling such participation. Germany would therefore contribute 15,000 euros to the Fund. It remained fully committed to further progress in the field of development, particularly in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Germany supported the continued implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations in a balanced and consensus-driven manner. It welcomed the results achieved by the CDIP in 2019 and hoped that the positive trends in discussions at recent sessions would continue in order to meet the challenges the CDIP faced. Regarding the ACE, the Delegation believed that effective IP protection must have a solid enforcement framework at its core. With the ACE's comprehensive approach, past sessions had provided useful insights into various approaches to IPR infringements. The Delegation remained confident that the ACE could continue to contribute to a comprehensive discussion on the technical aspects of IP enforcement. The DPMA had continued its successful cooperation with WIPO, other IP-related organizations and national IP Offices. It had worked closely with counterparts of the IP offices of China (CNIPA), Japan (JPO), Estonia (EPA) and the European Patent Office (EPO). Other working-level meetings had been held with France (INPI), the Republic of Korea (KIPO), China and the EPO. The DPMA also maintained strong relationships with its partner offices at a working level, including in the area of patent examiner exchanges. The Delegation looked forward to contributing to a constructive and fruitful dialogue during the 2019 Assemblies.

52. The Delegation of Ghana aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. Ghana recognised the importance of the knowledge economy and of translating a country's knowledge, through innovation, into useful, valuable and marketable products. It had therefore introduced two flagship programs for innovation: "One District One Factory", under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and another entitled "Planting for Food and Jobs", under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In September 2018, Ghana had initiated the establishment of a National Industrial Property Office fully

dedicated to the administration and registration of industrial property rights as enshrined in the National IP Policy and Strategy, to harness the country's potential for innovation and creativity and provide effective and efficient service to users. One year into this initiative the Ghana Industrial Property Office had made strides in establishing an enabling environment for a robust IP system and in processing applications according to the timelines established in the Madrid and Hague Agreements. It required capacity-building, however, to enhance its service delivery in those areas. The Delegation expressed appreciation for WIPO's technical assistance to universities and research institutions in the country in drafting and implementing institutional IP policies in line with the National Strategy. It had also benefitted from the African Bureau's flagship project for "Champion Countries" in Africa. The Delegation reported that the Office, having completed its mapping of institutions, was ready to host the TISC Program, sign the Service Level Agreement with WIPO and roll out the Program by the end of 2019. The Delegation said Ghana appreciated the constructive spirit shown by Member States in the IGC. It hoped a diplomatic conference could be convened in 2020 to adopt the draft DLT and that differences on non-substantive issues would not prevent Member States adopting a simplified design system that would benefit rights holders and users. The Delegation was satisfied with the work and progress of the SCP and thanked WIPO for its work to strengthen Ghana's IP System. The country acknowledged the IP technical cooperation activities conducted by Member States, notably Switzerland and Japan, and hoped to continue collaborating with WIPO to improve its IP system.

53. The Delegation of Greece aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states. It said that under prudent management, WIPO had reached a positive financial result and the global demand for IP continued to increase. It commended the WIPO Academy for its outreach work and the WIPO Judicial Institute for its sustained support for IP judges. In an era of continuous digitization and AI, initiatives to introduce standards for IP information and for information and communication technology (ePCT being the most important) had helped to establish a global IP data infrastructure conducive to sustainable and inclusive development. Such results would not have been possible without the support and tireless efforts of the WIPO Secretariat. Highlighting the importance of WIPO's involvement in broader multilateral initiatives going forward, such as the UN High level Panel on Digital Cooperation, Greece wished to explore ways for WIPO to help establish global and regional help desks to increase digital and innovation capacity. The Delegation recommended the adoption of an overall policy for data management of, and access to, all WIPO information and intangible assets, ensuring transparency and accessibility for all Member States. It emphasized the importance of IP as a driver of economic growth and the need for effectively managed IPRs as a strategic tool for business competitiveness. The challenge for government authorities was to make the IPR system effective and responsive to rapid technological developments and user needs. The Patent Office of the Hellenic Industrial Property Organization (OBI) had completed an extensive digital transformation of the patent and design application filing procedure in 2019, facilitating access to IP protection. A national council for IP had been established to maintain a coherent industrial property policy. The network of regional patent libraries had been expanded to reach a wider public and establish links with the local business and research communities. An IP academy had been established to raise awareness, increase capacity, share knowledge, and foster research with respect to IP, as well as train patent attorneys. The Hellenic Industrial Property Academy (HIPA) had signed an MoU with the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) for that purpose. HIPA would also be signing an MoU with the OBI and WIPO to support transnational IP flows, starting with the establishment of a summer school in 2020 on data-enabled IP and technology transfers. The quality of services provided to applicants was a continuing area of priority focus. In the context of cooperation among national IP offices, and the resulting convergence of practices, Greece was monitoring technological developments worldwide to make infrastructural improvements accordingly and be more responsive to user needs. With respect to trademarks, the country's new parliament was expected to vote on a draft trademark law by the end of 2019. That legislation, which had been harmonized with EU

Directive 2015/2436, included fundamental improvements to Greece's trademark protection system. Greece's Trademark Office, with support from the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), had been digitizing its trademark registration system. The country had also established a Coordinating Authority for Market Supervision and the Fight Against Illicit Trade (SYKEAAP), designed to ensure a unified response to illicit trade in IP infringing goods by sharing intelligence and fostering cooperation among all relevant enforcement authorities. Under an enhanced joint approach to IPR enforcement, Greek authorities had identified and seized impressive amounts of counterfeit goods over the previous four years. In 2018, 70,963 controls had been carried out; 2,298,271 illicitly traded items had been seized by domestic market enforcement authorities; and 23,956,224 counterfeit items had been seized by customs. These successful operations had been reported to the ACE at its fourteenth session, from September 2 to 4, 2019. The Delegation said that Greece appreciated the work of ACE and would be actively participating in its meetings. Greek exports, of food products in particular, had increased in 2019, and Greek companies had been stepping up their use of the Madrid System for the international registration of their trademarks. Efforts to promote the System and maintain its attractiveness had helped to facilitate international trade, and Greece was committed to continuing them. Regarding the work of the SCP, Greece welcomed the constructive spirit of the discussions and the significant progress achieved, hoping that a consensus would emerge to discuss a matter not yet taken up: patent law harmonization. Significant progress had also been made on the work program of the IGC. The Delegation hoped that the IGC's work on all the matters before it would seek a common understanding of core issues, taking an evidence-based approach, and that its efforts on data-enabled IP and relevant research from HIPA would contribute to evidence-based policy-making. The Delegation regretted that a diplomatic conference had not yet been convened to adopt a DLT, even though a draft text could now be submitted to one. The resulting harmonization of formalities would benefit users worldwide. It hoped the remaining differences could be resolved and the diplomatic conference convened. It considered the PCT System to be robust, with a growing number of applications, but also welcomed the proposed amendments to it, as beneficial to users. The Delegation also agreed that incentives (reduced filing fees and HIPA capacity-building) should be considered to promote university-driven innovation.

54. The Delegation of Guatemala aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation recognized the role of IP in economies and national development, a vastly important and essential aspect of public policy design and management. Creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, trademark creation, encouragement for the creative industries and technology transfer were mechanisms for turning knowledge into intangible assets for the generation of wealth. Under the auspices of the National Intellectual Property Office, and on the basis of goals established in the national IP strategy, Guatemala was developing strategies for universities, SMEs, creative industries and centers for innovation and research, with a view to promoting the utilization of IP systems and the benefits they offered. The Delegation welcomed the results of the sixth meeting of ministers of Central America and the Dominican Republic on IP in April of 2019, during which experiences were shared on the importance of creating public-private alliances as a tool for economic development and the strengthening of cooperation channels throughout the sub-region. The Delegation welcomed the work of WIPO in establishing forums for multinational negotiation with a view to the creation and implementation of legal instruments that would satisfy the needs of Member States. It therefore called on Member States to promote the work of the IGC and the discussions on exceptions and limitations within the SCCR. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO and, for its effective support and assistance for the building of technical capacities, for the formulation of projects and for the ongoing training provided to the National Intellectual Property Office and to the sectors engaged in IP matters. The Delegation was observing the progress of the Assemblies with interest and intended to make a constructive contribution to the establishment of firm agreements that would benefit the millions of persons who placed their trust in IP.

55. The Delegation of the Holy See said that although global economic growth appeared to be losing momentum compared to last year, with productivity growth at a record low and high economic uncertainty, innovation was taking place at an accelerated rate and becoming a central element in the economic and industrial strategies of numerous countries. The steadily growing numbers of applications in WIPO registration systems confirmed the increasing economic and social importance of IP around the world, which was being driven by rapid, profound and pervasive technological change that was shaping the future of the economy and placing greater worth on knowledge in its economic and commercial expression as intangible assets. WIPO's registration systems had followed that trend, with a steady growth in the number of applications. In developed and developing economies, innovation, both formal and informal, was thriving. The world was enjoying the benefits of two centuries of profound change which had triggered a highly beneficial digital era. However, the power of technology was often associated with financial and economic supremacy. Those wielding the increasing and overwhelming power over humanity and nature were not necessarily adept at using it. The immense technological development had not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility and values, and the dominant technological paradigm placed the individual and its freedom above society and nature and responded to the myth of unlimited progress. If technological advancement only caused increasingly evident inequalities, it was not real progress and if it became an enemy of the common good, it would be a regression to earlier and less felicitous times. The effort to develop "intelligent machines" must target the greater good, reduce the poverty gap and meet health, education, happiness and sustainability needs. WIPO was contributing to the SDGs by promoting a balanced and effective IP system that encouraged innovation and creativity and supported the flow of knowledge and technical expertise within and among countries, as well as through its various programs and technical assistance activities to support developing countries and LDCs. Sustainable development and community building was a long-term investment in peacebuilding and in strengthening the world's resistance to crises, disasters, conflicts and wars. As part of that effort, it was important to uphold fundamental human rights, advance solidarity through development, and provide knowledge sharing, capacity building and technical assistance. Technological progress made a better world possible, but it must be accompanied by a vision of the common good and an ethic of freedom, responsibility and fraternity. The Delegation would contribute constructively to the 2019 Assemblies.

56. The Delegation of Honduras aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation reported that the Sixth Ministerial Meeting for Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic on IP, on "The importance of IP to business success: Challenges and opportunities for companies in the context of the sub-region's economy", had been held in Tegucigalpa from April 8 to 10, 2019. The meeting had featured excellent presentations and an enriching discussion. Significant agreements had been reached and timely implementation guidelines provided, as a major contribution to the sub-region's national IP systems. Honduras appreciated the participation of the Deputy Director General of WIPO responsible for development programs, and the support received from the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Delegation recognized the importance of WIPO's normative function and would therefore remain attentive to the conduct of its Assemblies. The Delegation believed that, with the support and cooperation of other Member State delegations, important decisions could be reached for the benefit of IP.

57. The Delegation of Hungary lauded the Director General's opening remarks on the need of consensus on pending issues of high priority. Reasonable decisions taken by consensus would ensure the key role of IP and especially WIPO in the global, innovation-driven economy as efforts were made to address the emerging needs of users and stakeholders. Hungary remained a responsible WIPO Member State which contributed to the maintenance and improvement of a balanced and effective international IP system and fully supported WIPO in delivering on its mandate and normative agenda. It fully endorsed the opening statement by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group and the opening statement by the

Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states. The Delegation commended WIPO's positive financial performance in 2018 and 2019. Its financial and budgetary results were a strong argument for allocating the resources needed for maintaining, improving and promoting all of the four global IP registration systems. Financial solidarity among Unions would remain one of the guiding principles when allocating income and expenditure to different Unions. Nevertheless, it stood ready to resolve the pending issue of the allocation methodology in order to adopt WIPO's Program and Budget for 2020/2021. The Delegation reaffirmed its strong commitment to the adoption of the DLT, under which simplifying and harmonizing design registration formalities would be of great benefit for designers of developed and developing countries. The final DLT was ready for deliberations at the long-awaited diplomatic conference and Member States were urged to find a solution acceptable to all. The Delegation emphasized the need to respect the Guiding Principles adopted in 2015. The decision to open new External Offices should be taken by consensus and based on merit.

58. The Delegation of Iceland commended WIPO for its steady and fruitful cooperation and support in various aspects of IP rights. It was crucial not only for access to a wide variety of information, technical resources and guidelines, but also to be able to interact with WIPO's experts as needed. On July 1, 2019, following the passing of a law in Parliament, the Icelandic Patent Office changed its name to the Icelandic Intellectual Property Office. Filing numbers in Iceland were growing and interest in the international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems was continuous. The year 2018 was a record year for patent filings and filings in 2019 were estimated to be similar in number. Accordingly, Iceland had gained three places in the GII list for 2019. Emphasis on innovation and IP in Iceland has been strengthened recently with the establishment of the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) of Iceland in December 2018. The Office served all universities and public research organizations in Iceland, providing advice on IP protection and analyzing the market and the patent landscape for new inventions. In March 2017, Iceland had raised concerns as to the seemingly insufficient protection against the registration of country names as trademarks. The Delegation firmly believed that use of country names should be the fundamental right of every country, enjoying at least as much protection as state emblems and flags under Article 6*ter* of the Paris Convention. Iceland had focused on awareness-raising for innovative companies and start-ups through various projects, including WIPO outreach projects slated for 2020. The Delegation restated its support for the adoption of the DLT and believed that the text was mature enough for convening a Diplomatic Conference in 2020.

59. The Delegation of India thanked the Director General for all of his work and untiring efforts in the cause of IP, and the Secretariat for the excellent documents prepared for the Assemblies. WIPO played an extensive role in spearheading international norm-setting and policy guidelines on IP and in ensuring effective, balanced and development-oriented implementation of the global IP system. IP was at the very root of the innovation required by countries to meet future challenges and by industries to surge ahead of competitors. India was meeting its international obligations, as a well-established legislative, administrative and judicial framework was in place to safeguard IPRs, and was addressing its developmental concerns by utilizing the flexibilities afforded by the international framework. Following the adoption of the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in 2016 and significant staff increases at IP Offices in India, pending IP applications had fallen considerably, disposal and examination had risen, and innovation and creativity had been promoted in establishing a dynamic, vibrant and balanced IP system. Furthermore, in intensifying its cooperation and collaboration with WIPO, the country had acceded to five WIPO IPR treaties, held major IP-related events, risen by 29 places on the GII since 2015 and was expanding its network of TISCs. The Delegation expected that the current Assemblies would make constructive headway on long-pending substantive and governance issues, such as those arising in the texts on TK, TCEs and GRs. It considered that the text on GRs proposed by the Chair of the IGC should complement other working documents in future discussions. It would welcome early finalization of the DLT, which must contain provisions on technical assistance and mandatory disclosure in order to enable developing countries and

LDCs to build their domestic protection systems in accordance with the flexibilities afforded by the TRIPS Agreement. The Delegation supported the decision of the SCP to confine its forthcoming session to fact-finding, rather than to harmonization, and advised against a one-size-fits-all approach to SCP discussions. It commended the CDIP which had furthered the WIPO DA, which was complementary to the SDGs. The Delegation supported early finalization by the SCCR of a balanced treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations that took account of the concerns and interests of all Member States and covered all types of broadcast, irrespective of platform or medium, although India was in favor of the signal-based approach, under which broadcasters did not have ownership rights to content. The Delegation stressed that limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives and educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities were of critical importance to societal development and to the promotion of the right to education. It fully supported the Asia and the Pacific Group's proposal on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and stressed that the principle of due regard for equitable geographical distribution, enshrined both in the Paris Convention and in the Berne Convention, was essential to maintaining a geographical balance in the WIPO Coordination Committee. It called on Member States to support India's application to host a WIPO External Office which, owing to the country's innovation and focus on IP, would strengthen the IP ecosystem globally. It commended WIPO's financial health and looked forward to the adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium during the current Assemblies.

60. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and by the Delegation of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN. The Delegation restated its continued commitment to supporting the development of balanced IP systems, as reflected in its efforts to improve IP services in Indonesia. Since 2018, the backlog of patent registration in Indonesia had been reduced by more than 80 per cent. For trademarks, the backlog had been reduced by over 60 per cent. In August 2019, Indonesia had launched an online system for filing applications for patents and trademarks and for registering industrial designs. Indonesia had joined the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks in 2017 and hoped soon to join the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. In the area of copyright, Indonesia had finalized the internal process for the ratification of the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh Treaty and was hoping to be able to deposit instruments of ratification for both Treaties during the 2019 Assemblies. The Delegation welcomed the inauguration of WIPO's IP portal, a new initiative aimed at harmonizing WIPO's services and simplifying work at the national level. The Delegation also supported the new digital time-stamping initiative and the new proposal on the conduct of WIPO meetings, during which human efforts would be complemented by text automatically generated using WIPO's AI tools. Accordingly, it hoped that the 2019 WIPO General Assembly would succeed in resolving outstanding issues on the Program and Budget so that the Assembly could agree to endorse the draft Program and Budget for 2020/2021 biennium. On the normative agenda, with regard to the DLT, the Delegation hoped that divergent views could be reconciled so that the WIPO General Assembly could find a solution on the disclosure obligation and technical assistance, leading to the convening of a diplomatic conference. Indonesia hoped to host that diplomatic conference. With regard to the treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, the Delegation welcomed the recommendation agreed at the 38th session of the SCCR and hoped that future discussion could narrow existing gaps to reach consensus on the fundamental issues. Regarding the IGC, the Delegation congratulated Member States and WIPO for agreeing on the mandate of the IGC. It looked forward to the endorsement of the IGC mandate for the 2020/2021 by the 2019 WIPO General Assembly, as agreed during the 40th session of the IGC. The Delegation also welcomed the progress of the CDIP, including the convening of the International Conference on IP and Development, reflecting continuing efforts to mainstream development in WIPO's work. The Delegation offered its full support and cooperation during the 2019 Assemblies.

61. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) said that in a constantly evolving global economy, IP was quickly becoming the keystone for strengthening socio-economic development and for stimulating innovation, creativity and technological advancement. In a world of increasingly global problems, multilateralism and international cooperation were essential to the framework of international organizations. Based on its needs and developmental considerations, Iran (Islamic Republic of) had developed a legislative, administrative and judicial system to strengthen respect for IPRs according to its international obligations, while utilizing the flexibilities afforded by the international regime to address national challenges. Despite inhuman and unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Iranian nation in the form of economic and financial sanctions, a veritable form of economic terrorism, the country had managed to continue its sustainable development including in the field of IP. Constant improvement of Iran (Islamic Republic of) in the GII, as reflected by the remarkable improvement by 59 places since 2014, along with its continued progress in statistics published by WIPO were strong indications of its unified resolve to overcome the unlawful and inhuman restrictions imposed on the country by diversifying and by expanding its innovative and knowledge-based economy. On the issue of WIPO External Offices, the Delegation noted that Iran (Islamic Republic of) was one of the applicant countries to host a WIPO External Office in its national capacity. All Member States were invited to give due consideration to its proposal and a decision should be made in full conformity with the Guiding Principles. The Delegation restated its belief in the value and importance of the long-standing tradition of consensus as the only decision-making mechanism in WIPO. There was a noted lack of agreement among Member States on the disclosure requirement in the draft DLT. It remained nonetheless true that dialogue and negotiation were indispensable for narrowing down subsisting differences. The Delegation urged Member States to conduct meaningful discussions to resolve the long-standing impasse and pave the way for convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. Concerning the IGC, the Delegation welcomed the recommendation made by the IGC and the consensus reached on the renewal of its mandate, the terms of the mandate and the work program. In light of the progress made in text-based negotiations on all three draft instruments for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs, it was hoped that the IGC would conclude its discussion by finalizing agreement on all three drafts at the end of its new mandate. Turning to the development of a broadcasting treaty, the Delegation noted the recommendation made to the WIPO General Assembly by the SCCR and expressed its readiness to continue consultations aiming at reaching consensus on the fundamental issues. The Delegation looked forward to constructive and result-oriented discussions in the 2019 Assemblies. The Delegation said that Iran (Islamic Republic of) would remain a steadfast partner in the pursuit of dialogue and multilateralism.

