

## **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

### **Sixtieth Series of Meetings Geneva, May 7 and 8, 2020**

#### **DRAFT REPORT**

*prepared by the Secretariat*

1. This General Report records the deliberations and decisions of the following three Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Assemblies of WIPO):

- (1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-second (28<sup>th</sup> extraordinary) session
- (2) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (31<sup>st</sup> extraordinary) session
- (3) Berne Union Assembly, forty-ninth (25<sup>th</sup> extraordinary) session,

meeting on May 7 and 8, 2020, conducted in the form of a written procedure.

2. The list of the States members of the Assemblies concerned and the observers admitted to their sessions as of March 6, 2020, is set forth in document A/60/INF/1.

3. The meeting was presided over by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco).

#### **CONDUCT OF THE MEETING IN THE FORM OF A WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

4. The Sixtieth series of meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry.

5. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and related public health restrictions, including Host State prohibitions on public gatherings of more than five people, an in-person meeting of the Assemblies of WIPO was not possible. In this context, as noted by the Director General of WIPO, the challenges faced by the international community at this time were unprecedented. Consequently, the Director General of WIPO necessarily proposed an equally unprecedented

written procedure that would allow the Assemblies of WIPO to take relevant decisions at their May meeting for the successful discharge of their treaty obligations as part of the process of the election of the Director General (see Note A/60/C. N 3989, dated April 14, 2020, Annex I).

6. Following the proposal by the Director General of WIPO, Member States agreed to conduct the Assemblies of WIPO, exceptionally, in the form of a written procedure (see Note A/60/C. N 3990, dated April 22, 2020, Annex I). In agreeing to the proposal, Member States noted, as recalled in Note A/60/C. N 3989, that the written procedure was an exceptional response prompted by the global Covid-19 pandemic, and would not be considered a precedent for the conduct of future meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO Member States in otherwise non-exceptional circumstances.

7. Similarly, and consistent with the agreement of Member States to proceed, exceptionally, with a written procedure for the conduct of the Assemblies of WIPO, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly proposed an exceptional approach to the work of the “Working Group on the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General-Elect” (Working Group) (see document WO/GA/52/1 Rev.). The Working Group was convened informally by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to provide recommendations on the conditions of appointment of the Director General so that they may be fixed by the WIPO General Assembly (see document WO/GA/52/2 containing a summary of the deliberations of the Working Group, together with the draft contract and indicative estimate of monthly remuneration for the Director General).

8. In accordance with the written procedure, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly circulated, on April 27, 2020, the two relevant draft decisions regarding the appointment of the next Director General of WIPO for consideration by Member States (see Note A/60/C. N 3991, dated April 27, 2020, Annex II).

9. As no explicit objection to the draft decisions, in the form of a negative written response, was received by the International Bureau of WIPO by the deadline set, that is, within seven calendar days or until 5 p.m. May 4, 2020, the following two decisions were therefore considered adopted:

10. “The WIPO General Assembly and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, each as far as it is concerned, considered the nomination of the WIPO Coordination Committee referred to in paragraph 3 of document A/60/2 and unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Daren Tang as Director General of WIPO for the period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2026.”

11. “The WIPO General Assembly unanimously approved the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General, as set forth in Annex I to document WO/GA/52/2.”

12. With regard to the second decision on the conditions of the appointment of the Director General-Elect, during the informal consultations of the Working Group, several groups observed that conducting the negotiations necessary to propose amendments to the text would be difficult under the current exceptional circumstances. Therefore, following the request of one regional group, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will hold further informal consultations with interested Member States in advance of the fifty-fourth session of the WIPO General Assembly, with a view to updating the contract of the Director General for the term of office starting in 2026.

13. The Chair also invited WIPO Member States and observers to provide written statements that they wished to be reflected in the present report (see Note A/60/C. N 3992, dated April 29, 2020, Annex III). The written statements, as received by the International Bureau, are reproduced in the following paragraphs in alphabetical order of Group, WIPO Member State, and observer. The statement of the Director General-Elect follows at paragraph 92.

14. Finally, on May 8, 2020, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly communicated to Member States confirmation of the decisions that were adopted, as reflected in paragraphs 10 and 11 above, and declared the meeting of the WIPO Assemblies closed (see Note C. N 3993, dated May 8, 2020, Annex IV).

