



**WIPO General Assemblies**  
**59<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings**  
September 30 to October 9, 2019

**General Statement of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, India- Mr Vipul Maheshwari**

Mr. Chair,

I speak on behalf of FICCI - the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry -the voice of India's business that articulates industry's views and concerns, including on IPR issues.

On behalf of FICCI, I also congratulate you on your election as chair of the WIPO assembly.

As nations across the globe rely growingly on IP to fuel their growth, FICCI is confident of WIPO under the able leadership of Dr Francis Gurry, Director General, continuing to effectively lead the way through its mission to promote innovation and creativity for the economic and socio-cultural development of all nations through a balanced and effective international IPR system.

FICCI has been privileged to have had a longstanding relationship with WIPO. We have collaborated to organize several important programs to discuss key policy and strategic IP issues of global relevance. FICCI also had the honour to host Director General Mr. Francis Gurry, the most recent being in November last year when he interacted with Indian industry on the theme "IP and the Fourth Industrial Revolution". FICCI also regularly conducts joint programs with WIPO in India on technical aspects of the PCT and Madrid systems, among others.

Indian industry is greatly encouraged by the priority being accorded by Government of India to intellectual property. Since the announcement of the National IPR Policy 2016, efforts to strengthen India's IP system have led to positive developments in several areas, be it the positive reform efforts, improved administrative processes, growing level of awareness, strengthening of enforcement mechanisms, accession to global IP conventions, among others. Meanwhile, FICCI has been working intensively on building a strong IP ecosystem in India, jointly with the Government of India and all IP stakeholders towards further strengthening the country's IPR regime.

FICCI is keen to further strengthen its relationship with WIPO. With the ongoing efforts by the Indian Government to further reinforce and modernize India's IP system, stepped up significantly post IPR Policy 2016 announcement, there are several areas where WIPO-FICCI collaboration could contribute productively. A few specific joint-activities could include:

1. An Annual International Conference on Intellectual Property, to be organized in India on topical/global issues. Such a conference was jointly organized by WIPO, GOI and FICCI for several years. It should be reinstated.
2. Capacity Building Programs for enforcement agencies, including Police, Customs and the Judiciary, in major Indian cities. This is a significant need as despite comprehensive IP laws, its enforcement is a concern.

3. Awareness Generation Seminars on Intellectual Property in State Capitals across India
4. Making FICCI an IP hub for business and industry in India – to serve as a center for IP education & skill development, research, knowledge repository and IP services (a proposal for establishment of FICCI IP HUB was submitted earlier to WIPO).
5. For benefiting from IP assets, it is important to exploit them commercially. Indian industry could benefit by following the best practices in other countries recommended by WIPO. Establishing an IP Exchange with WIPO guidance and collaboration would be a major step forward.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I wish to reiterate FICCI's commitment to the success of WIPO and its valuable work. FICCI would welcome every opportunity to be engaged in WIPO's future conversation and initiatives to ensure that intellectual property is globally respected and forms part of every country's policymaking process.

Thank you.