62. The Delegation of Iraq expressed its appreciation to the Chair for guiding the proceedings, convinced that with his competences and rich experience, consensus would be reached on the various issues. The Delegation aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and by the Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) on behalf of the OIC. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the positive developments in the Director General's Report and the progress made by the various standing committees. The Delegation looked forward to reaching consensus on all outstanding issues, thus achieving balanced outcomes to the satisfaction of all Member States. The Delegation noted that the increasing number of Member States in some regional groups needed to be reflected in the seats allocated in the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee, in line with the principle of equitable geographical representation. The Delegation fully supported the Asia and the Pacific Group's proposal on the composition of the PBC and the WIPO Coordination Committee, aimed at correcting the current imbalance. With regard to the draft Program and Budget, the Delegation was of the view that there was no point in revising the current and long-standing methodology for the allocation of income and expenditure among the unions. With regard to the opening of External Offices, the Delegation stressed the importance of consensus in developing a balanced and effective international IP system. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation between Iraq and WIPO to reinforce the national legal framework for IP

and thanked the Secretariat for the legal assistance provided to align national laws and regulations with relevant international standards with the ultimate aim of achieving industrial, scientific, literary and artistic development. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its commitment to participate positively and constructively in the Assemblies, hoping all discussions would achieve their expected results for the benefit of all. The Delegation extended its thanks to the Director General for his positive impact managing the Organization and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for the meetings.

63. The Delegation of Italy aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B. WIPO had made significant efforts to keep abreast of growing challenges in the field of IP law and IP management, particularly by launching the new IP Portal. WIPO's inherent mandate was the promotion and development of a global, balanced, holistic and effective international IP system, in line with the UN goals, including the DA. Italy strongly believed that such a global system should be expanded by ensuring that all WIPO-administered IP systems grew equally, granting adequate protection worldwide to any form of IP, in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity among WIPO Unions. The Delegation accordingly hoped that Member States would overcome divergent interpretations of the concept of solidarity, including with respect to its financial implications. Italy attached great importance to the development of international protection for geographical indications and thus welcomed the new Contracting Parties which had acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. It looked forward to the upcoming accession of the European Union and to the projected entry into force of the Geneva Act in 2020. Turning to the normative agenda, the Delegation restated the hope that harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration formalities could be achieved by convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT, which would provide significant advantages to all Member States as well as to users and designers. On the opening of WIPO External Offices, the Delegation hoped that the 2019 Assemblies would find the most appropriate means of implementing that important decision in line with the Guiding Principles adopted in 2015 and the strategic goals of the Organization, with a view to fostering the most efficient and effective development of the global IP system in all geographical areas.

64. The Delegation of Japan said that, in light of the profound, once-in-a-century transformation that society was experiencing, with rapid advances in information and communication technologies, WIPO was expected to take the lead in encouraging innovations based on emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and AI. Indeed, WIPO should be the driving force to enhance people's lifestyles everywhere. WIPO should also advance innovation in developing countries by promoting advanced technologies, the achievement of the SDGs, and the correction of social disparities. WIPO was well placed in advocating such efforts since it had been established to provide international filing services, expand global IP infrastructure, and lead in designing the IP system for a new generation. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's efforts to improve services for the benefit of its users, such as through its recently-launched IP Portal, as WIPO's users were innovators and creators from around the world whose activities should be encouraged. Japan's own IP-related initiatives included efforts to protect new technologies, such as through its new patent classification for IoT, the publication of patent examination case examples on AI and preparations to host an international symposium on AI inventions in Tokyo in November 2019. As part of ongoing efforts to enhance IP infrastructure, Japan had been supporting developing countries for 30 years through the WIPO Japan Funds-in-Trust (FIT), which had recently enabled the branding of Taita baskets made in Kenya, and the launching of a new branding project in Botswana. An increase to the FIT in 2019 enabled extending eligibility for such support beyond specific regions to the whole world. Also, in 2018, Japan had carried out cooperative activities with Botswana, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe, welcoming highly enthusiastic trainees from those countries and sending its IP

experts there. The Delegation said that Japan would continue to conduct such cooperation activities with numerous countries, and looked forward to the further development of WIPO.

65. The Delegation of Jordan congratulated the Chair for presiding over the 59th session of the Assemblies and wished him every success in facilitating the work of the session. The Delegation commended the Director General's wise management of the Organization and the Secretariat's efforts in preparing for the meetings. The Delegation aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of its geographical and political groups. The Delegation reaffirmed its Government's commitment to further raise awareness about IP rights and enhance IPRs protection, which required WIPO's continued cooperation and technical support, especially in: (i) supporting women, entrepreneurship, innovation and applications of AI in public services; (ii) adopting a national ownership strategy; (iii) supporting Jordanian universities in developing their research policies; and (iv) maintaining close cooperation with the National Library of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to WIPO for the legislative advice provided and support in establishing TISCs. With WIPO's assistance, Jordan would endeavor to build and promote IP culture among younger generations through competitions and programs aimed at integrating IP concepts in curricula. The Delegation looked forward to collaborating with other delegations in ensuring the session's success. In conclusion, the Delegation underlined the vital nature of the Assemblies' agenda, which included very important issues that could only be resolved through constructive consultations and continuous dialogue between all relevant parties, ultimately moving WIPO's agenda forward.

66. The Delegation of Kazakhstan said that Kazakhstan placed IP rights and their protection at the heart of its ambition to become one of the most developed countries in the world. To that end, the Government was taking steps to join the Hague System and had initiated the process to accede to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. It was also actively working to strengthen the patent system in the Eurasian region. In September 2019, Kazakhstan had helped to organize and host a Diplomatic Conference on the Adoption of the Protocol on the Protection of Industrial Designs to the Eurasian Patent Convention. It was grateful for the Eurasian Patent Organization's invaluable contribution to the development and expansion of the regional patent system. Kazakhstan had recently reached an agreement with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center to execute an MoU on alternative dispute resolution. It recognized the important role played by WIPO in the continued development of AI in the area of IP and was implementing AI tools in the day-to-day activities of its national IP office. It was important that such advanced technologies should be managed by highly qualified experts. Indeed, human capital was a key factor in the progressive development of all countries. The Delegation had some concerns around WIPO's personnel policies and believed that there was room for improvement and greater transparency in staff appointments. The Government recognized the importance of protecting IP rights and would continue to strive to promote international principles and standards for the protection and enhancement of IP both nationally and globally.

67. The Delegation of Kenya aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group and affirmed its support for WIPO. It said that while WIPO had made strides in addressing IP-related challenges, a change of strategy for the Organization and its entire membership was still needed in some very critical areas. The Delegation expressed appreciation for WIPO's projects, programs and activities during the 2018/19 biennium. The DA, while dysfunctional, was critical to IP growth in Kenya. The Delegation called for more funding and continued mainstreaming of both the DA and SDGs throughout the Organization's work to address technological challenges and boost creativity and innovation. This would support the country's efforts to combat disease, hunger, unemployment and the erosion of biodiversity. The Government, mandated by Kenya's Constitution to support, promote and protect the IP rights of its people, had been working to modernize the country's policies, administrative processes and legal framework for IP to ensure adherence to national,

regional and international frameworks and best practices, and also to address emerging IP rights issues. Kenya had adopted national laws and regulations for industrial property, trademarks, the fight against counterfeiting, and the protection of TK and TCEs. The Delegation was concerned, however, over delays in various committees in considering binding legal instruments for TK and TCEs, the convening of a diplomatic conference to finalize the DLT and the copyright exceptions and limitations to be applied to libraries, archives, museums, educational and research institutions and persons with other disabilities. The Delegation hoped the deadlock could be cleared through discussions for a positive impact on IP development. The Delegation closed by stressing the importance of inclusive and representative governance of WIPO in terms of proportionate, equitable geographical representation, especially in the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC.

68. The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan noted with great satisfaction that Kyrgyzstan's IP system had marked its 25th Anniversary in 2018 and that the country had celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Eurasian Patent Convention in 2019. During that short period, the country, with WIPO's support, had achieved notable results in developing the IP system in Kyrgyzstan and the wider region. WIPO, as a global IP organization, was the one and only forum for the dialogue, exchange of opinions and promotion of legal initiatives in the area of IP at the global level. Kyrgyzstan remained committed to developing a balanced, efficient and mutually acceptable global IP architecture. The Delegation was deeply appreciative of the steady commitment of the Director General and the Secretariat of WIPO in implementing the DA Recommendations. WIPO's continued assistance to Member States in enabling them to harness the full potential of innovation and creativity inspired Kyrgyzstan with optimism in the common future of the Organization. The Delegation took the opportunity to express its gratitude to the International Bureau for its well-coordinated work and continuous advances in improving regulatory documents. The Organization's efforts to provide user-friendly systems and adapt to new trends were truly admirable and put it on a par with the most progressive international institutions. The recent publication on AI in WIPO's "Technology Trends" series had highlighted some important trends in that field and served as a good example of WIPO's ability to adapt to the rapidly changing technological environment. The Delegation said that it looked forward to seeing a Russian-language version of the publication. The Delegation expected that an IP policy framework would be developed by early 2020 at the local level; specifically at universities and research institutions. That initiative had been possible thanks only to WIPO's efforts, and the Delegation was sincerely grateful for the numerous activities organized by the Organization and its valuable advice. The Delegation was convinced that such assistance would increase the number of applications for IP registrations. However, in order to promote innovation, especially at universities, it was necessary to offer fee reductions under the PCT System. The Delegation, through the Chair of the Administrative Council of the Eurasian Patent Organization, noted with satisfaction that a Diplomatic Conference on the Adoption of the Protocol on the Protection of Industrial Designs to the Eurasian Patent Convention had been held during the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of that Convention. The Delegation expressed the hope that the text of the main proposal for the DLT would be finalized in the near future. However, it supported the inclusion of technical assistance and capacity-building provisions in the DLT, as the Treaty should contain appropriate provisions aimed at strengthening the capacity of the IP infrastructure in developing and LDCs. In 2020, work in Kyrgyzstan would focus on fostering innovation and building an appropriate infrastructure to that end. The Delegation therefore attached great importance to the TISCs and called upon WIPO to continue to focus its efforts in that area. While the 27 TISCs in Kyrgyzstan had yet to prove their effectiveness, the Delegation was convinced that proper management of the centers would promote interest in creativity and invention. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to WIPO for its continued assistance in the development of the country's IP system, including through the holding of a number of regional and national seminars on IP in 2019. Thanks were owed to the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its continued impeccable and high-level work. WIPO projects and programs had been implemented in Kyrgyzstan's region and awareness of IP in the country had steadily increased. The Delegation expressed its sincere gratitude to the WIPO

Academy for regularly providing IP-related capacity-building activities in Kyrgyzstan. The Delegation believed that streamlining and greater harmonization of the international IP system would benefit both IP stakeholders and IP Offices.

69. The Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic said that it stood ready to work with WIPO and all Member States to promote the development of a balanced global IP system for the benefit and socio-economic advancement of all countries. The progressive policies currently being implemented by the Government sought to modernize the national economy and leverage emerging technologies, such as AI, blockchain and big data, to improve the IP system and the lives of Lao citizens. The Government was putting particular emphasis on intangible assets, advanced technology and research and development in its efforts to place sustainable development at the heart of the economy. In that regard, with WIPO's support, the Department of Intellectual Property had worked closely with relevant stakeholders to develop a national IP development strategy for the period up to 2025 and a related vision for the period up to 2030. Furthermore, the Government was streamlining and aligning domestic legislation with international standards to provide stronger protection and facilitate IP registration. For instance, it had recently promulgated the third revision of the Law on Intellectual Property and was preparing the related implementing regulations. It had also gone to great lengths to develop human resources and infrastructure in the area of IP to ensure efficient management and administration of IP rights and quick and convenient access to services. An e-filing system was scheduled for launch by the end of 2019. Such developments would not have been possible without WIPO's valuable technical assistance and advice. Steps taken to raise public awareness and promote the effective use of the IP system and boost trade and competitiveness included the implementation of the Enabling the Intellectual Property Environment Project. Under WIPO's aegis, notable progress had been made in that regard and the country continued to benefit from efforts to build the capacity of developing and least developed Member States to benefit from the IP system. The Government attached great importance to the participation of Director General Francis Gurry in the celebration of World IP Day 2020 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In 2019, a visit by a WIPO delegation to the country to share valuable lessons on IP development at the international level had helped to raise awareness of the importance of IP work among government agencies. The Government, consistent with its goal to utilize the IP system to enhance innovation and research, was working with WIPO to establish a national network of TISCs in the near future. It had also taken steps to accede to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. Efforts to accede to the Hague Agreement, the WPPT, the WCT, the Beijing Treaty and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT) were ongoing and would provide Lao businesses with access to markets outside the country and stimulate foreign investment in domestic products by facilitating access to the national IP system and market. Lastly, there were plans to implement mechanisms for the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs in the country.

70. The Delegation of Latvia recognized the importance of the matters on the agenda, but also wished to express its regret that the decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the draft DLT had not yet been taken. The benefits of the DLT were clear and would be considerable for all parties. Secondly, it hoped that the discussions about the opening of WIPO External Offices would be effective and that the selected host countries would be able to integrate into the existing network and reflect the aims of WIPO. It should be recalled that all great difficulties could produce their own solutions, even as it could prove necessary to change ways of thinking in order to find them. By following such a far-sighted approach throughout the Assemblies, it would be possible to address issues successfully and find solutions suitable to all parties involved.

71. The Delegation of Lesotho aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group and expressed the hope that progress could be made in the IGC and with regard to the DLT. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for all its work and untiring efforts in the cause of IP, which had consisted in building human capacity in IP and

providing access to IP education and training. The support also included the automation process, strengthening of corporate administration and formulation of an IP policy and strategy. The IP policy was undergoing validation at the national level and would soon reach implementation. Lesotho continued to face a number of challenges, however, including ineffective infrastructure and a low level of awareness among users of the IP system. The Delegation sought WIPO assistance, within the DA, in formulating relevant legislation, establishing TISCs, expediting the data program process to the IPAS, assisting universities and research institutions with IP policies and establishing technology transfer systems, conducting awareness-raising campaigns and participating in special projects on the promotion and protection of handicrafts in Lesotho. The Delegation said that it continued to place great importance on the protection and exploitation of TK and expressed the hope that the IGC would be able to make progress in establishing a legal instrument to that end. The Delegation appealed to Member States to show more flexibility to make progress on the draft DLT, and to work tirelessly to achieve a balanced, more inclusive, competitive and accessible international IP system for the benefit of the Organization's diverse membership.

72. The Delegation of Liberia associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The Government had taken steps to ensure that IP remained a key component of the national development agenda. With WIPO's valuable support, legislation had been enacted to ensure the autonomy of the national IP office. However, as the Government was currently focused on tackling the major health crisis in the country, it required additional technical support to train IP judges and roll out IP curricula in tertiary institutions. Significant progress had been made in approving a national IP plan, in which regard WIPO's technical assistance had proved most helpful, and competent officers had been appointed to ensure tangible progress in IP matters. Further support was required to establish the necessary structures to embed IP in the national development plan. In that regard, the requests made by the Delegation during the 54th Assemblies remained pertinent. Lastly, the Delegation looked forward to the Member States' full participation in the 43rd Session of the Administrative Council and Council of Ministers of ARIPO, due to be held in Liberia in November 2019.

73. The Delegation of Lithuania aligned itself to the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The adequate protection of IPRs was closely related to innovation, which in turn affected quality of life. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to WIPO for the Organization's efforts to promote innovation and creativity through successful core activities to develop an international IP regulatory framework and registration system, as well as for its excellent cooperation with Lithuanian institutions. At the national level, the recommendations made by WIPO experts to Lithuania on an IP strategy, including analysis and suggestions for a national institutional and regulatory framework for IP protection, were being implemented. Those recommendations had helped the country to evaluate its IP system, find more efficient ways to organize inter-institutional coordination and arrange discussions with the main actors in the IP protection system. Cooperation with WIPO on public education on IP was ongoing, with initiatives for different target groups. In that regard, the WIPO initiative for the Technology Transfer Offices (TTO) of universities had brought TTO together to improve and share their competences and knowledge, and look for ways to work together to confront common challenges. Increased attention was being paid to mediation in IP and, on the basis of the country's cooperation agreement with WIPO in that area, several events had been organized with the participation of WIPO representatives, including a conference on mediation in May 2019. Although Lithuania was represented among WIPO staff, the principle of equitable geographical representation needed to be applied further. The harmonization of design procedures was long awaited and it was hoped that progress could be achieved in convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the draft DLT and that obstacles to its adoption could be overcome. Moreover, discussions on a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations were one of the biggest priorities on WIPO's legislative agenda. The Delegation welcomed the

work done by the SCCR, the SCT, and the SCP, which had conducted useful discussions on different aspects of the present system and existing practices in recent sessions. The consensus reached by the IGC on its new mandate was also a positive step. It was important to hold discussions on the subject of External Offices, including evaluating real needs and ensuring respect for the Guiding Principles and the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

74. The Delegation of Madagascar aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group and was pleased with the execution of the national policies and strategy for IP innovation in establishing a new legal structure for industrial property. In line with the Government's priorities under the country's development framework paper "Madagascar's emergence initiative" the country hoped to tackle various challenges and roll out various flagship projects that would make IP a real driving force for the country's economy. The Delegation noted that many hurdles had been cleared to achieve these results, especially on industrial property and its supervisory body. The impact of various awareness activities had been dramatic, and it was observed that each year a huge segment of the population was educated on IP. The Delegation noted that more reference was made to this immaterial right, either during conflict or as mere illustration. The high volume of requests at the Malagasy Industrial Property Office (OMAPI) and the rising number of disputes were concrete indicators of the efficiency of awareness-raising and communication. Mindful of this situation, OMAPI had made user satisfaction a key objective for the industrial property system, to win their trust, encourage them to protect their immaterial assets and spur them to claim their rights. Some projects had therefore been designed, executed or already begun. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its technical assistance to OMAPI, mentioning its program to digitize archives and use IPAS to automate its operations. The branding project had also been a great opportunity for Madagascar, with its rich variety of locally produced products. Madagascar was particularly proud of the progress OMAPI had made in becoming a competent, recognized and robust office, with procedures in compliance with the 2015 version of ISO 2001 certification standards. This further encouraged OMAPI to go beyond its administrative missions on industrial property to promote innovation and invention in Madagascar, and to play a pivotal role to improve the business climate and promote investment in the country. Madagascar and its two IP bodies could not revamp its economy through IP without support. The Delegation expressed its deep gratitude for WIPO's continuous collaboration on digitization, IPAS and branding, and hoped for continuing fruitful collaboration between Madagascar and WIPO.

75. The Delegation of Malawi aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. Since the previous Assemblies, WIPO had supported Malawi in various ways, including helping to organize a workshop on TK, during which custodians of knowledge highlighted the urgent need for legal protection of their knowledge. Two WIPO missions also sought to build capacity on the Madrid System and readiness for the collective management of performance rights, and WIPO had provided legislative support on implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Delegation, which was currently chairing ARIPO, further expressed its gratitude to WIPO for its continued assistance and support to ARIPO. The Delegation restated its desire for a balanced and development-oriented IP system that was responsive to the interests of LDCs like Malawi in its aspiration to develop economic value associated with the IP system. That was the essence of the DA. Malawi continued in its endeavors to raise the profile of the IP system as a tool for sustainable economic growth and development. WIPO had assisted Malawi with developing its National IP Policy, which had been launched in 2019 and constituted a framework for creating a robust IP system to promote the generation, protection and exploitation of IP in the country. The Delegation requested support from Member States in implementing the policy. The work of the IGC on reaching agreement on a text of an urgently needed international legal instrument to ensure the effective protection of TK, TCEs and GRs was to be commended. While the Delegation welcomed the consensus to renew the IGC's mandate for the 2020/2021 biennium, such a renewal, 20 years after the IGC started its work, should not be taken as a mark of progress in the negotiations.

The Delegation was of the view that the text that had been forwarded to the 2019 Assemblies was mature enough to proceed to a diplomatic conference. There was a lack of political will, however, to finalize the work of the IGC, and the Delegation urged Member States to negotiate in good faith and redouble their efforts. In regard to the DLT, Malawi fully supported the position of the African Group, which emphasized the need for the final Treaty to take in to account the legitimate interests of all Member States. It was imperative that the final text provide for disclosure of origin in respect of designs emanating from TK, TCEs or folklore. The Delegation welcomed the recommendation by the SCCR to continue working towards convening a diplomatic conference in the 2020/21 biennium on the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation urged Member States to reach consensus on the fundamental issues of such a treaty, including specific scope, object of protection and rights to be granted, and said that it looked forward to effective negotiations on limitations and exceptions, with a view to providing a balanced copyright system at the international level. The Delegation recognized the significance of the decisions to be taken during the 2019 Assemblies and pledged to engage constructively in order to find pragmatic solutions that were acceptable to all Member States.