15. The Delegation of Zimbabwe submitted the following statement on behalf of the African Group:

“Mr. Chair,

“The African Group would like to thank the Chair of the General Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber, the Vice-Chairs of the Assembly, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Dr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat for their strenuous efforts in convening the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO in these challenging times. The African Group also commends the Secretariat for the preparation of documents A/60/2, WO/GA/52/1, and WO/GA/52/2.

“Further, the Group commends the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, Ambassador François Rivasseau, the Vice Chairs, and the Secretariat for successfully convening the 27<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee from 4-6 March 2020. The Group is satisfied with the transparent, credible and fair electoral process which resulted in Mr. Daren Tang, emerging as the nominee for the position of WIPO Director General.

“Chair,

“The African Group supports the appointment and conditions of service for Mr. Daren Tang, from Singapore, as reflected in documents A/60/2, paragraph 2, and WO/GA/52/1 Rev, paragraph 5, for the position of Director General of WIPO. We congratulate him on his new appointment and assure him of our support and cooperation in his new position. We note, with great satisfaction, that Mr. Tang was nominated after having received overwhelming support from the majority of Member States in the Coordination Committee. This attests to his acceptability to the generality of the WIPO Member States and the other stakeholders concerned

“The African Group would also want to give due recognition to all the other candidates who contested for the position of Director General of WIPO, including Edward Kwakwa, who was endorsed by the African Heads of State as the sole African candidate. We wish them well in their future endeavours and urge them to continue working with WIPO for the attainment of our common objectives.

“Mr. Chair,

Concerning senior appointments, it is our expectation that the Director General-Elect shall nominate a senior management team which reflects the democratic composition of WIPO Member States, in line with the principle of geographical representation. This is not to be construed as a departure from merit-based appointments, but as a simple reminder that developing countries, in particular, African Member States, have had insufficient representation within the WIPO senior management.

“Mr. Chair,

“The Director General-Elect will assume his new position at a time when mankind is faced with one of its most daunting challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the loss of life of thousands of people across the world. National borders have

been closed, supply chains have been disrupted, thousands of jobs have been lost. In a matter of just a few months, the world economy has been seriously negatively impacted.

“Amidst all this, the health sector across the entire world has been severely strained by sick and dying people seeking a cure to one of the most devastating epidemics of modern times. There is a serious scarcity of some pharmaceutical materials and equipment to combat this disease. The situation is particularly dire in African Countries.

“At no time in history has innovation and exceptions to intellectual property patent rights come to the fore. The African Group reiterates its call for global intellectual property solutions in the health sector and it is at this time that such calls have proven their credence. We recall our previous position on the need to operationalise limitations and exceptions in the intellectual property system so as to effectively deal with the emergence of diseases such as the Zika, Ebola and the Corona viruses. The use of the compulsory license system under Article 31 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) needs to be effectively fostered towards the achievement of the above aims and objectives.

“Mr. Chair,

“The mantle falls on the Director General-Elect to ensure that intellectual property is used as a catalyst to unite humanity to fight global challenges through exceptions to patent rights in health emergencies, technology transfer to capacitate developing countries to innovate and develop their own manufacturing capacity. Intellectual property should be the tool to unite the world against common challenges, something this Group has been advocating for.

“Mr. Chair,

“The Group wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Francis Gurry, for the astute leadership he has provided as Director General of WIPO. We commend him for his achievements in office, notably the opening of WIPO External Offices in Africa.

“Mr. Chair,

“The African Group is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of a member of staff of the WIPO Secretariat due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to join hands with WIPO in expressing our condolences to the family of the deceased.

“Finally, Mr. Chair, the Group reiterates its commitment to work with Director General-Elect Mr. Daren Tang, in the discharge of his mandate, and we stand ready to consider any proposals he may have on carrying out the future work of WIPO.

“I thank you.”

16. The Delegation of Singapore submitted the following statement on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group (APG):

“1. Singapore has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group (APG). At the outset, we wish to express our appreciation to Ambassador Zniber and the Vice-Chairs, for their able leadership in steering the Membership forward despite the challenging circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our thanks go to Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat as well for their hard work during this difficult time. Our thoughts are also with colleagues and their families who have been affected by the pandemic.