76. The Delegation of Malaysia aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN, and by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and noted that WIPO's positive financial performance, steady projected revenue streams, and its surplus and overall increase in net assets resulted from an increase in revenue *via* the PCT and Madrid Systems, as well as from savings in personnel costs. The Delegation welcomed the proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/2021 biennium, which was guided by the medium-term strategic plan for WIPO for 2016-2021, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That Program and Budget aimed to help Member States to use IP for development, in particular as regards developing national IP strategies and plans that were consistent with national development, enhancing human resource capacities and increasing the capacities of SMEs as well as universities and research institutions to successfully use IP to support innovation. The Delegation was also interested in programs to enhance technical knowledge infrastructure for IP offices relating to better services to stakeholders and better administration outcomes. The Program and Budget also addressed international cooperation on building respect for IP. The Delegation recognized the protection of TK, GRs and TCEs and was concerned about the issues of misappropriation and biopiracy. It therefore supported the work of the IGC and the renewal of its mandate for the 2020/2021 biennium, with a view to reaching agreement on an international legal instrument to ensure a balanced and effective protection of GR, TK and TCEs. The Delegation acknowledged the work of the SCCR and the progress made in its recent sessions, and encouraged the SCCR to continue its discussion on limitations and exceptions to copyright in the digital environment. In 2019, Malaysia had approved a new trademark law, which would enter into force by the end of 2019, and had deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol on 27 September 2019. In that context, the Delegation was grateful for the assistance and guidance provided by the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and the Madrid Legal Division, which was helping it to prepare its implementation of the Madrid System by December 2019. The Delegation hoped that the Madrid System would benefit applicants in Malaysia and other countries alike in terms of ease of business and boosting economic growth. Malaysia's IP system had progressed well since the country had joined WIPO in 1989, thanks to assistance from WIPO as well as other IP-related organizations. The Delegation would continue to review its IP legislation in order to ensure it was aligned with technology enhancements and international treaties. Malaysia looked forward to continued effective cooperation and assistance from WIPO as well as from other IP offices in the next biennium.

77. The Delegation of Mali aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. It commended WIPO for the valuable support provided to its country, following the signing, on September 25, 2009, in Geneva, of an MoU to strengthen and better coordinate the assistance program for Mali to enable the effective

protection and use of IP for the country's development. The Delegation lauded WIPO's continuous and multi-faceted support, notably: (i) the technical assistance provided prior to Mali joining the ARIPO in 1984 and acceding to international IP conventions; and (ii) assistance in IP-related capacity-building for senior staff in Mali, as well as technical and managerial capacity-building within IP management structures, such as the Malian Center for the Promotion of Industrial Property and the Malian Copyright Office. Beyond those achievements, cooperation between Mali and WIPO in recent years had included the signing, in July 2009, of an MoU between WIPO's Director General and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment to draft the national IP development strategy and its action plan (2015-2019). The strategy document adopted by the Government of Mali on November 26, 2014, sought to promote the creation of a favorable environment for IP protection and promotion, and even the effective and efficient use of the IP system in Mali's economic, social and cultural development policy and strategy. Other cooperation had included the organization of several national seminars and the signing, on October 8, 2012, of an agreement to establish a TISC in Mali by WIPO's Director General and the Ambassador and Representative of Mali to Geneva. Under the agreement, WIPO and Mali had committed themselves to stimulating creation and technical and technological innovation by improving access to technical knowledge. The project presently had 44 remote TISCs nationwide. In addition, numerous national seminars had been organized on topics such as: "Adding value to traditional medicine and pharmacopeia: what role is there for IP?"; "Informing and educating stakeholders about the Patent Cooperation Treaty system"; "The use of IP assets to boost competitiveness amongst small and medium-sized enterprises in Mali"; "The effectiveness of the national network of TISCs" and "The importance of business identifiers in adding value to products and services". Considering IP among the essential levers for its socioeconomic development, and taking into consideration its significant needs and concerns, the Delegation requested WIPO's support in implementing pending activities relating to: (i) the assessment and implementation of the national IP development strategy and its action plan (2015-2019), adopted by the Government of Mali in November 2014; (ii) the organization of the seventh national fair on technological inventions and innovations, scheduled to take place in March 2020 in Bamako; (iii) the operationalization of the National Committee for the Coordination and Development of Intellectual Property and the National Committee on Geographical Indications, as well as of capacity-building for its leading stakeholders; (iv) the development of a national strategy for geographical indications to better harness the national agro-sylvo-pastoral and cultural potential; (v) the provision of continuous capacity-building for stakeholders to establish a TISC and of attendant measures under the agreements initiated by or with WIPO; and (vi) the establishment through the TISC of a Malian database to better disseminate scientific and technical information to the benefit of Malian researchers, inventors and students.

78. The Delegation of Mauritania aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of its Groups. The Delegation said that awareness of the importance of IP was still lacking in Mauritania, which in turn limited the role of IP in economic development. The Delegation looked forward to further support from WIPO in disseminating IP culture as a means to stimulate its national economy. The Delegation added that cooperation between its country and WIPO had resulted in several important projects, including the approval of the establishment of a TISC, which began operating under the auspices of the General Directorate of Industrial Development and was expected to play an important role in the development of research and invention in Mauritania. Furthermore, Mauritania had initiated, in February 2019, the preparation of a national IP strategy in cooperation with WIPO-mandated experts. In that regard, the Delegation thanked WIPO and the Arab Bureau for the support and assistance provided to Mauritania. The Delegation recalled that Mauritania had long attached great importance to IP as evidence by the Government establishing a Department for Industrial Property and the Central Register of Commerce in line with the recommendations of the WIPO mission for the development of the national IP strategy. In 2019, Mauritania had also participated in several regional and sub-regional meetings and forums organized by WIPO. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated

its commitment to continue to cooperate with WIPO, thanking the Organization for its efforts to promote the role of IP and achieve the overall development goals.

79. The Delegation of Mexico said that WIPO was a fundamental asset for all nations. It was a tool which fostered social cohesion, forging a sense of ownership among citizens of the world. IP safeguarded the traditions and culture that defined humankind and protected the creations which enabled humanity to flourish. IP also opened up a space for protecting the sources generating progress and wealth, and was an effective way to ensure inclusion. Artistic works and creations, in general, reflected stories that described cultures. IP protection enabled the preserving, sharing and admiring of those stories, while also promoting the development of all persons, leaving no one behind. As a richly multi-ethnic and multicultural country, Mexico placed a high premium on IP. Accordingly, discussions on TK were a pressing matter, with a view to enabling indigenous peoples to benefit from their creativity and fostering their development. In Mexico, indigenous peoples had called for the recognition and protection of their TK, TCEs and biocultural heritage. The Delegation was extending that call in the Assemblies, reiterating the importance of the mandate of the IGC with a view to continuing negotiations on international instruments guaranteeing the protection of TK and TCEs. While there was an increased awareness of the exceptional value of TK in helping to address some of the biggest challenges, such as that of achieving sustainable development, mitigating climate change, managing natural reserves and fostering the development of new technologies and medicines, indigenous peoples continued to face threats and issues that undermined the protection of their cultures and knowledge. With reference to the progress that the Government of Mexico had made towards implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice had ruled that works must be adapted in accessible formats and with the appropriate technologies in accordance with the type of disability- In such cases, the adapted works could be used without copyright holder permission or remuneration. In all cases, the source must be cited and content could not be altered. The aim was to ensure that persons with a disability which prevented them from appreciating or familiarizing themselves with a literary or artistic work in its original format could nonetheless have access to that work through accessible formats and in line with individual abilities. The greater the number of persons benefiting from IP protection, the more robust the protection. Accordingly, the Government of Mexico remained committed to respecting the law and leveling the playing field to enable living together in a more equitable world, and was deeply committed to a system that fostered gender equality and women's empowerment in IP. In that context, WIPO should be brought closer to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including through opening a WIPO External Office in that region. Technology made society more efficient, enhanced legal certainty, and ensured transparency. That was true of AI, which would no doubt continue to have a positive impact on IP systems at both the local and global levels. Accordingly, the Government of Mexico was in favor of enhancing the global nature of IP and increasing the use of technology in that context, with a view to the swift adoption of best practices driven by policies and guidelines that were based on empirical experience and consensus. In the previous nine months, new practices had been incorporated into processes, services and the legal framework in Mexico: A digital platform had been developed for the online registration of trademarks and patents, placing creators at the frontline of that process. In addition, services for the extrajudicial settlement of disputes were being facilitated through mediation in particular as an alternative to bringing matters before the courts. The aim was to reduce the impact of disputes in innovation and creative processes. The Delegation recalled the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launching of the Voyager space probe in the 1970s, with a view to communicating humankind's presence in the cosmos through a capsule that carried content which touched on science, art, culture and music from Earth; all of which was now traveling beyond the solar system. In short, at the heart of humankind's desire to reach out to the cosmos was the IP of all of humanity. That reflected the Assemblies' monumental responsibility, as a future without IP was impossible to conceive. Accordingly, in order to sustain the strength of the system established by WIPO, its budget must not be fragmented. Over the years, WIPO, through its Assemblies, had aptly captured the very essence of an

inclusive world that knew no borders and understood human beings in the deepest sense, as creators.

80. The Delegation of Mongolia noted that since its establishment half a century ago, WIPO had endeavored to promote IP globally. WIPO had been developing effective IP systems across the globe, affording its members benefits from the intangible assets of innovation and creativity. Mongolia had cooperated closely with WIPO. The Inter-Regional Meeting on Partnership for Innovation and Technological Capacity Building for Landlocked Developing Countries and Landlocked Least Developed Countries was successfully organized in September 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Mongolia also co-organized a Sub-Regional Meeting on Copyright as an Enabler of Economic Development and Cultural Prosperity in May 2019 and a National Workshop on Enhancing the National Copyright System, also in May 2019 in Ulaanbaatar. The Inter-Regional Meeting was pivotal in providing a platform to discuss and exchange experiences on a number of issues vital for structural transformation and development of landlocked developing countries and LDCs, including promotion of innovation, use of IP tools for development, transfer of technology and technological capacity building. Mongolia had received WIPO training and assistance for capacity-building on operationalizing TISCs. Furthermore, the ongoing project on creating an enabling IP environment to strengthen business competitiveness through brands and designs was expected to be a considerable success. The project would contribute significantly to strengthening the national IP system and fostering innovation, encouraging creativity, improving the competitive advantage of businesses and raising IP awareness. On institutional matters, the Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, on equal and balanced geographical distribution and believed that the various sub-groups should be equally represented in all committees. Equal participation of Member States in WIPO's governing bodies was essential to maintain the member-driven values espoused by WIPO and to pursue its overall program of work. Mongolia was staunchly committed to the shared goal of creating a better IP system for the benefit of all. Thus, amid global economic uncertainty and rapid technological advancement, it was of paramount significance that WIPO encouraged more efficient dialogue on mainstreaming IP in all areas of the economy by enhancing the use of IP tools for socioeconomic development, offering further training on strengthening the operations of TISCs, and by disseminating and incorporating IP management in universities and research institutions. The core of WIPO's assistance should be in institution building for developing an effective national IP system and promoting the use of IP for economic growth and sustainable development.

81. The Delegation of Montenegro said that the inclusion of provisions on IP in the Constitution of Montenegro clearly reflected the Government's awareness of the important role played by IP in modern society. The results of the Government's constant efforts to improve the IP rights system, including legislative amendments and awareness-raising activities, were clear to see. Enforcement institutions took regular and coordinated action to detect and suppress counterfeiting and piracy. Since the previous WIPO General Assembly, the Government and WIPO had signed an MoU and the Director General of WIPO and the President of Montenegro had held a meeting on bilateral cooperation. The parties had subsequently intensified their cooperation in a number of areas, including the development of a national IP strategy and the improvement of national IP infrastructure. Montenegro had begun the process of acceding to the Marrakesh Treaty, which would greatly benefit persons in Montenegro who were blind or visually impaired and strengthen the country's relationship with WIPO. The Delegation requested additional support from WIPO for the further development of its national IP strategy. It thanked both the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its cooperation and its endeavor to understand Montenegro's IP protection and enforcement needs and the Director General for his immense contribution to forging stronger ties with the country.

82. The Delegation of Morocco stated that its country stood ready to use and share the experience it had accumulated in the field of IP to the benefit of all parties, in an effort to sustain

the momentum gained in that field. The Delegation aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of its Groups. The Delegation explained that its full and constructive engagement in WIPO's activities stemmed from the position WIPO held as a specialized agency amongst scientific, cultural and economic organizations as well as the vital and increasing role played by IP at various levels as the pace of technological developments and use of AI continued to increase across the world. The Delegation added that with such changes came new challenges that required collective and multilateral action to address their multifaceted implications. Cognizant of that fact, Morocco had mainstreamed IP considerations in its sectoral programs aimed at increasing the use of IP. In that regard, the Delegation referred to the new 2019-2025 work plan initiated by the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC) to place industrial property at the center of development strategies and to promote value-added investment in technology and innovation. The Delegation recalled that Morocco maintained close ties with WIPO, as reflected by the frequency, scope and forms of activities undertaken under the auspices of the Arab Bureau and in coordination with IP authorities in Morocco. By way of example, the Delegation referred to a WIPO-OMPIC MoU on the provision of alternative dispute resolution services that would be signed the following Friday on the margins of the Assemblies. The Delegation recalled that its country had ratified that year the Marrakesh Treaty in order to promote the rights of the relevant beneficiaries, firmly believing in the importance of such a distinct and unique international instrument, which was the first to take into account the human rights dimension of IP. In that regard, the Delegation welcomed the positive results related to the Marrakesh Treaty as outlined in the Director General's Report, wishing the Organization more success in the future. The Delegation noted that the Assemblies were being held amidst difficult international circumstances as tensions between international parties and divergence of opinions kept rising. Given the globalized nature of the world and the global scope reached by such challenges, the Delegation believed that they had to be met with collective, participatory, inclusive and innovative approaches enshrined in multilateral negotiations. Furthermore, while WIPO had made significant progress over the past years on many issues, its normative agenda kept being hindered. The Delegation was of the view that it was not due to a lack of understanding or diverging Member States or regional groups' positions, but because of a lack of political will, which had always been the key factor in concluding negotiations on international instruments. Indeed, WIPO's agenda had been addressing certain instruments for quite some time, investing time and effort that could be better utilized in discussing other equally important issues. Therefore, the Delegation called upon Member States to show flexibility in order to accelerate the negotiation process and seek to find consensus on the outstanding issues with a view to: (i) convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT; (ii) reaching an agreement on an instrument(s) relating to IP which would ensure protection of GRs, TK and TCEs; and (iii) adopting a broadcasting treaty, which the Delegation believed was close to successful negotiation. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the discussions on the outstanding institutional issues, hoping consensus would be reached on such issues through increased consultations and finding common ground to narrow differences. In conclusion, the Delegation expressed its deep appreciation to all delegations for their constructive participation during previous sessions, hoping the present session would also be met with success.

83. The Delegation of Myanmar endorsed the statements made by the Delegation of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN and by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and reported that Myanmar had actively participated in activities pertaining to IPRs in conformity with the framework of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2025. The country was continuing its efforts to develop a proper IP system conducive to innovation and creativity, thereby helping to meet the needs created by growing economic activity and investment. Positive developments over the course of the year had included the promulgation of four IP-related laws on trademarks, industrial design, patents and copyrights. A soft opening of the IP Office was scheduled for the end of 2019, and the Office would then start its work with trademark registration. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's legal and technical assistance and looked forward to continuing support and assistance in developing its IP system and promoting

domestic innovation. Recognizing the need for more balanced regional representation, particularly in the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, the Delegation supported the proposals contained in documents WO/GA/51/17 and A/59/12, as re-tabled by the Asia and the Pacific Group in the Assemblies.. The Delegation believed that mutually acceptable outcomes would be achieved through Member State consultation and engagement and that new External Offices would serve the greater WIPO agenda and global IP system. It said the issue should be addressed in an inclusive, transparent and consensual manner, in accordance with the Guiding Principles for External Offices adopted by the WIPO General Assembly. Lastly, the Delegation welcomed the recommendations of the IGC for renewal of its mandate for the next biennium, and looked forward to reaching a common understanding on core issues and finalizing the legal instruments needed for effective protection.

84. The Delegation of Namibia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. It was grateful for WIPO's efforts to promote a fair and balanced multilateral IP system, which supported the socio-economic development of all Member States. The Government of Namibia, in line with its Vision 2030 policy, the Fifth National Development Plan and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, had adopted various policies and strategies to create an enabling environment for industrialization, the development of SMEs, and the promotion of investment and trade at the intra-African and international levels. Within that framework, Namibia had approved the National IP Policy, which had been developed with WIPO support and was scheduled to be launched in October 2019. The approval of a first national policy on IP was a reflection of the intent, will and commitment of the Government and people of Namibia to define the course and role of IP in development. The country would welcome the presence of the WIPO leadership at what would be a groundbreaking launch in the IP landscape of Namibia, with the specific details to be communicated in due course. Namibia continued to review, define and refine the operating environment for IP with a focus on policy, and on institutional and legal frameworks. The Delegation had previously informed the WIPO Assemblies of the establishment and operationalization of the Business and IP Authority to lead and coordinate the country's IP agenda, which had been another step forward in the development of IP infrastructure. The establishment of an institutional framework had led Namibia to pursue capacity building, both for the IP Administration Office and for making available IP professionals and experts to all IP stakeholders and networks. Regarding the legal framework, the new Industrial Property Act had entered into force in 2018 and had led to a model law on the administration and protection of industrial property rights, with the necessary flexibilities. With respect to creative industries, progress had been made in reviewing the Copyright Act, with the aim of developing a new legal instrument on copyright that would respond to industrial needs and socio-economic development. Namibia continued to prioritize the implementation of strategic projects, as defined in its national IP development plan, within the framework of the MoU between Namibia and WIPO. In addition to developing a new copyright law and seeking to ratify and accede to relevant IP-related international treaties, Namibia was implementing projects on IP in education, institutional IP policy for academic institutions and IP enforcement, as well as the model IP office project, the IP, tourism and culture project, and the establishment and development of TISCs. The country was grateful for the contributions of WIPO to those projects and to the development of IP in Namibia, although some projects continued to be hampered owing to the country's classification as an upper middle-income country, in particular its access to specialized patent information. It also supported the ambition of WIPO to attain gender parity in the organization; that the process had begun at the executive management level was indicative of the importance attached by WIPO to inclusivity. It was hoped that the same effort was made in ensuring the representation of Member States among the staff and governing bodies of WIPO. The country remained committed to working towards appropriate conclusions on matters on the agenda of the Assemblies, and towards a fair and balanced IP system for the benefit of all Member States.

85. The Delegation of Nepal aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and noted with appreciation the Organization's sound financial health and focus on activities on behalf of LDCs. As effective protection of TK, TCEs, GRs and geographical indications was important in addressing commercial misappropriation, the Delegation commended the agreement reached by the IGC on the text of an international legal instrument and urged all Member States to expedite its finalization. It also urged Member States to reach agreement on matters relating to the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations and DLT, including disclosure requirements, technical assistance, capacity-building and the holding of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of those instruments. It called for the decision on the opening of new External Offices to be taken quickly and governed by the Guiding Principles adopted at the 47th session of the WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation considered that WIPO's program priorities and budget allocation should be aligned with development outcomes. Innovative ways must be found for States such as Nepal to harness their extensive GRs, TK and cultural heritage in order to achieve the SDGs, reduce poverty, increase employment and human wellbeing and establish a fair and balanced IP system. The Delegation called for the CDIP to continue to be guided by the principle of mainstreaming the development dimension in all areas of WIPO's work and for the PBC, the WIPO Coordination Committee and other such bodies to be more geographically representative. In addition, it wished to see the establishment of a special LDC program that included technical assistance, infrastructure and capacity-building to enable such countries to graduate swiftly from LDC status. Nepal had adopted a national IP policy in 2017 and was finalizing a draft IP act in consultation with stakeholders with a view to the effective protection of the rights of creators and the industrialization of the country. It commended WIPO's support for technology transfer and for raising IP awareness in line with the vision of IP for all. The Organization's technical support remained crucial to human and institutional capacity-building.