“2. First, we extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. The APG is particularly proud that the Director General-Elect is the national of an APG Member, which is a first for our Group. We are certain that Mr. Tang’s appointment will further ensure better and more balanced geographical representation in WIPO. We have every confidence that Mr. Tang will build on the strong foundation and lead WIPO to greater heights. We look forward to Mr. Tang fulfilling his pledge to strengthen WIPO as an inclusive organization by bringing together developed and developing Members, large and small, as well as all stakeholders. Mr. Tang can count on the full support of the APG, as we continue to move WIPO forward together.

“3. Second, the APG wishes to place on record our deep appreciation for Director General Francis Gurry’s immense contributions to the development and success of WIPO. His vision, dedication and commitment to strengthening WIPO and the global intellectual property system has delivered concrete benefits to all WIPO Members and stakeholders. Director General Gurry has introduced many useful initiatives, such as the WIPO Advanced Technologies Applications Centre and WIPO Green, as well as focusing attention on Artificial Intelligence (AI). We are grateful for his outstanding contributions and service to WIPO.

“4. Third, the COVID-19 pandemic has not only impacted the operations of WIPO, it brought about unprecedented disruptions to Member States societies and economies. In this context, WIPO - as the facilitator of innovation that brings benefits to all - should play a crucial role in enhancing cooperation among Member States. WIPO should continue to lead the development of an effective international IP system that will foster the creation of innovative measures that are essential in overcoming this crisis, while maintaining innovation incentives for entrepreneurs. Responsible and well considered actions are also needed by all concerned in WIPO to address any emerging challenge faced by all Members in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“5. In this connection, it is imperative that the Director General transition process is smooth and seamless. Regular consultations are necessary between Director General Gurry and Director General-Elect Mr. Tang on key issues, particularly those with consequences beyond September 2020. This will ensure that WIPO will be prepared and ready to move quickly once normalcy returns.

“6. The APG is confident that the WIPO leadership will continue to steer and guide the organization in a transparent and inclusive manner, striking a fine balance between fostering innovation on one hand and furthering WIPO’s Development Agenda on the other. The APG has high hopes that WIPO’s future activities will continue to ensure the global intellectual property regime contributes to the social, economic, and cultural development of its members. With this in mind, we look forward to significant progress in the various substantive and governance issues that have been long pending in the various Committees of the organization.

“7. The APG reiterates its congratulations and sincere good wishes to Mr. Tang on his appointment and the road ahead as Director General of the organization.”

17. The Delegation of the Russian Federation submitted the following statement on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC):

“On behalf of our regional Group I would like to thank the Chair of the General Assembly, the Vice-Chairs, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Mr. Francis Gurry and, the Secretariat for their strenuous efforts to convene the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO, including the drafting of the necessary documents.

“The Group would also like to thank the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Secretariat for the successful organization of the 27th extraordinary session of the Coordination Committee from March 4 to 5, 2020. The Group is satisfied by the transparent nature of the electoral procedures which took place, resulting in the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang to the post of the Director General of WIPO by the Coordination Committee.

“The Group has actively contributed to the development of an unprecedented written procedure for holding the current Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO in order to appoint the new Director General. Guided by the spirit of cooperation, transparency and the need to ensure the multilateral nature of the decisions being taken, we have adopted a flexible approach and joined this special procedure in order to expedite the work of the Organization and ensure a smooth transitional period. We would like to emphasize that the written format of holding meetings is being utilized under the exceptional circumstances caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic and should not be viewed as a precedent for the future meetings of the Organization.

“Our regional Group agrees to the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang to the post of the Director General of WIPO and to the conditions thereof. We would like to congratulate him on the occasion of his new appointment and to assure him of our readiness to support him and actively cooperate with him on a wide range of issues. We are confident that the new Director General will be able to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the mandate and goals of WIPO, as well as promote innovation and creativity through the development of the global system designed to protect intellectual property rights.

“The new leader of WIPO is facing a number of very important unresolved issues, the solutions to which can only be found through a trust-based relationship with States. We hope that the newly elected Director General will be able to form an effective team of senior officials bearing in mind the principle of fair geographical representation. We would like to emphasize the fact that the countries belonging to our regional Group are not adequately represented within the senior management and the Secretariat of the Organization, and express our sincere hope that this issue will be properly resolved. We are confident that the States belonging to our Group possess a substantial expert potential which is rooted in the successful performance of national intellectual property systems, and that the Organization could utilize this potential and benefit from it.