86. The Delegation of New Zealand aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and said that the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) aimed to deliver high-quality, robust IPRs and to support fair markets for the benefit of all New Zealanders. IPONZ helped the country's businesses to protect and leverage their IP with a view to boosting their global competitiveness, and provided timely, human-centered services in line with the changing needs of the market and future innovations, through modern technology and accessible and transparent data. That was evident through the recent launching of a campaign which shared the IP stories of real businesses in their own words, and of a free, mobile-friendly and AI-assisted tool enabling individuals to search their trademark ideas against New Zealand's national register. It was hoped that the 59th Assemblies would strive for mutual benefits with a view to delivering consistent and predictable outcomes for clients, increased ease of doing business, improved access to international markets with IP protections and benefits from work-sharing and the use of shared technology. The Government of New Zealand continued to update its legislation to meet existing and future needs, including through its plans in October 2019 to deposit its instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. In addition, efforts were under way to develop a whole-of-government approach to the protection of indigenous flora and fauna, as well as of the products of New Zealand's Māori people, with a view to fueling innovation, strengthening national identity, enhancing the country's reputation internationally and delivering distinct benefits to the Māori people themselves. In that connection, a review of the country's IP legislation was under way, including in relation to its Plant Variety Rights (PVR) Act, its Copyright Act and its patent disclosure of origin requirements. Efforts would be made to engage in a robust national conversation about the country's future IP system, involving the full diversity of the country's population and recognizing New Zealand's obligations to its indigenous people.

87. The Delegation of Nicaragua said that it agreed fully with the Director General that the world had never before seen such great interest in IP and such attention paid to it, and that it should be noted that Member States were experiencing the best era in the knowledge age, in which intangible assets had become a relevant part of the economies of all countries and the

globalized system that they formed. The interest in IP was reinvigorated each year at the Assemblies. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC, and wished to highlight the importance of moving towards a more balanced IP system that would be able to reduce the gap that existed between developed and developing countries. That was a challenge to be faced going forward. The country was engaged in productive work at all levels of IP. It was working on the development of collective marks to improve productive sectors and enable them to strengthen Nicaraguan production chains. One recent achievement had been the first Nicaraguan appellation of origin, following more than five years of efforts with the support of WIPO, State universities and producers in the north of the country. It noted that Nicaragua had recently ratified the Marrakesh Treaty and that the instrument of ratification would be deposited in the coming days, thereby adding to the efforts that had been made in recent years to implement the Treaty in order to enable all blind persons and others with visual disabilities with the opportunity to access printed texts. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for the support provided by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for development in all areas of IP, with cooperation to achieve shared objectives, and requested that WIPO continued to provide support for holding seminars and workshops in various IP fields. To conclude, the Delegation wished to emphasize its commitment to making a positive contribution to debates in the present series of meetings and to doing everything possible to find a balanced solution in the interests of all WIPO Member States.

88. The Delegation of Nigeria associated itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. Nigeria had finalized its plans for the WIPO External Office in Abuja and would continue to support WIPO as a key multilateral body for the establishment of IP rules and principles. It noted with satisfaction that efforts to strengthen WIPO's institutional framework were gaining momentum. The Organization was increasingly transparent and actively represented both the private sector and civil society. Member States should strive to safeguard WIPO's role as a rule maker. That meant reaching agreement on longstanding issues – including intergovernmental mandates on GRs, TK and folklore – and holding challenging discussions on the interplay between IP and public health, climate change and food security. The endorsement of the DA in 2007 had been intended to extend the benefits of the IP system to all countries. In today's world, its implementation called for an empirical approach, flexible implementation methodologies and sufficient budgetary resources. WIPO must continue to embrace and mainstream the wider goals of the UN, in particular the promotion of the SDGs. Nigeria had achieved tangible results in the reform of its IP system. The trademark and patent and design registries were now independent and governed by separate legislation, namely the Trademarks Act and the Patent and Designs Act. The Government had deepened and accelerated inter-agency collaboration on enforcement and further developed the IP environment. It had also rolled out nationwide campaigns to raise awareness of and promote respect for IP. Nigeria appreciated the distance-learning activities of the WIPO Academy, which were helping to meet its training needs. It had accelerated the digitization of IP processes and reduced the time taken to process applications. The Government was grateful to the Regional Bureau for Africa for helping to establish a national training academy, train trainers and provide instruction on examination and opposition. WIPO and its Member States should continue to work towards the convergence of international governance in the different areas of IP. Nigeria looked forward to participating actively in the forthcoming deliberations and undertook to work with all Member States to continue to strengthen the Organization.

89. The Delegation of Norway highlighted the importance of improving the Member States' ability to monitor WIPO finances and administration and welcomed the continuing effort and cooperation to that end. It commended the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for users were crucial for the continued and increased use of such services. Norway was pleased that the working groups under the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems were continuing to improve regulations,

guidelines and practices and said that the country was committed to the work on global services for the benefit of existing and future users. Norway supported renewal of the mandate of the IGC and looked forward to a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT, regretting the delay in doing so to date. Norway also supported the work of the SCCR on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. With regard to developments in Norway, legislative amendments had been made with respect to: the criteria for reinstating rights in procedures before the IP Office to “unintentionally”, in order to simplify procedures for applicants and right holders; the Patents Act, to allow rights to priority in patent applications to be restored; and the Designs Act, to remove the mandatory mention of the designer amendment to the Copyright Act. The latter amendment had introduced EU Regulation 2017/1128 on cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market.

90. The Delegation of Oman aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Chair for guiding the proceedings, convinced that with his competences and rich experience, consensus would be reached on the various issues. The Delegation congratulated the Organization on the launch of the new IP portal, which provided electronic access to a full range of IP services. It emphasized that the Sultanate of Oman attached great importance to IP and supporting innovation, as evidenced by the Government's efforts in that regard which included, *inter alia*, the establishment of the Omani Technology Fund to support young inventors and investment in registered patents, the Industrial Innovation Center, as well as IT and business incubators. The Delegation added that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) was keen to raise IP awareness through many activities and programs undertaken for school students, universities and inventors. Furthermore, the MOCI had also reduced patent fees by 90 per cent for students and researchers. In addition, other activities were carried out by other government agencies such as annual competitions to encourage inventors through the Research Council. The Delegation said all those efforts culminated in the winning of a gold medal by two Omani women inventors at the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva the year before. The Delegation affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman attached great importance to the technical assistance provided by the Organization, which enabled Member States, such as Oman, to develop their national IP strategies in line with their development priorities. Undoubtedly, the policy and legislative assistance provided by WIPO helped translate international standards into national laws and legislation leading to countries' accession to IP-related international treaties. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Organization for providing business solutions to IP offices, enabling such offices to participate effectively in the global IP system. The Delegation noted many important issues were on the Assemblies' agenda, most notably those related to the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium, the broadcasting treaty, the DLT and the renewal of the mandate of the IGC. The Delegation hoped further progress would be made on the various issues, thus enabling the Organization to fulfill its mandate of bringing together stakeholders to develop global IP instruments which promoted creativity and innovation for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system. With regard to opening new WIPO External Offices, the Delegation believed that, notwithstanding its country's efforts to stimulate innovation, the Sultanate of Oman's geographical position, stability, neutrality and distinguished international relations with all members ensured its contribution to WIPO's mandate “to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all”. In addition, Oman's supportive IP framework, excellent technical cooperation relations with WIPO through a number of international and regional activities, programs and workshops such as hosting the Regional Workshop for Industrial Property Offices in the Arab Region during that month and hosting the second WIPO-Oman Summer School in January 2020, and automated and effective registration procedures would allow the country to promote WIPO's global IP services and platforms as well as support TISCs. The Delegation reiterated its willingness to engage constructively and positively with a view to reaching consensus in that regard. In conclusion, the Delegation expressed its thanks and gratitude to the Director General for his efforts and clear positive

impact on developing and modernizing WIPO as well as on cooperation with Member States to move WIPO's agenda forward, wishing him every success in his endeavors. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to participate in the meetings in a positive and constructive manner for the benefit of all, wishing all members success in their endeavors.

91. The Delegation of Pakistan aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. In regard to the election of the next Director General, the Secretariat should remain transparent and strictly neutral, and the Delegation expressed its regret that the Asia and the Pacific Group remained under-represented in the WIPO Coordination Committee, which would elect the next Director General. WIPO continued to face challenges in the areas of norm setting and technical cooperation. In regard to norm setting, WIPO was not keeping pace with fast-evolving technological and economic developments and, despite over a decade of deliberations, an international text(s) for the effective protection of TK, GRs and TCEs had yet to be concluded. Modernization of the patent regime had been stalled and even an ostensibly procedural instrument such as the DLT remained mired in discussions. There was a need to resolve the normative impasse. A fuller understanding of the basic issues in the area of patents was needed, for example, and the Secretariat had a key role to play in that respect. In other areas such as GRs, TK and TCEs, where extensive negotiations had already been held, the time had come for Member States to demonstrate the necessary political will to move forward towards a productive conclusion. Technical cooperation should be: demand driven, taking into account the specific needs of countries as articulated by them, rather than delivering preconceived generic activities; equitably spread, rather than directed to selected countries or sub-regions; targeted, rather than spread over large areas; and prioritized, allocating resources to areas of maximum demand. Pakistan hoped for advancement in important institutional issues concerning the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC and endorsed the proposal of the Asia and the Pacific Group in that regard. While IP had a critical role to play in promoting innovation, innovation encompassed a wide range of issues, many of which were beyond WIPO's remit, such as industrial taxation, fiscal procurement and education policies. WIPO's mandate was to focus on the IP aspects of innovation, i.e., to assist countries in establishing and utilizing IP norms and institutions to promote innovation. It was regrettable that WIPO was still inadequately prepared to effectively implement that narrow mandate. A unit dedicated to innovation should be set up within the Secretariat to enable Member States to obtain integrated advice. The Delegation expressed its support for the initiative of the CDIP on increasing the role of women in innovation and entrepreneurship, and said that it wished to see it enhanced. Matters such as the opening of External Offices had distracted Member States from substantive issues. The lack of a vision document and independent cost-benefit analysis had led to the issue of the opening of new External Offices taking up an inordinate amount of time and energy and it was difficult to make the case that a highly technical organization such as WIPO required an extensive field presence. The Delegation expressed the hope that the forthcoming review of WIPO's existing External Offices would clarify matters, including the need, added value and viability of new External Offices. The Delegation urged Member States to await the outcome of the planned review before making a decision on the matter. Issues that failed to add value to the work of WIPO and only resulted in debates should be avoided. The Delegation stood ready to contribute constructively to the successful conclusion of the General Assembly with consensus-based outcomes.

92. The Delegation of Panama considered WIPO of the utmost importance to the country as the leading forum for discussion on policies for innovation and cooperation in IP. Recognizing the crucial importance of IP and improvement of the IP environment, Panama had developed a strategic IP plan for the next five years. Its four main pillars were: (i) automation of the Directorate General of the Industrial Property Register, including the deployment of IPAS for the registration of trademarks, patents, plant varieties and collective rights, with migration of the database allowing better services to be provided *via* the Directorate General website; (ii) quality and excellence in management and public services, with a focus on training human resources

for the examination of applications with WIPO Academy support and the launch of a national project for training, teamwork, interpersonal relations, customer service and certification of registration processes; (iii) IP promotion, to create a real IP knowledge culture that benefitted the academic and business sectors and social wellbeing, including collaboration with universities and public research centers to draft legislation to promote IP as tool for protecting research findings and thus strengthening research processes, and collaboration with young entrepreneurs to develop a guide on opening businesses and registering IP; and (iv) internationalization, by encouraging use of the international IP system to protect national goods and services in other countries, with appellations of origin ensuring product recognition. A handicraft and varieties of coffee and cocoa from a western region of the country had been so identified to date. Use of the appellations of origin “Renacimiento Coffee” and “Boque Coffee” – existing but little or never used by the producers in those districts – would be promoted. Two regional activities had been held in Panama in 2019 with support from the WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Division and the WIPO Building Respect for IP Division, to whom the Delegation was very grateful. Panama had also taken part in other activities organized by WIPO to fulfill and implement commitments made at meetings of the IP ministers of Central America and the Dominican Republic. A new Ministry of Culture had been created to strengthen all related sectors and had absorbed the Copyright Directorate, formerly part of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Lastly, the Delegation thanked the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for supporting Panama in conducting national and regional workshops and seminars and for its readiness to continue working with the national office to strengthen IP in the country.

93. The Delegation of Paraguay endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation recalled that the Head of Delegation had formerly had the honor to lead the National Directorate of Intellectual Property (DINAPI). Over the course of the previous year, DINAPI had focused on reducing delays in administrative processes, combating piracy and counterfeiting, training for and promoting IP, introducing new technology and strengthening the transparency of public administration. DINAPI was now up to date with all of its administrative processes for trademarks as well as industrial designs and models. With respect to patents, the number of examiners had been tripled, permitting the number of patents awarded to be quadrupled. In terms of enforcement, more than 290 proceedings had been conducted and a significant volume of seizures performed thanks to joint efforts with other national institutions. With respect to IP training and awareness, campaigns had been conducted in schools, universities and public and private sector institutions, and several related agreements signed, including one with the Ministry of Education and Science to work on IP awareness as a development tool and integrate it into the curricula of public education institutions. DINAPI had also been promoting staff training through scholarships, courses and seminars. The first edition of an event called *Fiesta Creativa* had been organized by the National IP Office in town squares and parks around the country to promote IP as a vehicle for local development. The event had started in the town of Villarrica, where a resolution provisionally recognizing Paraguay's first appellation of origin, *Ao Po'í*, applied to artisanal clothing, was presented. More than 7,000 people had attended that first edition, with many participating in IP workshops organized for the occasion. Four such editions were planned each year to promote production in different regions of the country. The Delegation emphasized the vital importance of introducing appropriate technologies to the optimization of IP and copyright services offered by the National IP Office. The tools known as SPRINT and *Maravichu* had therefore been designed to fully automate related processes. Another achievement during the year had been the introduction of IPAS for patents and industrial designs and models thanks to support for training and a deployment from WIPO's Global Infrastructure Sector. Rollout for application to trademarks was planned for early 2020. Work was also under way to digitize records in cooperation with the Korean Intellectual Property Office and implement a "paperless office" policy. In terms of transparency, a strategic institutional plan and annual operating plan were being implemented. These, together with the national IP strategy prepared with WIPO

support, would constitute a roadmap for DINAPI. There were also plans to obtain ISO certification for the Office's processes.

94. The Delegation of Peru described work under way, with WIPO support, to devise a national IP policy, expected for early 2020. The policy would be historic in establishing a vision and goals for making IP a decisive factor of socio-economic development in the country. Later in the month, Peru would be publishing a draft anti-piracy law that would reactivate the fight on that front with special enforcement mechanisms. An anti-piracy observatory would also be established in the country. Peru had now acceded to 15 WIPO-administered treaties and would soon begin accession to the Hague Agreement and to the four international classification treaties – the Nice, Locarno and Strasbourg Agreements and the Vienna Accord – making the country a party to 20 of the 25 WIPO-administered treaties in force. In the area of IT, Peru was working closely with WIPO on the final installation of IPAS and the Global Trademark Database, to provide better service to Peruvian users. Regarding patents, TISCs had been established over the previous 18 months, with WIPO support, to bring the number of Centers in Peru's TISC network to 32, covering 14 of the country's 25 regions. A digital report on the activity of its network during that period had been produced in English and Spanish and was available to interested countries. Peru had also applied for the WIPO Inventor Assistance Program with support from the WIPO Patent Law Division. The Delegation expressed appreciation for the Director General's message on the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the PCT in Peru. Work was now in progress with the WIPO Copyright Law Division to apply the Marrakesh Treaty in Peru, and Congress would very likely approve a law at the end of 2019 to amend the Copyright Law and pave the way for the Treaty's practical application. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its continuing support of Peru's IP objectives.

95. The Delegation of the Philippines said that, inspired by past gains, the Philippines had sustained its efforts to use various strategies and programs to advance innovation and promote IP in areas ranging from creativity to enforcement. The Philippine economy was performing remarkably well, with a growth rate of 6.2 per cent in 2018. Its financial outlook was optimistic, bolstered by the 2018-2019 Global Competitiveness Report, which ranked the Philippines among the top 40 countries in terms of the labor market, the financial system, market size and business dynamism. As it navigated the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Philippines ranked 12th worldwide for number of disruptive businesses and 15th for growth of innovative companies. In policy-making and legislation, President Rodrigo Duterte had signed two significant laws to advance national innovation efforts. Firstly, the Philippine Innovation Act, signed on April 17, 2019, sought to harness innovation efforts to help the poor and marginalized and integrate MSMEs into the domestic and global supply chain. The law also established the National Innovation Council, tasked with developing the country's National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document, which served as the guide for improving innovation governance. Secondly, the Philippine Innovation Start-Up Act, signed on April 16, 2019, created the Philippine Start-Up Development Program, aimed to support the development and growth of enterprises whose innovative product, service, or business model was integral to creating a competitive start-up community. It also provided benefits and incentives such as offering start-ups and start-up enablers access to capacity-building, exchange programs, links to potential investors, mentors, collaborators and local and foreign customers. To make the national IP system relevant and attuned to the constantly evolving landscape and the needs of local and foreign stakeholders, the Government of the Philippines had reviewed the country's IP Code and submitted to its Congress the proposed New IP Act. It hoped thereby to address the impacts of technological developments on IP administration and enforcement; strengthen the IP Office to support and drive inclusive innovation; enable SMEs to maximize the benefits of IP; expand the presence of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) in regional centers; build respect for IP; increase penalties for violation of IP rights; and institutionalize the IP Academy, among other efforts. The Government's mandate to administer an efficient, effective and well-balanced IP system largely depended on sound national and international legal frameworks. Since the 2018 Assemblies, the Philippines had shouldered a bigger role in

the international IP system. It had started operating as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) under the PCT and on May 20, 2019, it had received its first request from the University of the Philippines Manila, a member of the Innovation Technology Support Office (ITSO) network. The Philippines had also deposited its instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty in December 2018, thereby demonstrating its commitment to recognize and protect the right of the blind and visually impaired to have access to copyrighted works. Its ISA/IPEA operation was a platform to help Filipino inventors and scientists enter the global patent system, complementing its programs to develop a national culture of innovation through its growing national network of 94 ITSOs and TISCs. As a result, ITSO patent filings had grown steadily from 13 in 2012 to 192 in 2018. While those gains were modest, further efforts would be made by enhancing implementation of the ITSO program and by delivering customized capacity building from patent drafting to IP management and commercialization. The Philippines remained steadfast in its commitment to provide efficient, good quality, reliable and client-friendly IP services from registration to enforcement. To that end, it had implemented several initiatives and programs. The Joint Examination Track (JET), a straightforward process on trademarks (without opposition) had streamlined the search and approval procedure, reducing turn-around time from 3.96 months to 2.86 months. The JET addressed both the rising volume of local filings and inbound Madrid applications, which had averaged growth of 16 per cent in the previous five years. Early Search Reports (ESR) were still being issued to patent applicants within 6 months as from the filing date. Between 2016 and the end of August 2019, 809 ESRs had been issued, without additional costs to applicants, enabling them to consider their prospects before filing PCT applications and to expedite the patent prosecution process. In 2018, patent filings reached a six-year high, with a 28 per cent increase compared to 2017. The Philippines had deployed the complete suite of online filing systems for all trademark, patent, utility model and industrial design applications, including electronic correspondence, providing convenient and accessible IP to applicants and agents. By October 2019, online payment services would include a new credit card payment gateway, enabling foreign stakeholders to file applications themselves, subject to subsequent designation of a local agent. The Government continued to enhance administrative and judicial systems to adequately protect and enforce IP rights. In 2018, it seized 23,554 billion Philippine pesos (nearly 453 million US dollars) worth of IP-infringing goods, significantly higher than the goods worth 8,357 billion pesos (160 million US dollars) seized in 2017. Alternative dispute resolution remained an effective tool in resolving IP cases, with a settlement rate of 34.5 per cent from January to September 2018. To further maximize the benefits of mediation, a decision was made to shift to mandatory mediation in October 2018, with an anticipated dip in the settlement rate. Thus, from October 2018 to August 2019, the settlement rate was 30.5 per cent. Nonetheless, long-term benefits were the primary focus, particularly in providing fast and efficient IP dispute resolution. The Rules on Mediation Outside Litigation Service was established in July 2019. It was a flexible approach allowing parties to submit their disputes for mediation before or without filing a case, thus offering the opportunity for quick agreement. The Philippines had begun amending the Supreme Court Rules of Procedure for Intellectual Property Rights Cases promulgated in 2011, to make them more relevant and responsive to the challenges and developments on IP rights enforcement and litigation. Increasing IP awareness, capacity-building and IP education for the relevant sectors remained a cornerstone in administering an efficient and development-oriented IP system. The IPOPHL was shifting the focus of IP awareness from information to involvement. To that end, it had partnered with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education for a holistic and comprehensive approach to mainstreaming IP into the basic, higher and technical education curricula, crucial steps in building a national culture of innovation and developing consciousness in terms of respecting IP rights. Efforts were under way to create a national IP Academy to sustain IP education and capacity-building. The first-ever collaboration with WIPO for the IP Summer School had been concluded a few weeks previously. Plans were also afoot to professionalize IP by offering certification and accreditation courses and IP programs at the national, regional and international levels in the

years ahead. Ultimately, involvement of key stakeholders and partners was vital to implementing well-balanced, efficient and effective IP education and learning with a view to promoting innovation and creativity. The Delegation supported initiatives to increase the membership of the WIPO PBC and WIPO Coordination Committee. It valued the IGC and its important work in discussing protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. The Delegation hoped for progress on the fundamental issues pending with regard to the draft broadcasting treaty and DLT and remained positive about the prospect of a diplomatic conference once a suitable level of readiness had been attained. It further hoped that concerned parties would find an amicable resolution to the issue of External Offices, and expressed gratitude to WIPO for continuing to publish the GII and for recognizing the competency of the IPOPHL in conducting training events on the Madrid Protocol and the PCT. The Philippines remained a partner in promoting a robust and well-balanced IP system that directly contributed to economic progress and inclusive national development.