“We expect that the new Director General will continue to work on the development of the WIPO digital agenda. The measures taken as a result of the pandemic have demonstrated that the digital transformation of the Offices is practically the only viable strategy and basis for the work of the intellectual property Offices. WIPO plays a key role in harmonizing different approaches to using digital technologies. The Organization is becoming one of the main hubs for discussing the modalities of developing international solutions and standards for the use of the new digital transformation tools. It is our hope that WIPO will continue taking steps in this direction under the leadership of the new Director General, and that an active and open international dialogue, as well as an exchange of experience and best practices, will continue.

“The Group welcomes the work performed by WIPO in the area of multilingualism, which is one of the main values of the UN system. We are confident that this approach will contribute to mitigating the current disequilibrium and removing the existing language barriers to achieve a wider unimpeded access for the users and promote continued growth of the number of applications submitted through the international registration systems. Because of the geographical expansion of the systems the addition of new languages becomes inevitable; it is also dictated by the need to bring the systems closer to the users. Mr. Director General, our regional Group is ready to provide you with meaningful support in this area.

“Our Group would like to conclude its statement by once again congratulating the Director General on his election and reaffirming its commitment to cooperating with him in all of the key areas of WIPO work.”

18. The Delegation of Latvia submitted the following statement on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS):

“Mr Chair,

“Latvia is honoured to present this statement on behalf of the Central European and the Baltic States Group. The CEBS Group would like to express its gratitude to the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Zniber and Ambassador Rivasseau, the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, for their leadership in the selection and the appointment process of the next WIPO Director General. Your guidance was key to the successful outcome in these extraordinary circumstances that the world is facing. We thank the International Bureau for its support in these challenging times. The CEBS Group would like to use this opportunity to convey solidarity with the governments, organizations and people of the world in the global fight against Covid-19.

“The CEBS Group thanks Dr. Francis Gurry for his work during the last decades and particularly for his important contribution to the improvement of global IP infrastructure, promotion of creativity and innovation around the world and for his outstanding leadership of this organization as the Director General of WIPO. The Group will fully assess his twelve years at the helm of the Organization during the sixty-first series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies in September 2020.

“The CEBS Group congratulates Mr Daren Tang for his appointment as the Director General of the WIPO and wishes him every success in this endeavour. We trust that under the guidance of Mr Tang, WIPO will continue providing quality services to the innovators and creators around the world and will leverage ongoing technological evolution for the benefit of WIPO and its Member States. During the selection process, we witnessed and appreciated Mr Tang’s leadership skills that will benefit WIPO in years to come.

“The CEBS Group attaches great importance to the cooperation with WIPO in the improvement of the IP infrastructure in the region. We trust that the excellent cooperation will continue under the new management. The ongoing cooperation activities are crucial to the socio-economic development of the countries of the CEBS region.

“Finally, the CEBS Group emphasises the significance of the advancement of the normative agenda and the role of the IP for sustainable development.

“The members of the CEBS Group reiterate their support to the Director General elect and stand ready to work closely in the coming months and years.”

“Thank you, Mr Chair.”

19. The Delegation of China submitted the following statement:

“During this special period of the global fight against the pandemic, China has been working with all countries in solidarity to jointly tackle this unprecedented crisis. China appreciates the efforts made by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in responding to the pandemic to ensure the normal operation of global intellectual property (IP) service systems. With regard to this extraordinary session, China supports the adoption of the appointment of the next Director General through a flexible approach.

“The term of Mr. Francis Gurry, the current Director General of WIPO, will expire on September 30. China deeply appreciates the outstanding achievements of WIPO in the last 12 years under the leadership of Mr. Gurry. Those achievements are demonstrated by the following, in particular: (i) WIPO’s excellent performance in fulfilling its nine strategic objectives and in maintaining a sound financial position; (ii) the conclusion of a number of international IP treaties, including the Beijing Treaty, the Marrakesh Treaty and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, with more countries acceding to the various IP treaties administered by WIPO; (iii) active implementation of the Development Agenda (DA), mainstreaming of development in the work of WIPO and effective provision of substantial IP technical assistance to the Member States, to enhance IP capacity-building in developing countries; and (iv) more convenient and efficient IP services provided to global innovation actors through promotion of international cooperation, protection of IP and improvement of global IP service systems.

“China congratulates Mr. Daren Tang, the candidate of Singapore, on his election as the next Director General and hopes that, under his leadership, WIPO will continue to maintain a stable and healthy momentum for the balanced, inclusive and effective development of the international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of the entire world. In this connection, China wishes to express the following expectations. Firstly, WIPO should continue to play an active role in global IP norm-setting to bring about positive progress in that regard. Secondly, more attention should be directed to the mainstreaming of development, with due attention to the concerns of developing countries; the DA and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should also be actively implemented. Thirdly, global IP service systems should be continuously improved to better serve global innovation actors. Fourthly, WIPO should be more open and transparent in its financial policies and budget execution, especially in the allocation and execution of budget for major projects, so as to afford Member States timely access to relevant information and to ensure their full participation.

“China will continue to participate actively in the work of WIPO and to strengthen its cooperation with WIPO. China looks forward to working with WIPO to contribute to the global IP development efforts.”

20. The Delegation of Germany submitted the following statement on behalf of Group B:

“1. Group B wishes to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Zniber, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador Rivasseau, the WIPO Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, and all other colleagues who have made it possible for this important session of the WIPO Assemblies to proceed in these unique and unprecedented times. Equally, we would like to pay tribute to all essential workers around the globe who are at the front lines of fighting the current crisis.

“2. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Director General Gurry for his long lasting dedication to intellectual property in general and to the World Intellectual Property Organization in particular. We look forward to reflecting fully upon the twelve years of his leadership and accomplishments during the sixty-first series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies scheduled for September 2020.

“3 Group B warmly congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as WIPO Director General to take office on 1 October 2020. We look forward to building a productive and valuable engagement with Mr. Tang, and working together closely on the vision and priorities for WIPO he set out before the election.

“4. A transition period is now starting, lasting until the handover of duties on October 1, 2020. We are confident that the transition will proceed smoothly, as this is in



the interest of Member States, stakeholders, and WIPO as institution. In order to achieve this and as customary, Group B expects close cooperation and communication between Director General Gurry and Director General-Elect Tang. Also, we call on the Secretariat as a whole to provide Director General-Elect Tang any support needed in preparing for the assumption of his new role.

“5. Group B highlights WIPO’s important and indispensable work in the provision and development of global IP services. This is one of the primary objectives of WIPO. The Organization has achieved significant results in recent years and has an excellent record of sound financial stewardship. Prudent, cautious, and effective management of WIPO services will be key for continued positive performance; this applies all the more in view of the uncertainty caused by the current COVID-19 crisis.

“6. The current crisis has also exposed and highlighted the important role WIPO plays in communicating the complexities of intellectual property and its place in sustaining innovation and creativity. The core mandate of WIPO is “to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world”. In addition to advancing this mandate through good work with Member States and stakeholders, we look forward to the WIPO’s continued constructive engagement in key international fora.

“7. The Organization also faces major new challenges and opportunities. Digital transformation and artificial intelligence are rapidly evolving areas to which WIPO should continue to adapt and to which the Organization should maintain its investments. Moreover, we encourage WIPO to continue its efforts in the Conversation on IP and Artificial Intelligence (AI) with its Member States and other stakeholders. Our Group believes that WIPO should play an important role in this respect to the benefit of the organization’s work and coordination among Member States.

“8. In the area of good governance, Group B also wishes to take this opportunity to underscore the importance we place on the principles of accountability, transparency, ethics, and independent functions of internal oversight and ethics. In that vein, Group B takes note with interest of the inclusive informal discussions between Member States ahead of the 2021 General Assembly regarding the update of the Director General contract as of the 2026-2032 term.

“9. Group B wishes Mr. Tang all the best in his new role as Director General and looks forward to cooperating closely with him and his team in the coming six years.”

21. The Delegation of Jamaica submitted the following statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean Countries (GRULAC):

“Mr. Chair,

“On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), the Delegation of Jamaica extends congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang, on his appointment to the post of Director General of WIPO.

“GRULAC is confident of the strong leadership which will be brought to bear, by Mr. Tang, in steering WIPO towards achieving its core mission, which is, namely, to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables and facilitates innovation and creativity for the benefit of all its Member States. We are also confident that the skills and experience for which Mr. Tang has become known, will benefit WIPO as well as its Member States.