96. The Delegation of Poland fully associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report were satisfactory and proved that WIPO was delivering on its program objectives and enjoyed robust financial health. The Delegation supported the draft Program and Budget for the 2020/2021 biennium and urged delegations to reach a consensus on outstanding issues for the adoption of the proposed budget. WIPO was continuing efforts to improve the global IP systems, provide new IT services to users, institute user-friendly amendments and increase efficiency, thereby improving the functioning of these services. Poland remained committed to the adoption of the DLT and welcomed the agreement reached during the 30th session of the SCP to continue discussions on the five balanced topics. It was satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues, particularly on patent quality, including opposition systems and the confidentiality of communications between client and patent attorney. Further work in that area would benefit all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. The Delegation was also satisfied with the progress in the negotiations in the SCCR on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, breaking a years-long stalemate. Agreement appeared to be at hand and the needs of broadcasting organizations would finally be addressed with a modern instrument that would take account of the new and various ways in which television content was being broadcast. Poland continued to attach great importance to the teaching of IP and raising awareness of IPRs protection and subsequent commercialization. In March 2018, an MoU had been signed among WIPO, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the Polish Patent Office, under which a new Joint Master's Degree Program in IP and New Technologies had been launched in the 2018/2019 academic year. Twenty-one students from 10 countries had enrolled and participated in the Program. Registration for the 2019/2020 academic year had begun and candidates from all over the world had enrolled. Poland continued to support WIPO's efforts to promote a sustainable and effective international IP system and its normative work. In 2018, the Polish Patent Office had continued to focus on promoting industrial property by organizing conferences, seminars, workshops and training events for various institutions and professions, including in cooperation with WIPO. The Delegation was satisfied with the cooperation between the Polish Patent Office and WIPO and would continue to support WIPO as it addressed new challenges in developing and sustaining a balanced global IP protection system.

97. The Delegation of Portugal aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B. The steady increase in the number of applications for registrations worldwide in all registration systems was incontrovertible proof of the dynamism of all stakeholders in the very complex environment of IP protection and the promotion of innovation in general. The GII remained an outstanding source of information, offering a bird's-eye view of world trends and performance. In particular, the Delegation lauded WIPO's sound

financial and operational results as well as its response to multiple challenges, such as the level of infrastructure management underpinning the various registration systems; globalization, as reflected in the growing number of members of unions; the ongoing enhancement of normative frameworks in order to tackle new realities and concepts; cooperation; and WIPO's own role in promoting dialogue between nations. WIPO had helped the Portuguese authorities to organize the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications in July 2019. Hundreds of participants from the most varied backgrounds unequivocally demonstrated the global dimension of geographical indications and their importance for growth, development and the sustainability of economies and societies throughout the world. The Delegation recognized the ample benefits of geographical indications and appellations of origin and was involved in breathing new life into the Lisbon System. Outstanding progress had achieved in recent years, and the Delegation underlined its satisfaction with the significant efforts of members of the Lisbon Union who, through constructive dialogue, continued to discuss appropriate solutions that did not dwell on imbalances and guaranteed respect for the principles of solidarity and equality of treatment of all IP rights. The Delegation was persuaded that WIPO would continue to rely on the financial and budgeting methodologies that had garnered results and, within the UN system, ensured that all its programs and activities functioned smoothly on a systemic level, free from the criterion of exclusive financial rationality in each Union. Portugal was always willing to continue to contribute constructively to the discussions on this subject and help promote the Lisbon system. This was fundamental to guaranteeing its future sustainability. The Lisbon System was attracting new members such that, with the added accession of the European Union, it would be more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all. Besides the momentum which should be preserved with respect to the different international systems, the framework would only be complete if WIPO forged ahead in its commitment to combat counterfeiting and piracy by adopting stricter measures and programs; promoting training in Member States to raise public awareness; and coordinating legal and judicial mechanisms to ensure the optimum level of application of IP rights. Only through combined action by all organizations, groups, associations and national authorities could success in that sphere be achieved. Brazil had recently acceded to the Madrid Protocol, a move expected to facilitate the internationalization of the economies of both countries – and therefore welcome in that it could contribute greatly to enhancing the attractiveness of the international system of brand registration around the world. With WIPO's assistance over the years, Portugal had organized a number of events to promote IP, in addition to joint activities in the Lusophone sphere, and hoped that such activities would become more frequent under WIPO's aegis.

98. The Delegation of Qatar wished the Organization every success in promoting a global IP system that served the legitimate aspiration of all members to maximize the economic and developmental benefits of IP. Undoubtedly, IP had been playing an increasing role in supporting development projects by stimulating innovation, supporting modern industries and increasing business activity. Therefore, the State of Qatar had long been striving to develop its national legislation in line with global developments in that field, guided by WIPO's work to achieve its objectives related to sustainable development and building a knowledge-based economy. As the State of Qatar continued to face measures contravening international conventions, including those related to IP, it was fully aware of the importance of a global system that would protect the IP rights of its citizens and of all Member States. The Delegation expressed its support for all efforts made by Member States, through WIPO, to develop legislation that would strengthen international protection. The Delegation called upon all Members to demonstrate the necessary flexibility to conclude the negotiations on the protection of broadcasting organizations and agree on the terms of a multilateral agreement that would ensure international protection of broadcasting organizations' rights. Qatar stood ready to host, in Doha, the diplomatic conference on the adoption of such a treaty should it be approved by the Assembly. The Delegation also called upon all Member States to agree to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT by the end of the first half of 2020. With regard to opening new WIPO External Offices, the Delegation recalled the importance of such offices and their need to provide services without discrimination to all States in their respective regions.

In that regard, the Delegation stressed the importance of choosing host countries in accordance with established guidelines, ensuring such countries enjoyed political stability and good relations with all other countries in their respective regions, and respected IP protection rules and supported international cooperation. In conclusion, the Delegation committed itself to engage with all members to ensure the success of the Assemblies.

99. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea said that modern society had entered a hyper-connected era, where ideas and IP were able to move freely across borders. It was the responsibility of Member States to foster an environment that ensured the creation, free flow and protection of IP. Although the rise of new technologies could create challenges for Member States, it also presented a new opportunity and many countries, including the Republic of Korea, had taken steps towards applying new technologies, such as AI, to IP administration processes. Furthermore, it was an increasingly opportune moment to initiate joint discussions on the preparation of a globally applicable IP system that was able to address AI-related matters properly. IP infringement, which occurred in ever more complex forms, should be taken into consideration and it was imperative to create effective IP protection systems and practices for new IP. In that context, the Republic of Korea had begun to implement a punitive damages system that made it possible for up to three times the amount of actual damages to be awarded in the case of patent or trade secret infringement, among other offenses. As one of the most active countries in IP creation, the Republic of Korea aimed to reach 200,000 international patent applications by 2030. It was necessary to strengthen the global network as a matter of urgency and provide high quality IP services by expanding WIPO External Offices. The establishment of a WIPO External Office in the Republic of Korea would greatly contribute to encouraging IP creation, as well as to increasing the finances of WIPO. The country had made great efforts to reduce the IP gap between developing and developed countries by establishing the FIT Korea scheme with WIPO. From 2020, the country would also administer a master's degree program in IP and development policy jointly with WIPO in order to share its IP-based economic growth with developing countries. The Republic of Korea had expanded its areas of cooperation by signing an MoU with WIPO in November 2018, which was related to the establishment of a FIT for the promotion of arbitration and mediation services for copyright. The Republic of Korea had actively engaged in bilateral initiatives with countries striving to expand their IP capacity. In particular, the recent cooperative projects between the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates had not only aimed to enhance the latter's IP capacity but also to lower the IP barrier between the countries to ensure the free flow of IP. The Delegation remained committed to contributing to the development of a sustainable international order for IP.

100. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova fully subscribed to the statement delivered by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The new biennium would be promising but challenging, which would necessitate balanced and efficient solutions for emerging issues such as the adoption of the DLT, the opening of new External Offices and the reform of global IP services on the basis of new technologies such as AI. The new Government had focused on fostering economic and social development, consolidating the financial sector and improving the domestic legal framework in line with European and international standards. The IP office was striving to enhance the investment environment and stimulate economic growth by promoting innovation and IP knowledge and by building linkages between academia and industry. The consolidation of the copyright system, in particular through improved collective copyright management, remained a Government priority, and public consultation on a draft law was in progress. Significant progress had been made in raising IP awareness and in promoting IP education, after a cultural change program on IP had been launched and an e-learning platform on IPRs in Romanian had been launched in March 2019. In further promoting the benefits of the geographical indication system, the Republic of Moldova had conducted a country-wide study to identify traditional products and had recently launched an interactive GI map. The IP office was finalizing an IPR data exchange system that would make it easier for enforcement bodies to investigate IPR infringements. Moreover, IPR guidelines had been drawn up for

customs authorities, the police, the judiciary and market surveillance inspectors, and the national IP office had approved, in 2019, an institutional communication strategy designed to build its IPR awareness-raising capacities. The Delegation expressed its sincere appreciation to WIPO and other development partners, in particular the European Union, for their invaluable assistance and support.

101. The Delegation of Romania aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation acknowledged the importance of protecting IP nationally and internationally in all fields amid constant change, such as the development and use of AI, in an ever-changing world. Greater public awareness-raising was required in order to rise to the global challenges to the enforcement of IPRs posed by the green economy, legitimate Internet trade in goods and services, and traditional commerce. The Delegation welcomed the progress achieved by the SCP in the areas of patent quality, exceptions and limitations, and legal requirements. It also welcomed the consensus on the new mandate of the IGC and supported the budget and work program proposed by the IGC for the 2020/21 biennium. It also welcomed the progress achieved at the previous two sessions of the SCT, and considered that the text of the draft DLT was ready for submission to a diplomatic conference for adoption. It further welcomed the recommendation that the WIPO General Assembly invite the SCCR to continue its work with a view to convening, during the 2020/21 biennium, a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, and stressed that the treaty should be fully adapted to the realities of the digital era and to the current and future needs of broadcasting organizations. The Delegation stood ready to continue to discuss SCCR agenda items on limitations and exceptions and proposed that the resale right be placed on the SCCR standing agenda. The Delegation regarded the ACE as a key platform for national and regional experiential sharing and for enhanced efforts to tackle counterfeiting and piracy and, as it had focused action and attention on education and IP, appreciated all action taken to those ends. The Delegation reiterated, and urged support for, Romania's 2010 proposal to host a WIPO External Office in Bucharest, which would boost the development of the IP system in the sub-region, promote WIPO services, tailor WIPO's response to the specific needs of many CEBS members and boost economic, social and cultural development in the CEBS region, which was the only region in which WIPO was not represented geographically.

102. The Delegation of the Russian Federation welcomed the participants of the 59th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and hoped that joint efforts and balance of interests would allow obtaining the results acceptable for everyone and beneficial for the development of the international IP cooperation. The Delegation supported the strategic vector of the Organization in terms of adapting its work to the latest trends of digitalization of IP. It welcomed the further developments of Digital Agenda proposed by the Russian Federation to the CDIP and the CWS. Such a support of the proposals made by the Russian Federation proved the relevance of the unified approach to the digitalization of IP. It believed that fostering dialogue on AI, blockchain, 3D models and BigData would allow the offices to improve effectiveness and efficiency of their work. The Delegation stated that the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT) made significant efforts to evolve as the digital patent office and to actualize the legislation. The draft law introducing a mechanism to attach the 3D model of an IP subject to an electronic application received the support of the Government of the Russian Federation. Initiatives were also being developed to introduce electronic instruments of IP protection. ROSPATENT was creating a digital search and individualization platform to become a common platform for a global full-scale search of Russian and international patent documentation collections. Mechanisms for online interaction with applicants were constantly being improved. Investments in infrastructure and modernization of the systems allowed a significant reduction in the examination pendency period for all the IP subjects whilst maintaining the high quality of the examination. For the first 8 months of 2019 the average examination pending period was 5.7 months for trademarks, 6 months for inventions, and

1.5 month for utility models. Research was ongoing to determine the optimal time to start the examination of inventions and utility models in various fields of technology in terms of completeness of information search. The preliminary results showed the delay of loading the information on the public information sources to the search databases and searching tools. The number of registered trademarks was showing a significant increase (24 per cent as compared to the same period of the previous year). Russian applicants demonstrated great interest in the regional brands. In this regard, the law adopted in July 2019 introduced the geographical indications as a separate type of IP, thus expanding the possibilities for the protection of regional brands. The adoption of this law was the first step towards joining the Lisbon System. In addition, the law on legal protection of industrial designs had been adopted. Among other legislative initiatives, the Delegation noted the outsourcing of informational searches and preliminary examination of the patentability of inventions and utility models, and improvement of the law on service inventions. These initiatives were aimed at providing accessible and open IP services. In order to ensure the rights of Russian-speaking applicants, the proposal had been put forward to include Russian as one of the official languages of the Madrid and Hague Systems. The Delegation believed that adding new languages to the Madrid System was inevitable due to its growing geographical coverage. The Delegation hoped for further constructive work on improving the language regime of the Systems and for the development of multilingualism inside WIPO. This year there had been a noticeable growth in the number of Russian applications in international registration systems: for eight months of 2019, compared to the same period last year, the PCT System grew by 9 per cent, and the Madrid system by 15.5 per cent. After the Russian Federation joined the Hague System in 2018, the number of international registrations of industrial designs designating the Russian Federation more than tripled. The Delegation highly appreciated the completion of the development of the mechanism for the protection of a single Eurasian patent for industrial designs. The single application under this new system allowed the applicants to obtain protection of their designs in eight member states of the Eurasian Patent Convention. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the President of the Eurasian Patent Office for her efforts to hold the Diplomatic Conference where the necessary decisions were adopted. Six countries had already signed the relevant documents. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to work during the upcoming series of meetings of the Assemblies in a constructive and results-oriented manner.

103. The Delegation of Rwanda aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation appreciated WIPO's efforts to raise awareness on the importance of IP for LDCs. In November 2018, recognizing the crucial role of effective IP regimes in adding value to innovation and creativity, and with WIPO assistance, Rwanda had adopted and approved a revised National IP Policy. WIPO was also helping the government amend its IP Law of 2009 and thereby expand the current IP policy framework, improve the protection of IPRs and strengthen the country's institutional framework. A program to develop a comprehensive innovation ecosystem, to support a knowledge-based economy, had also been initiated. Discussions were currently under way in Rwanda on the establishment of an independent IP Office to protect IPRs in the country. An effective IP regime was also needed to encourage recourse to IP in Rwanda. The country was now seeking to integrate IP in its strategies and programs for Vision 2050: becoming a center of excellence for technology and innovation in the region. The Delegation considered science and technology to be particularly important to improve agriculture, productivity, competitiveness, wealth creation and food and national security in developing African countries. Since 2011, the Government had ratified three key industrial property treaties and taken positive steps to comply with them. The Government was giving serious consideration to ratifying the Copyright Treaty, the Performances and Phonograms Treaty and the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties. Rwanda was also making progress with a copyright enforcement campaign and various administrative interventions to support the growth of copyright industries. The Delegation expressed its thanks to WIPO for helping to improve its collective management system, strengthen the capacity of the IP Office and enforcement bodies, and develop a patent drafting course for innovators and researchers.

104. The Delegation of Samoa aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group. Since Samoa had become a party to the Madrid Protocol in December 2018, its patent registrations had increased threefold. For the benefit of the private sector and the country as a whole, Samoa had undertaken to accede to the PCT, the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and urged other small Pacific countries to follow suit. The support provided by the various divisions of WIPO to the IP Registry in its efforts to accede to the above instruments was greatly appreciated. Thanks were also owed to the Governments of Australia, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea for supporting the capacity building of IP officers in Samoa. The Delegation looked forward to contributing to productive discussions during the Assemblies.

105. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed its thanks to MemberStates for continuing to strive to foster cooperation in the field of IP. The Delegation expressed its satisfaction with the achievements made during the previous year in the promotion and enforcement of IPRs. The Delegation was pleased to note that the Assemblies coincided with Saudi Arabia's 89th National Day. The Delegation recalled that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) had long attached great importance to IPRs protection and enforcement as an integral part of its Vision 2030 plan. In that spirit, KSA established the Saudi Intellectual Property Authority (SIPA) to serve as an umbrella entity regulating, supporting, developing, maintaining, protecting, enforcing and promoting IP according to best practices. The Delegation reiterated KSA's commitment to comply with international IP-related treaties and conventions. The Delegation stated that SIPA had been working on several projects related to the enforcement, protection, development and leveraging of IPRs as well as to providing relevant services to beneficiaries. Furthermore, SIPA designed over 250 measures aimed at streamlining and developing IP procedures in KSA; conducted over 15 awareness-raising campaigns in over 5 languages, reaching over 12 million beneficiaries; launched the voluntary copyright registration initiative; and worked on streamlining procedures related to patents and trademarks. The Delegation recalled that KSA had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty and had been taking measures to ensure integration between SIPA's activities and other institutions and external offices under joint capacity-building programs. KSA also sought to benefit from international experience in maximizing the impact of and gains from enforcing and fostering IP areas with the ultimate aim of contributing to common interests and achieving sustainable development. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation between WIPO and KSA in moving WIPO's agenda forward. With regard to the Assemblies' agenda, the Delegation looked forward to engage on several issues, among which: (i) WIPO External Offices under agenda item 12; (ii) language expansion of international registration treaties, including Arabic; and (iii) geographical balance within WIPO in light of recommendation 12 of the Report by the External Auditor. In conclusion, the Delegation hoped the meetings would be successful and reiterated its commitment to engage constructively on all subjects related to intellectual property.

106. The Delegation of Senegal associated itself with the statement made by the Groups of which it was a member. In Senegal's view, the growing economic and social importance of IP required strong political commitment; dynamic and exclusive partnerships; an appropriately balanced approach to the interests of users, rights holders and the general public; and a focus on closing the digital divide. Senegalese authorities had initiated socio-economic development programs based on support for innovation and inclusive economic policies. The Grand Prize for Technology Innovation of the President of the Republic had been particularly indicative of the significance the Government of Senegal attached to IP. At the multilateral level, the Delegation reaffirmed Senegal's commitment and attachment to WIPO, as exemplified by the 2017-2019 program. The country had served as Vice-Chair of the SCCR, the Assembly of the Hague Union and the Assembly of the PCT Union. It had jointly supported proposals regarding resale rights for visual artists, in the context of the SCCR, and the protection of country names against registration and use as trademarks, within the SCT. The Delegation looked forward to continued cooperation with WIPO, building on such achievements, since 2011, as the

establishment of TISCs, which had evolved into a national program implemented in three universities and two hospitals. The historic visit of WIPO's Director General to Dakar, in December 2018, emblemized the Organization's exemplary cooperation with Senegal, as did recent WIPO projects: "Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector", whose goals had all been achieved; "Appropriate Technologies for Development", launched in September 2019; and "Development of the Music Sector and New Economic Models in Music". With regard to institutional issues on the agenda of the Assemblies, the Delegation called for swift adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium so that WIPO would have the programmatic and operational means needed to fulfill its mandate. The Delegation trusted that debate over the composition of the PBC and the opening of new external offices would be properly settled so that potentially damaging geographical imbalances could be resolved. With regard to the normative agenda, the Delegation called for diplomatic conferences to be convened to adopt treaties on the protection of broadcasting organizations, design law and on the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The Delegation closed by reaffirming Senegal's interest in capacity-building and technical assistance programs to make IP more accessible, committing to participate constructively in discussions on the various agenda items.

107. The Delegation of Serbia fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. It said that in 2019, Serbia had expended much effort to improve its IP legislation, particularly in the areas of copyright, patents and layout designs of integrated circuits. During its September session, the Serbian Parliament had enacted new laws in that particular field. On October 18, 2018, the Government of Serbia had approved the country's 2018-2022 IP Development Strategy. One of the indicators of the Government's success in adopting the strategy would be the fight against counterfeiting and piracy. Thereafter, speaking in June 2019, and following participation in a regional IP seminar, the Prime Minister of Serbia had addressed combating counterfeiting and piracy, specifically the main challenges to IP protection in the digital age. The Delegation emphasized the importance of IPRs in the Serbian economy and detailed Government efforts to foster growth through stronger protection for patents, trademarks and copyright. To wage a more effective battle against counterfeiting and piracy, the Government had established a coordination body for the efficient protection of IPRs. The IP Office of Serbia was devoting every effort to raising public awareness, delivering IP information and providing IP educational services. Its Education and Information Centre had organized 41 seminars, lectures and workshops for different groups of beneficiaries, with a total of 1,323 participants. Cooperation with WIPO had been a success. At the celebration of the ninety-eighth anniversary of the founding of the IP Office of Serbia, WIPO medals were awarded in five categories: best inventor, best industrial design, most creative, schoolchildren and most frequent use of the Madrid System. In the first week of November 2018, a seminar named "WIPO Tools for Universities" was held in the IP Office as part of the "Commercialization of Results of Examination" WIPO project. Representatives of the IP Office had participated at the eighty-eight conferences and seminars that WIPO had organized in cooperation with other Member States' Offices. The Republic of Serbia intended to continue its constructive cooperation with WIPO and its Member States in order to establish a well-balanced and stable IP system.

108. The Delegation of Singapore said that economies and lives were increasingly digital and driven by innovation. In such a world, IP offices had a tremendous opportunity to leverage their strength as IP registries and regulators to evolve into innovation agencies, helping to drive future economies and build future societies. The IP Office of Singapore continued to take active steps in that regard and many of the new areas of its work had involved transforming the experience of its customers, supporting enterprises in their use of IP for business growth, building skills and capabilities, and supporting the global flow of innovation. Like WIPO and many other national IP offices, Singapore's IP Office had used AI and other technology to transform the way applicants interacted with it. In August 2019, the Office had launched the world's first mobile app for trademark applications, which was named IPOS Go and used a mobile interface and AI-enabled image search functions to reduce the trademark application

time from one hour to less than ten minutes. Beyond IP registration, the Office actively supported innovative enterprises in taking their IP to the market, whether by providing a chance to improve IP and innovation skills through training programs or by working with the Government and public sector partners to support the growth of their operations. Singapore was fortunate to be in one of the world's most economically dynamic regions and was fully committed to working with its regional partners, including ASEAN, to continue to strengthen and build the region's IP and innovation ecosystems. Singapore strongly supported the involvement of WIPO in the region, which had helped to drive growth. Singapore had hosted the seventh Heads of IP Offices Conference in August 2019 and would continue to work closely with the WIPO Singapore Office to support regional programs, including those under the Singapore Cooperation Programme. There were increasing tensions and fragmentation in the global economy and States could not and should not let efforts to forge partnerships and build bridges between IP offices be affected in order to ensure that global innovation flows continued to have a positive impact on economies, societies and lives. The role of WIPO as the multilateral platform for IP issues was therefore critical and Singapore had had the privilege of contributing in various ways, including as Chair of the SCCR, Vice-Chair of the SCP, and a participant in the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union and the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. The country was grateful to the Secretariat for its hard work, much of it behind the scenes, to ensure that the Committees were able to make a real impact. At the global level, other institutions and developments supported the work of WIPO, such as the recently signed Singapore Convention on Mediation, which already had over 40 signatories. The Convention would boost the efforts of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center to promote alternative dispute resolution for IP disputes. Singapore supported the recommendation of the SCCR regarding the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, as well as the action plans for copyright limitations and exceptions. Singapore associated itself with the statements made by the Delegation on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group on the allocation of the unfilled seats in the WIPO Coordination Committee. It also encouraged the continued discussion of agenda items relating to the DLT and the IGC, and looked forward to playing a constructive role. Singapore was ready to partner with WIPO Member States, the Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders to continue to build and strengthen the global innovation ecosystem.

109. The Delegation of Slovakia endorsed the opening statements by the Delegation of Finland, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of Croatia, on behalf of the CEBS Group. It also commended the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost savings passed on to users would all be crucial for future use of these global IP services. The Delegation welcomed the continuing improvements being made by the working groups for these systems in the relevant regulations, guidelines and practices, and was committed to the work being done on global services, in the interests of existing and future users of the systems. The Delegation was also strongly committed to adoption of the DLT, which would greatly benefit designers in developed and developing countries by simplifying and harmonizing design registration formalities. It considered the DLT text to be final and mature enough to convene a long-awaited diplomatic conference for its adoption, urging Member States to agree on a solution. The Delegation emphasized the need to track rapid technological developments and changes in the digital environment. It trusted that the SCCR would ultimately forge a consensus on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, which it considered a potentially meaningful and forward-looking international instrument for those organizations and their needs. Given the important work being done by the IGC, the Delegation welcomed the flexibility shown by all Member States when finalizing IGC's mandate at its last meeting. The country remained committed to finding an appropriately balanced solution and applauded the SCP for its ongoing work on important related issues. Additional effort in this area would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system and therefore be valuable to countries at all levels of development. The Delegation closed by recognizing the important role of the CDIP,

expressing its support for WIPO's technical assistance and capacity-building activities and thanking the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its excellent cooperation and assistance.

110. The Delegation of South Africa aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The WIPO Assemblies provide an opportunity for all Member States and stakeholders to reflect on the Organization's performance in fulfilling its mandate, that of promoting innovation and creativity for the economic, social, and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective IP system. As an agency at the forefront of innovation, WIPO played a unique and increasingly critical role on the global stage at a time when overwhelming innovation was bringing new technological advances with the potential to address some of the most pressing problems facing society and make the world more secure and prosperous. The digital revolution currently underway provided countless opportunities for humankind to take a quantum leap in to the future towards a more secure and prosperous world. The President of South Africa had recently remarked at the country's Digital Economy Summit that the country should embrace the historic confluence of human insights and engagement, AI and technology to rise to the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. A balanced and equitable global IP system that afforded proper incentives for innovation was indispensable for the advancement of humankind. In that regard, South Africa's National Development Plan had duly recognized the importance of innovation, the intensive pursuit of a knowledge economy and the exploitation of comparative and competitive advantages. To be credible, the IP system should also recognize and reward individuals and communities who had contributed significantly to the modern way of life and whose TK and TCEs had inspired so many industrial designs and everyday products and had brought immense economic benefits to those who utilized their knowledge and resources. The Delegation was pleased to announce that the president of South Africa had signed the Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Act of 2019, which recognized that indigenous knowledge was South Africa's national asset and it was in its national interest to protect such knowledge from unauthorized use, misappropriation and misuse. The Delegation believed that WIPO's efforts to advance IP, creativity and innovation served the country's national objective for a people-centered DA based on the SDGs and the vision of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. South Africa was in the process of acceding to WIPO Internet treaties, including the WCT, the Beijing Treaty and the WPPT. South Africa was also in the process of amending its Copyright Act and Performance Protection Act. The Delegation urged Member States to work together constructively to make breakthroughs on long-standing issues on WIPO's normative agenda, particularly on the convening of a diplomatic conference on the draft DLT, the agreement on one or more international legal instruments for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs and an international treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations on matters relating to signal piracy. The Delegation remained fully committed to engagement in order to build consensus on those issues.

111. The Delegation of Spain – noting that WIPO's healthy financial position and effective services, combined with the support of its Member States, made it a standard-bearer for multilateralism – said that it welcomed the work done so far and aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B. The Delegation firmly believed in the importance of industrial and IP as a fundamental mechanism for the promotion of societal progress and recognized WIPO's efforts to build a balanced and effective international industrial and IP system that facilitated innovation and creativity for the benefit of all countries. Against that backdrop, the Delegation stressed the importance of the Spanish language, the dissemination of WIPO's work to a wider audience and multilingualism within the Organization as a means of achieving its objectives. Spain was a member of the main international industrial and IP systems and acknowledged WIPO's vital role in developing international standards in the area of industrial and IP. The Delegation hoped that further progress would be made soon for the benefit of all Member States. Experts from Spain continued to participate in the meetings of the Organization's committees and working groups. With regard to the CDIP, the Delegation

welcomed WIPO's contribution to implementing the SDGs and related targets in the area of industrial and IP. It was convinced that the 2030 Agenda offered a unique opportunity to institute change and create a better environment for the development of society as a whole in a fairer and more sustainable way. With regard to copyright, the Delegation greatly appreciated the progress made by the SCCR on one of its key priorities, namely to reach consensus on the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a broadcasting treaty covering all instances of signal piracy. Furthermore, the Delegation considered it essential to bolster the work of the ACE, particularly on all matters related to infringements of IP online. Spain was taking coordinated and comprehensive action to combat the sale of counterfeit goods and ensure compliance with industrial property rights, focusing on four main areas: regulation, stakeholder coordination, data collection and analysis and training and awareness-raising. The Delegation called on the Member States to proceed in a spirit of cooperation in order to guide the work of the Assemblies and reach agreements that improved the functioning of the Organization and above all the functioning of the international IP system.

112. The Delegation of Sri Lanka aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, in particular regarding the importance of ensuring balanced representation of the Group in the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, as echoed in the regional group's statement. IP was undeniably an important tool that enabled developing countries to be fully engaged in the global economy, with knowledge and innovation being key to economic and social development. WIPO's evolving role over the years in strengthening the IP systems of the developing countries, with particular focus on least developed countries, was exemplary. The CDIP and the Secretariat had continued their work, including through South-South and triangular cooperation. The CDIP projects had greatly benefitted many developing countries, including Sri Lanka. WIPO's work on mainstreaming the DA and its 45 Recommendations had contributed a great deal to the re-orientation of priorities towards achieving socio-economic growth among developing countries. WIPO's coherent and sustainable technical assistance had garnered benefits for all stakeholders in societies, including women, young people and SMEs. Addressing the ever-increasing demand for IP training and education, the WIPO Academy had over the years taken meaningful steps, contributing to human resources development and capacity building among Member States. In espousing the Sustainable Development Agenda, WIPO had played a crucial role, providing the necessary platform for sharing IP-protected knowledge through the exchange of data. WIPO Re:Search and WIPO Green had been useful to Member States. Enforcement of IPRs was key to IP protection and encouraged innovation. While many developing countries had unique IP protection mechanisms and institutional arrangements, they nevertheless faced challenges in effective enforcement, including in pursuing legal action against violations of IP rights. The role of the judges in that context could not be over-emphasized. WIPO's IP Judges Forum had provided a much-needed platform for the exchange of knowledge. WIPO's norm-setting agenda has also extended to a number of innovative areas, including IP and GRs, TK and folklore. It was timely that the IGC had been mandated to expedite its work to finalize the international legal instruments extending protection for these vital intellectual assets. As a developing country, Sri Lanka recognized the significant benefits accruing from the use of IP for technological advancement and socio-economic development. The selection of Sri Lanka for the CDIP project "Intellectual Property, Tourism and Culture" would no doubt harness the potential of IP in that important area. While the project study was launched in 2017, consultations with tourism stakeholders had led to increased awareness of the benefits of IP in tourism-related business activities. The teaching material has also been finalized for inclusion in the curriculum of selected universities. Sri Lanka had made progress in the process to accede to the Madrid Protocol. Enabling legislation had been finalized and the National IP Office was being upgraded to cater to a Madrid-compatible system. WIPO had provided considerable expertise and technical assistance to that end and Sri Lanka hoped it would continue. The "WIPO Enabling Intellectual Property Environment Project" had benefitted several universities as well as public and private institutions in Sri Lanka. Continued technical assistance and expert missions to Sri Lanka to facilitate smooth implementation of that project

were necessary. There was also considerable progress in reviewing and amending the IP legal framework and in the drafting of new regulations facilitating the registration of geographical indications in Sri Lanka with the intention of enhancing protection for unique Sri Lankan geographical indications. With regard to the establishment of WIPO's External Offices, Member States should be guided by the decision of the WIPO Assemblies in 2015. A consensual outcome remained the best possible way forward since it would give confidence to countries that had not presented their candidatures, in deference to others' candidatures, that External Offices would be representative enough of intra-regional diversity, contributing to a fair and balanced outlook on a wider international plane.

113. The Delegation of Sudan welcomed the convening of the 59th series of meetings of the Assemblies. The Delegation congratulated the newly elected members, aligned itself with the statements made by its Groups, and wished all Members every success in their deliberations to resolve all outstanding issues on WIPO's agenda. The Delegation noted that IPRs protection was among the most important and modern branches of law as well as a driver for the cultural, artistic, social and economic development of societies. The Delegation recalled that its country was amongst the founding members of WIPO as it was one of the first countries to accede to the 1974 WIPO Convention. Furthermore, Sudan had acceded to many important IP-related treaties. The Delegation also recalled that although Sudan was classified amongst LDCs, it was making intensive efforts to improve society and economic growth. The Delegation hoped that the ongoing youth revolution underpinned by the principles of justice, peace and freedom would mark the dawn of a new era for Sudan in science, knowledge, technology and innovation. The Delegation highlighted the main developments that took place in the Sudanese national IP office. A panel discussion was held with a World Trade Organization (WTO) expert participating in the International Trade Center (ITC) mission in February 2019 on key reforms in Sudan's IP legislation, including trademarks, patents, industrial designs and copyright, with a special focus on geographical indications given Sudan's wealth of geographical indications. Furthermore, the national office joined the Sudan University of Science and Technology in celebrating World IP Day in April 2019, which featured special presentations and significant presence by university students, the Scientific Research Center and others interested in the field of IP. The national office also prepared, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Investment, a proposal for the establishment of a TISC, which was approved. However, implementation was postponed until a building had been allocated and the proposal was included in the following year's budget. To enhance performance within the national office, WIPO organized, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the International University of Africa, a national workshop in Khartoum in February 2019 on the PCT System as well as a hands-on training on ePCT. The workshop attracted a significant number of relevant stakeholders, including students, inventors and scientific research centers. The Delegation turned to the status of IT in the national office and stated that IPAS, WIPO Publish and the website were operational with future services including WIPO SCAN, E-Filing and ePCT. With regard to digitization, the Delegation was pleased to report that the share of trademarks, patents and industrial designs documents digitized was 98, 95 and 80 per cent respectively. The Sudan-based Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC) undertook to establish an IP training center and initial contact was made between FASRC Secretary-General, Mr. Mubarak Al Majzoub, and WIPO in that regard. The Delegation hoped that the proposal would receive the necessary attention, as it would have a great impact on advancing technology and innovation. The Delegation also hoped that other institutions would establish such centers in order to support innovation, facilitate access to technological information, and facilitate and implement university plans and strategies for technology transfer and commercialization of scientific research outputs. In conclusion, the Delegation extended its deepest thanks to WIPO for its long-standing support of all IP activities undertaken by the national office, institutions, universities, scientific research centers and even individual innovators. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries and the Division for LDCs for their continued efforts in supporting, developing and providing technical assistance to its national office.

114. The Delegation of Sweden said that it fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states. The work carried out by the Director General and his deputies was appreciated and the Secretariat should be praised for its efficient response to the increased demand for WIPO services, which put WIPO in a strong financial situation going forward. Nonetheless, WIPO should exercise prudence and transparency in regard to its finances in order to further benefit present and future users of the global IP system. The proposed budget would make it possible for users of WIPO services, in particular the PCT System, to continue to expect excellent service in regard to the timeliness, quality and reliability at a lower cost, thereby making the System more attractive. IP law provided an important framework for investment in knowledge-based capital; it was key to growth and competitiveness and formed part of the framework conditions for innovation both in universities and society. It was necessary to make sure that the IP system served, supported and promoted innovation aimed at the achievement of the SDGs, including urgent and internationally agreed efforts to combat climate change, as set out in the Paris Agreement. In that context, the WIPO GREEN platform should be highlighted, as it was a good example of how to support global efforts to address climate change by facilitating access to environmentally friendly technologies and bringing together key players to catalyze the innovation and dissemination of green technologies. Over the previous three years, the Government had endowed the Swedish Patent and Registration Office with a provisional extended mandate to promote innovation and competitiveness by providing information about IP and assets and their significance for a prosperous society. The Delegation had been pleased to note that, at the expiry of the provisional period, the extended mandate would be made permanent. The scope of the extended mandate included the duty to disseminate information about the impacts on society of counterfeiting and piracy and, in particular, to raise awareness among the younger generation of the positive effects of IP and assets. The Delegation wished to express its appreciation for the excellent cooperation between WIPO and the Patent and Registration Office in relation to the advanced international training programs financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Together with the Division for LDCs, programs were offered on IP for LDCs and, with the TK Division, on the use of IP and genetic resources in support of innovation. Since the 2018 Assemblies, the Patent and Registration Office had offered four training programs in cooperation with WIPO. The Delegation wished to thank WIPO and, in particular, the Division for LDCs and the TK Division for their invaluable work and support for those programs. Cooperation with WIPO was an important factor in the decision of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to pursue its commitment to IP by providing funding for two additional years. The work of the WIPO committees was important, and the Delegation recognized the great importance and added value of harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities and procedures. The work of the SCT had paved the way for concluding negotiations at a diplomatic conference. With regard to the SCCR, the Delegation was grateful to the Chair of the SCCR for his efforts to facilitate engagement and progress in SCCR work and to the WIPO Secretariat for its preparatory work throughout the year. It was hoped that a treaty responding to the present and future needs of broadcasting organizations could be developed, and Sweden remained committed to participating constructively in the deliberations of the SCCR. The Delegation wished to emphasize the significance of the work carried out by the CDIP and the IGC. It remained committed to participating productively in the work of the IGC, which should promote innovation and creativity and safeguard continued access to the public domain. The work of the IGC should also be efficient, transparent and driven by Member States, and any international instrument on the protection of TK or TCEs should be non-binding, flexible and clear. With regard to the CWS, the Delegation had been pleased to see continued solution-oriented work. It wished to emphasize the importance of WIPO's global IP services and stood ready to contribute to the valuable work of the PCT and the Madrid Systems. The Delegation looked forward to continuing its successful cooperation with WIPO on the international IP system to advance economic, social and cultural development for all.

115. The Delegation of Switzerland aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and emphasized the following points. Firstly, WIPO shall remain focused on developing and modernizing its registration systems, the proper functioning of which is the essence of its mandate as a global provider of IP services. The attractiveness of these systems to users is closely linked to the quality of international registrations, in terms of shorter turnaround times, reliable protection, adequate IT solutions and tailored work tools. Secondly, the Delegation specified that normative work, is also at the heart of WIPO's mandate, and that its effect had a direct impact on the users of IP systems. The Delegation equally called for positive results in the work in progress on industrial designs, GRs, TK and folklore, as well as the protection of broadcasting organizations. It noted with satisfaction that discussions in the framework of the IGC in June 2019 had been fruitful, a recommendation as to the IGC's mandate for the 2020–2021 biennium having been agreed upon. The Delegation hoped that this positive result would encourage Member States on topics still open for discussion in the Assemblies. The Delegation remained committed to contributing actively and constructively to the IGC's work. Thirdly, the Delegation called for constructive and fruitful discussions, which were needed to reach agreement on WIPO's Program and Budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, and also specified that it would be in the interests of Member States to provide the necessary means to enable the Organization to carry out its mandate. Switzerland had submitted a proposal on this agenda item and tabled a simple, transparent and long-term solution to the systemic issue of expenditures, which had already cost the Member States, the Secretariat and thus to the Organization a great deal of time, energy and money, without producing a useful result. The Delegation advocated maintaining the rationale while, relieving WIPO's of its needlessly complex and outdated processes financial management and proposed to adopt a unified budget. This proposal would be presented in greater detail under Agenda Item 13 and looked forward to contributing in a positive manner to these key issues for the future of this Organization. Fourth, on the question of opening of new WIPO External Offices, the Delegation hoped that a pragmatic solution adhering to the Guiding Principles and decisions adopted by the 2015 and 2017 Assemblies would be found. Lastly, the Delegation noted that an independent evaluation of the External Offices network was planned for the 2020–2021 biennium.

116. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic said that the Director General's efforts in managing the Organization had put IP in a better position to serve humankind and contribute to supporting and fostering creativity and innovation in various fields, notably by promoting the use of IPRs by SMEs and the progress achieved in the work of the CDIP. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, and supported the proposals submitted on behalf of the Group on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. The Delegation affirmed that its country had always maintained close ties with WIPO despite the current circumstances, moving forward in the development of work in this important area. The Syrian Arab Republic had always attached great importance to IP, believing IP of all kinds was a cornerstone in developing its national economy. To that end, it had established a sound legal environment to safeguard the interests of citizens, SMEs and business and economic sectors. Capacity building activities to enhance overall staff performance were also at the heart of implemented programs. The Delegation recalled that its country had also benefitted from acceding to a number of IP treaties especially the PCT and Madrid Protocol and took a number of measures to streamline its processes and facilitate access to services related to the granting of trademarks and patents. The Syrian Arab Republic continued to support creativity and innovation among young generations by organizing the Al Bassel Fair for Invention & Innovation on August 31, 2019 to September 6, 2019, which showcased 387 inventions and creations presented by 827 inventors and creators, most of whom were young people from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education. In addition, work was underway to expand and modernize the Albassel Center for Invention & Innovation as well as establishing sub-centers. In that regard, the Delegation wished to thank WIPO for awarding two medals and a prize to the laureates. Furthermore, a special pavilion at the Fair was dedicated to introducing various domestic and international activities in the field of

IP. The latest WIPO publications and programs, targeting different age groups, were also presented, especially global databases, WIPO Academy activities and free information services provided by the Organization. The Fair also included a presentation of the latest edition of the IP Culture Dissemination Program aimed at expanding the use of IP among: (i) school students to stimulate creativity; (ii) SMEs, businesses and industry; and (iii) universities and research centers to ensure knowledge transfer and utilizing patent information in the development process. The Delegation said its country hoped to pursue the development of its national IP strategy and the establishment of TISCs in cooperation with WIPO. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its thanks to WIPO, Secretariat and the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries and looked forward to overcoming all difficulties so its country may contribute to and benefit from the opportunities made available by joint cooperation programs with WIPO.

117. The Delegation of Thailand said that technology, innovation and creativity were key elements in driving countries to achieve prosperity, security and sustainability. Thailand was therefore continuing with its IP policies and efforts to further enhance its IP infrastructure and create an IP-friendly environment with the aim of becoming a value-based and innovation-driven country. In 2019, Thailand had established a ministry to harmonize the areas of higher education, science, research and innovation and to accelerate the growth of IP creation to meet market demand, which would in turn lead to the utilization and commercialization of IP. Thailand recognized the importance of advanced technology, in particular the use of AI in improving management of the IP system. The country therefore supported the work of WIPO in exploring the use of AI and its impact on the performance of IP offices. In addition, the country was in the process of amending its Patent Act to streamline patent and design registration procedures, in compliance with the amendment to the TRIPS Agreement and the country's preparations for accession to the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Thailand also recognized the importance of IP enforcement and of close collaboration with IP stakeholders. Raising public awareness and building respect for IP were also significant areas in the creation of an environment with improved protection and promotion of IP, although social well-being and sustainable development should also be taken into consideration. The Copyright Act had been amended following the country's accession to the Marrakesh Treaty, which had entered into force in March 2019; Thailand had then become a contracting party to the Treaty in April 2019. The Treaty was a balanced instrument that would lead to the achievement of sustainable development and the improvement of social well-being for all. The amended Copyright Act would ensure effective protection for copyright and related rights in the digital environment and would prepare Thailand for accession to WIPO copyright treaties, with further amendments to be made for accession to other WIPO treaties in the future. Significant progress had been made in norm setting, as established under the WIPO DA, although further discussions on the subject were required. The Delegation encouraged Member States to redouble their efforts to find an acceptable outcome for all in the renewal of the mandate of the IGC. Certain issues in the draft DLT, including technical assistance and disclosure requirement on GR, TK and TCEs, still required further consideration and Member States should discuss the issue in a cooperative and constructive spirit. The Delegation stood ready to support and work constructively with other Member States to strengthen the international IP system and ensure that progress made within WIPO would contribute to a robust and responsive IP system at both the national and international levels.

118. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. Trinidad and Tobago was very supportive of the various WIPO initiatives to help shape the IP ecosystem and would soon accede to a number of IP conventions and treaties, including the Beijing, Singapore and Marrakesh Treaties. It would also be depositing its instrument of accession to the Rome Convention with the UN Secretary-General in New York and anticipated the conclusion of its trademarks law reform in 2019. The Delegation reported tremendous progress with online filing thanks to WIPO assistance under the WIPO-FILE project and an IPAS expert mission. Online payment, having now been successfully tested, would also be made available, a possible first for Trinidad and Tobago's

public service. The Manual for IP Prosecutors was nearing completion, and the video “Building Respect for IP” had been completed and premiered at a meeting of the ACE the previous month. More importantly, the country had launched its flagship project “IP Academy of Trinidad and Tobago” and completed its first “train-the-trainer” module. The country would next start work on a TISC eagerly anticipated by stakeholders and partners. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had signed an MoU with WIPO to allow access to WIPO’s alternative dispute resolution service. Collaboration had also continued to extend beyond national borders, including horizontal cooperation with several other Caribbean and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states and South-South cooperation with the National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI), in Chile, which would be entering Phase 2 in 2019. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO, its Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, and its Caribbean Section, for the many initiatives undertaken with the IP Office of Trinidad and Tobago and looked forward to continued partnership in promoting the IP ecosystem. The Delegation also expressed support for the conclusion of a broadcasting treaty given the burgeoning commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade.

119. The Delegation of Tunisia aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation recalled that Tunisia had long attached great importance to IP and IP-related international conventions given the importance of establishing a system that would guarantee the legitimate interests of both knowledge providers and beneficiaries. Furthermore, Tunisia enjoyed excellent cooperation ties with WIPO, benefiting from the Organization’s systematic and continued support in modernizing its industrial property and copyright frameworks as well as promoting activities undertaken by all relevant stakeholders operating in those fields. In that spirit, Tunisia had spared no effort in adapting its national laws and regulations to international standards in those areas and acceding to relevant international treaties and conventions. The Delegation wished to highlight some recent developments in Tunisia: (i) Tunisian legislation in the field of industrial property protection was under review; (ii) the accession process to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement was initiated; (iii) more than 20 TISCs were established in university and industry institutions and technology hubs collaborating with civil society organizations; (iv) the National IP Academy was undergoing restructuring to provide better services through the introduction of a joint Master of Business Administration (MBA) with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO); and (v) information systems at the National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI) were being upgraded and modernized through the adoption of WIPO IPAS. In addition, the Institute launched the first-ever IP Olympics competition in 2019 aimed at promoting IP culture among younger generations, youth and students in middle and secondary schools, which gathered several countries representing the African and American continents. As regards literary and artistic property, the Delegation referred to the active cooperation between its country and WIPO with numerous initiatives, activities and projects undertaken in partnership with the Tunisian Society for Copyright and Related Rights (OTDAV), among which a project to establish a system for the collective management of copyright and the organization of Tunisian cultural days at WIPO’s headquarters on the occasion of IGC 40. The Delegation looked forward to WIPO’s assistance in strengthening its national institutions’ capacities, especially SMEs, as drivers to economic growth, by increasing their competitiveness through the IP system and developing entrepreneurship among Tunisian youth by enabling innovators to benefit and protect their research outputs. Furthermore, Tunisia had long attached particular importance to implementing the SDGs. In that regard, the Delegation expressed its appreciation for WIPO’s efforts to raise awareness among Member States on the importance of implementing such projects, especially in developing and LDCs, as well as for supporting countries in strengthening their capacities with a view of mainstreaming development considerations into IP policies. The Delegation reiterated its country’s commitment to achieve WIPO’s strategic goals, including implementing the DA, stating that it would spare no effort in providing full support to planned programs and strategies. In conclusion, the Delegation hoped that the meetings would be successful and lead to results fulfilling the ambitions of all members.

120. The Delegation of Turkey said that the Government had drafted a new IP strategy paper for 2019–2023 to address the continual evolution of IP in response to rapidly changing innovation eco-systems. Together with the recently enacted Intellectual Property Rights Code, the new IP strategy would ensure the application of international best practices in IP governance. It would also promote the prompt and diligent processing of an ever-increasing number of applications. The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (Turkpatent) ranked among the world's busiest IP offices and set great store by properly training its staff, regularly updating its IT infrastructure and maintaining open communication with stakeholders. The Turkish IP Academy had been fully operationalized with WIPO's valuable support. In addition, the IP Valuation and Commercialization Company, established by Turkpatent in 2018, was ready to launch. In February 2018, Turkey had ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to foster the development of its cultural and creative industries. WIPO was a vital platform for making decisions on the future of the global IP eco-system and Turkey was committed to helping to reach consensus on longstanding agenda items. With regard to the normative agenda, the Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and welcomed the important work that had been done. With regard to the IGC, it welcomed the recommendation on the renewal of the mandate and work program for the next biennium. Finally, with regard to the establishment of WIPO External Offices, it urged all Member States to proceed in a transparent, merit-based, and cooperative spirit in accordance with the Guiding Principles.

121. The Delegation of Uganda, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation on behalf of the African Group. Uganda had enacted its National IP Policy on May 27, 2019, with the overall mission of creating a robust IP value chain conducive to innovation and creativity, as pillars of sustainable development. This would enhance use of the IP system and develop the human capital needed for the IP value chain to solve current challenges and help to fully realize the SDGs and national development priorities. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its varied work to strengthen the IP system and its financial and technical support for IP policy development. The Delegation looked forward to further cooperation in implementing policy. Thanks to the Regional Bureau for Africa, Uganda was benefiting in particular from WIPO's Consultative Workshops on the Draft Action Plan for the Protection of TK, GRs and TCEs, and on domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty. The valuable feedback provided would help create a strong and all-inclusive IP system in Uganda. The country had also hosted a Sub-Regional Workshop on Building Respect for Intellectual Property to strengthen capacity within the Judiciary to deal with IP cases. Other programs and activities included a needs assessment for the deployment of online IP services, capacity building for human resources and facilitation of technology transfer through the Appropriate Technology project and the TISCs. The Delegation emphasized creativity and innovation in tackling its numerous challenges, including disease, poverty, climate change, unemployment and food security. It also gave priority to strong traditional systems in different communities as a means of economic transformation for Uganda's people. Protecting TK had always been a key priority for WIPO, but almost 20 years of negotiations on an international instrument to extend IP protection to indigenous knowledge had produced no tangible results. Political flexibility on the part of all WIPO Member States was needed to accelerate the IGC process for the benefit of Uganda's people.

122. The Delegation of Ukraine commended WIPO for its dedication to developing a sustainable and accessible international IP system and lauded all contributions to that effort. The country would now be joining WIPO's CEBS Group with a view to reconfirming geographical and historical realities and broadening a common European IP platform. IP remained a priority for the country's government, whose main IP coordination body, the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture, was working tirelessly to develop the country's IP system and improve the competitiveness of its economy through knowledge and innovation. The Delegation expressed appreciation for WIPO's support in establishing the country's network of TISCs; formulating its National IP Strategy; establishing a national IP

Training Center; conducting WIPO-Ukraine Summer Schools and supporting many other important events and initiatives. This support had facilitated access to and use of IP information in promoting innovation and creativity, as reflected in Ukraine's ranking in the 2019 GII and its status as "innovation achiever". Ukraine remained opened for business and investment.

123. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates thanked the Director General for his comprehensive report to the Assemblies, commending the positive financial results achieved by the Organization. The Delegation was pleased with the progress made on the Beijing Treaty and hoped that it would enter into force that year. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and supported the Group's proposal on the composition of the relevant administrative committees aimed at enhancing the overall representation of the member states who had recently joined WIPO unions. The Delegation affirmed that the United Arab Emirates attached great importance to cooperation between Member States and WIPO to promote the development of IP systems. To that end, the United Arab Emirates had established a FIT. The Delegation extended special thanks to the Republic of Korea for the fruitful and joint efforts to develop IP systems and strengthen national capacities. The Delegation said its country was proud of what it had achieved in one of the most important areas related to innovation and IP, namely space. Indeed, the first United Arab Emirates astronaut Hazza al-Mansoori had launched a few days before on his first mission to the International Space Station. In addition, the Delegation referred to the United Arab Emirates satellite "KhalifaSat" as the first satellite to be developed in space technology laboratories in the United Arab Emirates entirely and which included a number of patents. The Delegation underlined the importance of AI as a key driver of future economies. The Delegation said its country had been keen to develop that industry and enhance its role in development. The Delegation supported WIPO's efforts to link AI to IP and address the various opportunities and challenges arising from new trends in AI and their impact on IP. The Delegation urged all Member States to consider all options on selecting host states for WIPO's External Offices, stating it was ready to participate in any consultations. The Delegation recalled that it had acceded to the previous WIPO General Assembly's request to postpone all calls for voting, on the understanding that a clear roadmap and integrated methodology would be prepared so the WIPO General Assembly would issue its recommendations. The Delegation stressed the importance of complying with the 2015 WIPO General Assembly's decisions and, in particular, the timeframe set for that matter, given the limited time available to reach a decision based on previous consultations. The Delegation was of the view that a unanimous decision was unlikely to be reached, inviting Member States to consider the use of voting as their last resort in accordance with WIPO General Rules of Procedure. In that regard, the Delegation underlined the exceptional nature of that procedure and that it should not affect any further decisions adopted by the Organization in the future. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate with all Member States to reach a decision and find solutions that would serve WIPO's interests. In conclusion, the Delegation reiterated its thanks to all Member States and expressed the hope that the Assemblies would yield results that would contribute to the development and prosperity of all states and societies.

124. The Delegation of the United Kingdom aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B. The Delegation said that as the United Kingdom would be leaving the European Union at the end of October 2019, its goal was to do so with certainty and stability, ensuring continuity of protection for IP rightholders, including those with European Union designated rights under the Hague and Madrid Systems. Good progress had been made in the current WIPO biennium: businesses in the United Kingdom placed great value on WIPO services that protected and supported IP internationally. Since future business demanded change, the Delegation supported a strategic approach in continuing to push towards digital transformation to improve services for rightholders. In addition, a progressive Program and Budget was of utmost importance to ensure the evolution of effective systems and good performance. To that end, the Delegation stood ready to assist, including through the

Chair of the PBC. The United Kingdom would continue to proactively and productively pursue its priorities with the forthcoming leadership of WIPO following the 2020 election of a new Director General. The United Kingdom had stepped up its commitment to WIPO, as shown through its appointment as Chair of two of the Organization's key bodies, its formulation of several formal proposals and its assistance for solutions on important international issues. It had also worked with WIPO to hold a recent conference in London on the implications of AI for IP. In that respect, access to and the use of data, as well as the attribution of rights to AI output, applied to all Member States and hence required an international approach. Turning to the global challenge of IP valuation, the Delegation looked forward to working with others towards reaching a better understanding of the global challenges faced by innovators in unlocking the value of their IP as an asset. Lastly, it was important to note the improved overall atmosphere in WIPO and to continue to see the bigger picture, supporting international IP services that delivered value for global IP stakeholders.

125. The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania announced with regret the passing of Mr. Abdulla Waziri, Executive Director of the Zanzibar Business and Property Registration Agency in June 2019. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group, in particular regarding the need for negotiations for binding international legal instruments for protection of the IPRs attaching to the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, and equitable geographical representation of WIPO's Member States in its decision-making organs. Tanzania's leadership had focused on industrialization and enhancing productivity to transform its economy and fully understood the contribution of IP in fostering industrial development and productivity. It would continue collaboration with WIPO to strengthen the IP protection system and adopt policies which were beneficial for the country. The country had benefited from WIPO cooperation programs and activities, some completed, others ongoing. Recent activities had included the application of two technologies identified as part of the WIPO Appropriate Technology transfer program (for the processing of seaweeds to extract carrageenan and for aquaculture). Both had served as examples of patent information being used effectively to build technological capacity. The United Republic of Tanzania was a top beneficiary of the WIPO Skills Development Programs, including one conducted by WIPO's Division for LDCs in cooperation with the Government of Sweden. The country had also hosted two WIPO training programs, having benefitted in 2019 from the project-based implementation approach of the WIPO-PRV-SIDA Training Program, which enabled participants to formulate national projects using IP for development. As an outcome of that training, participants had designed and implemented three national projects. WIPO had also supported the United Republic of Tanzania in organizing other important activities. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the WIPO Academy for its assistance with the Distance Learning Platform and the assignment of Tutors under the ARIPO Masters of Intellectual Property (MIP) Program. The country was still counting on WIPO's assistance in gaining access to available literature, electronic publications and other study materials, and benefitting from visiting tutors during the residential phase of the MIP Program in Dar es Salaam. WIPO was asked to publish the MIP Program on its website.

126. The Delegation of the United States of America endorsed the statement made by the Delegation of Canada on behalf of Group B and highlighted issues of importance to its Delegation. With regard to staff matters, the Delegation, which had deep respect for the work performed by WIPO staff, appreciated the decision made in the summer of 2019 on funding for WIPO's Rewards and Recognition Program, which recognized exceptional individual and team performers. It could not, however, support the Organizational performance reward that remained a part of that program. On the issue of contributions towards WIPO's common expenses, the Delegation noted that WIPO's strong financial position was largely due to the success of its PCT System, which took on more than its fair share of common expenses, but could not indefinitely serve as a financial crutch for other registration systems. Indeed, to promote financial self-sufficiency, each WIPO registration system should assume responsibility in that regard, with a view to a more equitable division of common expenses, as had been the

case in the first two decades of WIPO's history. Accordingly, the Secretariat's proposal that the contribution-financed Hague and Lisbon Unions should contribute one per cent of their revenue towards WIPO's common expenses was a step in the right direction, in line with past practice. In addition, in order to address the projected deficit of the contribution-financed unions, the miscellaneous income derived mostly from investments made via the contribution-financed PCT and Madrid Unions should be fully reallocated to the contribution-financed unions or in such a way as to ensure that those unions received separate shares rather than an aggregate share as under the current practice. The Delegation hoped that consensus could be reached on the proposed Program and Budget as presented. On the matter of WIPO's External Offices, it would be useful to take into account the objective evaluation of the existing network of such offices, which was planned for 2021, before selecting the next External Offices, noting that WIPO's long-standing tradition of taking well-informed decisions by consensus had contributed to its success, and a hasty call for a vote to conclude the discussion on future External Offices would bring more harm than good. In light of the controversy surrounding future External Offices, the Delegation urged the Director General to refrain from moving forward at the present time with plans relating to the potential opening of a WIPO entity providing arbitration services in Shanghai, especially if that involved an office space there. Lastly, the Delegation said that, as the Director General has informed many delegations that this is his last term, the Delegation wished to recognize the extraordinary progress and important normative achievements that WIPO had made under his leadership and vision, which had paved the way for Member States to address the cutting-edge issues of technology and IP while also ensuring the stability and health of WIPO services.

127. The Delegation of Uruguay expressed its gratitude for the technical cooperation received from WIPO. It had enabled Uruguay's IP team to continue developing policies in that area. The Delegation thanked the Director of the Patent Law Division for his constant support and collaboration with Uruguay's National Directorate for Intellectual Property (DNPI) in developing the country's first patent examination guide. It was also grateful for a regional patent drafting seminar for trainers, held in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM). The seminar would support Uruguay's efforts to strengthen universities, agents and legal representatives by offering national innovators high-quality patents conducive to internationalization. The Delegation recognized and thanked the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean for the continuous support it had provided to the DNPI, including an invitation to participate in PCT activity in Costa Rica. This support was helping Uruguay and other acceding countries gather all the technical, legal and political inputs needed for effective implementation of the PCT following accession. Uruguay was grateful to the Global Infrastructure Sector for its continuous interaction with Uruguay's technical team in updating IPAS, improving the management of registries and providing greater legal security. The Delegation recognized the efforts made with respect to compliance and the involvement of judges and prosecutors from Uruguay in WIPO's training activities. It drew particular attention to the support it had received for an event organized for judges and prosecutors in Montevideo, with the OEPM. The Delegation announced that on September 15, 2019, its national parliament had ratified the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and accepted the amendments to the WIPO Convention of 1999 and 2003. The instruments of ratification would be deposited in due course. Uruguay was working on a comprehensive reform of its Law on Trademarks, covering recent innovations, e-commerce and compliance and reflecting new doctrinal positions on the subject. Lastly, the Delegation reported that a drafting committee comprising public and private entities had been working on draft legislation to be presented for public consultation in the coming months.

128. The Delegation of Vanuatu expressed its appreciation to WIPO for the technical assistance and other related support provided to enable the Government to draft its first strategic IP plan in 2015. Under that plan, the Government had committed to enacting seven IP-related laws and had ratified the Conference Establishing WIPO and the Berne Convention. The country had established an IP office, which employed five lawyers and five support staff to

assist in the registration of trademarks, patents and designs. The Delegation wished to express its gratitude to WIPO for its online learning platform; the country's IP office and its staff had benefited from the platform, as well as from WIPO scholarships and the WIPO Professional Development Program. The country was working with the WIPO Singapore Office on the installation of IPAS to advance efforts to digitalize its services for the registration of trademarks, patents and designs; IPAS was scheduled to be ready for use in Vanuatu in 2020. The challenges presently facing the country related to the unjust exploitation of TK and TCEs. The country had therefore been working with local stakeholders to develop legislation to protect TK. The work of the IGC was greatly appreciated in view of the country's continued commitment to protecting the knowledge of indigenous peoples. The Delegation wished to request the assistance of WIPO in reviewing of its geographical indication laws, which would facilitate the registration of popular local brands. The country planned to accede to the WCT in order to protect and safeguard its creative industries. In addition, it was on course to graduate from its status as an LDC in 2020 and had performed strongly in rankings of gross national income per capita, as well as in other international indicators. Vanuatu would continue to promote free trade and was grateful for the support and assistance it received from WIPO and the broader international community.

129. The Delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) aligned itself with the statement of the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. Despite the embargo, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) was performing many IP innovation and development activities. The third certificate of controlled designation of origin had been granted to Venezuelan rum, helping to advance national development. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) was one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, and the designations of origin were fundamental tools for galvanizing local economies and expanding production, which would surely contribute to the achievement of the SDGs set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The national Office was working to achieve easier access to IP information, and had updated its website to describe all the development benefits that an IP regime could offer for national development. It had also, for the first time in the history of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), granted 16 collective marks to indigenous peoples, through the Federation of Indigenous Persons of Bolívar State, by providing them with tools to protect their IP. It therefore supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC, with a view to furthering the protection of ancestral knowledge. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had initiated a number of cooperation projects, with assistance from the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on law, automation and the training of Venezuelan specialists. The Delegation wished to acknowledge, in particular, cooperation with other countries using the WIPO alternate dispute resolution system. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had met the requirements for its accession to the Marrakesh Treaty and would submit the relevant instruments to the Director General of WIPO during the Assemblies.

130. The Delegation of Viet Nam appreciated the efforts made by WIPO to achieve its strategic goals and noted the positive outcome of discussions on institutional and governmental matters. It looked forward to further progress being made in normative work relating to the DLT and the IGC. The fourth industrial revolution was changing the way that societies lived, worked and communicated. Developing countries such as Viet Nam must transition towards sustainable development and seize the opportunities offered by science, technology and innovation to increase the prosperity of their citizens. In that vein, the various projects, programs and policies rolled out by the Government to promote the growth of the innovation ecosystem had improved the country's GII ranking. Recognizing that IP was an important facet of innovation, the Government had taken steps to establish a modern and effective IP environment. Since August 2018, it had adopted the National Intellectual Property Strategy 2030 and revised IP legislation in line with its commitment under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. It was also ready to deposit its instrument of accession to the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Over the past year, WIPO had helped Viet Nam to develop its national IP strategy, deploy IPAS and implement the

Intellectual Property Environment Project. The Government looked forward to continuing that fruitful collaboration and undertook to contribute to the establishment of a more balanced IP system for the benefit of all Member States.

131. The Delegation of Zambia aligned itself with the statement by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. Acknowledging WIPO's cooperation in many areas of IP development, the Delegation highlighted the Organization's support for Zambia's new TISC. A TISC network launch workshop had been held in July 2019 to train participants in searching for and using patent information and scientific publications. Importantly for Zambia, various academic and research institutions attending from around the country had expressed interest in establishing TISCs of their own, opening possibilities for a nationwide network. Zambia would continue to collaborate with WIPO in that regard. The Delegation also thanked WIPO for organizing and facilitating the participation of heads of copyright offices in a regional seminar on limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, museums and educational and research institutions in the field of copyright, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 2019. The Delegation reiterated its willingness to engage constructively in such areas. It also underscored the importance of the renewed mandate of the IGC. Having adopted a national law to protect TK, GRs and TCEs, Zambia stood ready to share that experience.

132. The Delegation of Zimbabwe associated itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. On September 12, 2019, the Government had deposited with WIPO its instrument of ratification to the Beijing Treaty and its instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. With WIPO's assistance, the country was reviewing its Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, to align it with those two treaties. It was also preparing to accede to the Hague Agreement in 2020, as part of its continuing efforts to ratify pertinent WIPO treaties. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for all the support that it had provided to capacity-building programs in Zimbabwe, including the recent PCT Roving Seminars in universities and the very popular Masters in Intellectual Property offered by WIPO in partnership with ARIPO and the Government of Japan, at the Africa University in Zimbabwe. It was also pleased with the ongoing digitization of records, including the data verification taking place at the Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office, supported by the WIPO-administered Japan FIT. The country would continue to work closely with academia, research institutions, innovation hubs and SMEs to promote the appreciation, respect and use of IP. Zimbabwe eagerly awaited the Director General's visit to Harare for the WIPO/ARIPO/OAPI Conference on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Value Addition for Business Competitiveness and Sustainable Development in Africa in November 2019. Restating its continued belief in multilateralism, the Delegation called on all Member States to negotiate with a constructive spirit underpinned by the utmost good faith.

133. The Representative of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) recalled that OAPI, as an intergovernmental organization under the Bangui Agreement, applied supranational legislation relating to the administration of industrial property rights. OAPI had been established in accordance with Article 12 of the Paris Convention of March 20, 1883, which required States Parties to establish an industrial property office. With its 17 Member States, OAPI's traditional mission was the registration and issuance of titles on behalf of its members in accordance with a procedure common to all, on the basis of the Bangui Agreement. OAPI's second mission, in the area of documentation and information, was to disseminate the essential content of titles issued in the Organization's official online Bulletin and in patent brochures. Through its industrial property system, OAPI was now participating in technological development and conducting information, sensitization and training programs targeting different segments of society, where the need for knowledge in the area of IP was particularly pressing. In partnership with other academic institutions, as well as in the context of cooperation, OAPI provided IP training at its training center in Yaoundé, the Denis Ekani Academy. In 2019, OAPI had initiated a training program for collective management organizations on copyrights and another for patent engineers. A project to establish geographical indications in its member

States and a development project for plant variety protection were also said to be progressing. In addition, OAPI had initiated a study to support companies in the judicious use of IP, and concrete measures were under way in that connection, notably for winners of the OAPI Brand Awards and of the seventh edition of the African Invention and Technological Innovation Fair (SAIT). In its role as IP technical advisor to member governments, OAPI was also providing support and insights for policy implementation. Noting that OAPI was receiving support for these efforts from various partners, the representative welcomed the important commitments made, to OAPI and to many other organizations and countries, to fund organizational capacity-building programs, including training. The Representative thanked the various bilateral and multilateral partners of the Organization for their continuing support.

134. The Representative of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. The various activities undertaken or scheduled in 2019 within the framework of the tripartite agreement signed between WIPO and ARIPO during the 58th Assemblies included an IP week program in Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda, a high-level round table on geographical indications, a first regional meeting of the heads of copyright offices of 45 African countries and a conference on IP innovation and value addition for business competitiveness in Africa. With regard to capacity building, the master's degree program on IP offered at the Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in cooperation with WIPO had been followed by over 300 graduates from 26 countries throughout the continent since its inception 12 years ago and had successfully been extended to Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania in the past year. Other recent initiatives to improve IP systems on the continent included workshops on patent drafting, regional meetings for TISCs and the designation of the ARIPO Academy as a center of excellence for IP education. In addition, ARIPO and OAPI were working closely with the African Group to provide IP technical inputs on topical issues of interest to Africa. The Representative greatly appreciated WIPO's support over the past year and sincerely hoped to continue cooperating with the Organization for the benefit of its member states.

135. The Representative of the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO) commended WIPO for its work as a global forum and international cooperation coordination center for IP issues, and a provider of global services for cross-border IPRs protection and dispute resolution. The Representative highlighted the importance for the EAPO of the Diplomatic Conference held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on September 9, 2019, where the Protocol on the Protection of Industrial Designs to the Eurasian Patent Convention of September 9, 1994, was adopted and signed. The EAPO Diplomatic Conference was convened on the same day as the 25th Anniversary of the Eurasian Patent Convention signing. Adoption of this groundbreaking Protocol for the legal protection of industrial designs in Eurasia on this date emphasized the significance of the anniversary and opened a new era in the history of the EAPO and Eurasia in general. The Representative was particularly pleased to report this fact to the WIPO General Assembly as the WIPO Director General performed depository functions for both the Eurasian Patent Convention, and the Protocol to it. WIPO had been involved in EAPO from the very beginning and, in this regard, the Representative noted that, throughout these 25 years, cooperation with the Organization was growing and developing, and that WIPO was now supporting the EAPO on the new stage of its evolution. The Representative personally thanked the Director General for his support for the project at all of its stages and for his kind words addressed to the participants of the Diplomatic Conference, as well as for his speech dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Eurasian Patent Convention. The Representative also expressed its gratitude to the Office of Legal Counsel of WIPO for legal assistance for the drafting, adopting and signing of the Protocol. In addition, the merit for the drafting of the Protocol went to the Director and experts of the WIPO Hague Registry. EAPO was also grateful to its member states for having provided their best legal experts in industrial design protection and international law to participate in the working group. Without their involvement, the preparation and adoption of the Protocol in such a record time would not have been possible. The Representative noted that EAPO was an active user of WIPO's electronic tools and services, including ePCT, WIPO DAS, WIPO CASE,

Patentscope and machine translation system. In this regard, the Representative encouraged WIPO to continue to develop global electronic services, as well as electronic tools to facilitate the efficient operation of patent offices. The Representative expressed appreciation for the response of the WIPO IP Office Business Solutions Section to a request to facilitate the implementation of IPAS. EAPO planned not only to introduce IPAS to automate its own procedures, but also to assist WIPO in the implementation of this system and related tools in the IP offices of the EAPO member states. EAPO was committed to further cooperation with WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center for the implementation of extrajudicial conflict resolution system for industrial designs protection. The relevant MoU between the EAPO and the Center would be signed during the current session of the Assemblies. The past year had been very successful for EAPO. The number of applications grew by 5.6 per cent in 2018, and the positive trend continued in 2019. EAPO was proud of its effort to improve to quality of its work: development of search mechanisms, improvement of quality management, and reduced examination time. The advances achieved allowed EAPO to request promotion under the PCT System to the status of an International Search Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA). Finally, the Representative commended the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its effective coordination of EAPO and WIPO cooperation and its assistance in practical activities to organize joint events, trainings and workshops for national patent offices of the Eurasian region.

136. The Representative of the South Centre (CS) commended WIPO Member States on their pursuit of IP policies and norms conducive to their national development aspirations and beneficial to their societies. WIPO should be a platform for advancing an inclusive, balanced and flexible international IP system favorable to all countries and all types of users. As the main provider of technical assistance to develop balanced and flexible national IP systems, WIPO should ensure a fairer distribution of Program and Budget resources to meet the specific IP-related development needs of developing countries and LDCs, in line with the overall goals of the UN system. Improvements in the international and national IP systems would enhance the overall performance of the international IP system, and an improved Program and Budget process would reduce the demand for the establishment of national and regional External Offices. WIPO and other organizations providing technical assistance to developing countries and LDCs must help preserve the policy space allowed in the TRIPS Agreement and other WIPO-administered international IP agreements and make use of the flexibilities contained therein. On norm-setting, the negotiations on the protection of GRs, TK and folklore should be advanced and concluded as a priority. WIPO had an opportunity to demonstrate that the IP system could be inclusive of all intellectual creations and could support other international normative frameworks to improve transparency and provide greater legal certainty in their application. Member States would need to show flexibility and give adequate consideration to development to reach a decision on convening a diplomatic conference for a DLT. If a decision could not be reached, the WIPO General Assembly should recommend to the SCT that it continue deliberations. The CS stood ready to assist developing countries and LDCs in designing IP regimes that supported their development goals and to promote a fair, balance and flexible international IP system.

137. The Representative of the All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA) said that WIPO had made significant achievements in the previous year under the guidance and leadership of the Director General. It had been encouraging to see the expansion of WIPO's global IP services, including alternative dispute resolution services, which had been expected by many Member States, including LDCs. Such developments would greatly contribute to promoting the future development of WIPO.

138. The Representative of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) drew attention to an MoU that the EPLO had signed with the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy. WIPO would also be signing an MoU with the Academy in support of the transnational flow of IP. The EPLO had been working regularly on matters pertaining to data, IP policy and innovation within the

context of WIPO and other UN bodies and agencies. It was committed to supporting WIPO at all levels and hoped its collaboration with the Academy would contribute to a sustainable, multilateral and inclusive IP system. The EPLO had also been actively working with the Academy and with WIPO's Judicial Institute to establish a program supporting IP judges in Greece. The EPLO recognized the importance of WIPO's future involvement in UN initiatives, such as the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, and was committed to contributing to an inclusive innovation agenda.

139. The Representative of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) reported on FICCI's collaboration with WIPO on IP programs in India, including a visit by the Director General in November 2018 to speak at a meeting on the theme: "Intellectual Property and the Fourth Industrial Revolution – Challenges and Opportunities." The announcement of India's new National IPR Policy, in 2016, with intensive support from FICCI, had strengthened the country's IPR regime. Going forward, FICCI hoped to continue working with WIPO and the Government of India on joint IP projects: an international IP conference in the country; capacity-building programs for enforcement agencies; IP awareness-raising seminars in Indian state capitals; establishment of FICCI as an IP hub for business and industry in India; and an IP Exchange, enabling businesses in India to benefit from best practices in other countries.

140. The Representative of the Inter-American Intellectual Property Association (ASIPI) said that ASIPI had been founded 55 years previously and was considered the largest and most significant IP organization in Latin America. Over the years, ASIPI had forged important relationships with registration offices, sister associations and WIPO, as a result of which it had carried out and continued to plan many joint activities in the region. ASIPI and WIPO would launch a course on drafting patent applications at a seminar that would take place in Uruguay in March 2020. It should be noted that, during the Assemblies, the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks would enter into force in Brazil. In that regard, ASIPI relied on the support of WIPO to develop joint activities on the functioning of the system. ASIPI projects included: (i) ASIPI VERDE, an innovation program that sought to encourage creativity and entrepreneurship, particularly in relation to environmental conservation; (ii) a study on the economic impact of the use of trademarks in 10 countries in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru), which was jointly backed by the International Trademark Association, was aimed at analyzing the effect of intensive use of trademarks on national economies and would be launched in late October during the annual ASIPI conference in Lima (Peru); and (iii) the "Signo País" study which, in view of the lack of consensus between States on how they should protect themselves, ASIPI had decided to conduct and which had confirmed the disparity in their treatment and protection. The results achieved suggested that an international treaty or a concerted interpretation of article 6*ter* of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property should be adopted. In 2018, the issue had been addressed in Peru by the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and IP, and would soon be taken up by the SCT. The Representative reiterated its interest in strengthening its relationship with WIPO and continuing to carry out joint work for the benefit of the IP system and innovation.

141. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) said that it opposed any further work by the SCCR on a broadcasting treaty, given the confusion over the treaty's objectives. In particular, KEI objected to proposals to provide effective perpetual rights to broadcasters for content that they did not create or own or for which they were not licensed. That included works with no underlying copyright or for which the copyright holders had not been paid and/or had not granted a free public license, such as a Creative Commons license. The SCCR's work on broadcasting was also uninformed as to the exploding role of new paid, encrypted Internet streaming services, the most important of which – for example, YouTube TV (Google), Netflix, Spotify and Amazon Prime – were controlled by very large multinational technology companies rather than locally owned broadcast entities. The predictable outcome of

any new IPR for on-demand broadcasting would be that such companies were given IPRs in someone else's creative works and it was unclear why WIPO would adopt that approach. In relation to patents and health, the SCP should discuss the role of patents in the development of, and access to, new cell and gene therapies, such as CAR-T cancer treatments, Luxturna and Zolgensma. In view of the growing number of patents for such treatments, the SCP should consider the extent to which patent exceptions for human treatment applied, as well as high licensing costs and anti-competitive licensing practices.

142. The Representative of the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), which was attending the Assemblies for the first time, said that JIPA members included 1,300 companies and organizations from 12 countries, representing the world's largest users of IP systems and accounting for 20 per cent of worldwide patent applications under the PCT. At the JIPA Symposium earlier in 2019, the Director General had emphasized the importance of public-private partnership. Indeed, the public sector continued to play a critical role, and IP system users like JIPA should likewise play a leading role, not only in creating, protecting and utilizing IP, but also in rulemaking, talent development and information dissemination. In that context, JIPA had collaborated with WIPO in various activities, including by joining the discussions of WIPO standing committees and working groups. In the context of WIPO GREEN, for example, JIPA had proposed the green technology transfer mechanism, partnered with WIPO to launch that platform, and continued its outreach efforts. JIPA welcomed the WIPO-led global policy discussions, which underscored that data was key to honing a competitive advantage. Lastly, JIPA was interested in working on proposing policy recommendations to address the fundamental transformation of IP systems, owing to the shift in IP policymaking from promoting a national development perspective to one that encompassed global development.

143. The Representative of Third World Network (TWN) said that Member States seemed to believe uncritically in the absolute benefits of IP and that innovation and development would automatically follow as IP protection and enforcement were strengthened. However, empirical evidence showed otherwise. Technologically advanced nations had developed a technological base and capacity with limited or no IP protection. Certain conditions were necessary for IP to be able to deliver, such as a commercial market, commercialization capacity, a solid technological base and significant research and development capacity. In developing countries, IP continued to play a relatively minor role in the promotion of national innovation and development, and the majority of WIPO Member States were in fact net IP importers. Hence, the financial costs outweighed the benefits. A vision that promoted the absolute benefits of IP protection without acknowledging and addressing development, access and public policy concerns undermined the very credibility of the IP system. IP should not be an end in itself, but a means to support the specific development and public policy objectives of countries. In particular, the needs and rights of IP system users, including relevant ministries, students, patients, farmers, small and medium-sized companies and the public, should be recognized. The Representative expressed grave concern regarding the approach of promoting innovation through the narrow perspective of IP protection and enforcement, which risked hindering, rather than promoting, development. Many countries had joined IP treaties and had been implementing IP protection for decades; yet, they were lagging behind significantly in terms of development and innovation. The answer, therefore, was not, and could not be, more IP. Standing ready to support countries, the Representative called for more rigorous, evidence-based understanding and deliberation about the relationship between development and IP at the national and regional levels and within WIPO.

144. The Director General expressed his deep appreciation to all delegations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations for their oral and written statements. All those statements required the Secretariat's very close attention and would assuredly be examined in great detail. They constituted the Assembly's response to the Organization's direction and its activities and called for the utmost care in crafting a response. The Director General also expressed appreciation, on his own behalf and on behalf of his

colleagues, for the kind words that many participants had addressed to the Secretariat. The Director General had noted in particular the great demand for technical assistance; WIPO had always endeavored to ensure that its technical assistance and development cooperation activities were demand-driven. The statements had been an excellent opportunity for the Secretariat to take cognizance of that demand, and hence to respond to it and develop work programs accordingly. For 2020, the exercise of developing the work programs would soon begin and would in particular take into account all the statements made. The Secretariat was relying on the assistance and guidance of Member States in that regard and would begin work immediately, following the 2019 Assemblies. The Director General thanked Member States for their positive engagement in the Organization, which was the chief ingredient of the Organization's success.

[End of Annex and of document]