“GRULAC certainly looks forward to his guidance of our work on the important issues on the agenda of this Organization, including on the normative agenda, the mainstreaming of the forty five (45) Development Agenda Recommendations and the promotion of cooperation and technical assistance.

“Mr. Chair, importantly, it is GRULAC’s aspiration that during his term, Mr. Tang will enhance and reinforce the work of WIPO within our region. In particular, we look forward to the development of concrete actions, regional projects and initiatives by the new Director General, aimed at enabling GRULAC countries to increase their levels of innovation and harness the full benefits of IP as a tool for development and economic growth.

“GRULAC also expects that Mr. Tang will positively and actively address imbalances of gender and regional representation among the staff of WIPO, which in our view will *per se* allow for a more comprehensive understanding of the IP needs and areas of opportunity for Member States.

“GRULAC is confident that Mr. Tang will ensure the continued strong performance of WIPO’s global IP systems and maintain WIPO’s healthy and stable financial situation, while promoting innovation in Member States.

“Mr. Chair, GRULAC also wishes to express appreciation to the WIPO Secretariat for its support in preparing the documentation, the provision of technical and legal guidance and facilitation of the relevant processes, which resulted in our being able to complete the process of nomination and appointment of the new Director General in unprecedented and unique circumstances. In this context, we are happy that the international community positively responded to such a challenge. At the same time, GRULAC would wish to underscore its position that the written procedure that allowed us to overcome such exceptional circumstances caused by COVID-19 shall not be considered a precedent for the conduct of future WIPO meetings.

“Mr. Chair, the Group would also like to take the opportunity to express GRULAC’s sincere appreciation to the outgoing Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, for his significant contribution to the important work of WIPO and, by extension, to GRULAC, not only in his capacity as Director General but also in the varying other capacities in which he has served the Organization over the past 30 years. We commend him for his astute leadership which was evident in the agility and responsiveness of WIPO in seeking to address the needs of developing and least developed countries, particularly in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth and development through IP. We wish Dr. Gurry all the very best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

“In closing, GRULAC would like to reiterate its full support for the mandate of the new Director General as well as the Group’s unwavering commitment to the work of this very important Organization.

“Thank you Mr. Chair.”

22. The Delegation of Qatar submitted the following statement on behalf of the Arab Group:

“The State of Qatar has the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of the Arab Group. We would like to thank Ambassador Omar Zniber, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and his Vice-chair, the Director General of WIPO, the Arab Bureau officials, as well as the WIPO Secretariat, for continuing to support the work of the Organization during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The Arab Group wishes to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang, on his nomination to the post of Director General of WIPO. We are confident that Mr. Tang will continue to strengthen WIPO’s global standing and its increasing capacity in promoting and harnessing innovation and creativity for inclusive development and welfare of all. In this context, the Arab Group pledges full support for Mr. Tang in fulfilling his duties and his work successfully.

“We wish also to express deep gratitude to Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, for his great contribution to the development and success of the Organization. We all know the huge efforts he made throughout his two mandates as well as his dedicated work for enhancing the global IP system, while streamlining the development agenda. We would like to praise his numerous initiatives, including the Advanced Technology Applications Center (ATAC).

“Mr. Chair,

“Over the last years, countries of the Arab Group have worked continuously on developing their national legislation to be in line with international developments in this field. Guided by this leading Organization under its Director General, Francis Gurry, they have aimed at achieving their sustainable development objectives and building a knowledge-based economy. The Arab Group has supported current negotiations for the development of international protection instruments, notably in the SCCR and the IGC. We look forward to continue along that path and achieve the widest consensus possible among Member States during Mr. Tang’s next term of office. We trust that he is very much aware of the importance to conclude those processes and that he is willing to support them.

“Mr. Chair,

“In conclusion, in the context of these exceptional circumstances, the Arab Group supports WIPO in its efforts to fulfill its paramount role in promoting cooperation among Member States and providing substantive services to all Members. It is noteworthy that many of the innovations supported by WIPO have contributed to various global solutions in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that this crisis is quickly overcome and that WIPO continues its leading role in the development of an efficient and inclusive international IP system that encourages creativity and innovation for the benefit and welfare of all.

“Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

23. The Delegation of Algeria submitted the following statement:

“The Delegation of Algeria aligns itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group. We wish to congratulate Ambassador Omar Zniber, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. We would also like to take this opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation to the WIPO Secretariat for the excellent preparation for this meeting, in particular making available the relevant documentation, during these difficult times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We wish to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his election as the new Director General of WIPO and the support he received from Member States. We wish Mr. Tang a successful term of office and assure him of our full willingness to work closely with him and provide him with the necessary support for the fulfilment of his duties and achievement of the goals and objectives of WIPO as a UN agency specialized in intellectual property by enhancing and improving the global IP system to realize the economic, social and cultural development objectives for all.

“My country looks forward to the establishment of the WIPO Senior Management Team by the Director General-Elect, on the basis of expertise, competence and geographical representation, in order to enable the Organization to address the various challenges ahead and respond to expectations of Member States more efficiently.

“The Director General-Elect takes office in difficult times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which is having serious repercussions worldwide. It is a real test to gauge our collective resilience and capacity to face these challenges and overcome the serious consequences caused by the crisis. We should strengthen multilateralism and reinforce international cooperation and solidarity. More than ever, this stresses the pivotal role of UN agencies, such as WIPO, in setting up the necessary mechanisms to ensure access to medical technology and innovation for public health in developing countries and LDCs, and facilitate fair and universal access to medicine at affordable costs, especially through the use of compulsory licenses. This would strike the right balance between IP rights and public interest. In this regard, we would like to emphasize the importance of fair, efficient and timely access to future vaccines against the Covid-19 for all countries, especially the developing ones.

“The Delegation of Algeria reiterates its commitment to work constructively with the new WIPO Management for further promotion of IP rights and their enforcement. We are committed to continue working on matters of concern to developing countries, especially by reinforcing advanced technical support for Member States, streamlining the development dimension throughout all WIPO activities through the effective implementation of the 45 Development Agenda Recommendations, as well as promoting creativity and innovation especially among young creators and innovators with novel ideas and projects. We also look forward to participate in future discussions in a constructive manner with a view to reach concrete and relevant agreements while balancing interests of Member States. We would like to take this opportunity as well to emphasize the importance of fair and balanced geographical representation in WIPO’s Secretariat.

“Finally, my Delegation wishes to express appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Francis Gurry for this excellent work during his mandate as Director General of WIPO and the numerous successes that he achieved during his tenure of office. In particular, we would like to thank him for facilitating the entry into operation of the WIPO Office in Algeria.”

24. The Delegation of Austria submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“At the outset, Austria would like to associate itself with the Statement delivered by Germany on behalf of Group B. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Chairs of the WIPO General Assembly and the Coordination Committee and everyone in WIPO who worked very hard during the last weeks to react to the current COVID-19 situation and to make this meeting possible in a new format in order to ensure the Organization’s full operability.

“The Austrian delegation wholeheartedly congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of WIPO. We look forward to cooperating and working with him and his team in the six years to come to implement the vision and priorities which the Director General-Elect has presented to us in his election campaign and especially in the hearing before the Coordination Committee.

“Based on the conviction that the effective and timely provision of IP services to innovative and creative individuals and businesses from all over the world is one of the core objectives of the Organization, Austria believes that undisturbed operations and constant development of these services – which also provide for the sound financial situation of the

Organization – should be seen as a top priority especially in view of the current COVID-19-situation.

“The current crisis also shows the importance of digitalisation and of using artificial intelligence to face the challenges WIPO and the IP system are confronted with. In order to continue to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world and to convincingly demonstrate the benefits of IP protection improving everyone’s life, WIPO will not only have to address Member States and stakeholders, but reach out to the public at large and also pursue to work with all relevant international fora.

“We would like to reassure the Director General-Elect of Austria’s continued support to successfully respond to actual and future challenges the Organization and the global IP community will be facing in the years to come.

“On this note, Austria would also like to take this opportunity to thank Director General Francis Gurry for his more than 35 years of dedicated work for WIPO and especially for his commitment and service in leading the Organization successfully for almost 12 years. Noting his immense experience and insight in the Organization’s internal and external affairs, we are convinced that close communication and cooperation between Director General Gurry and Director General-Elect Tang until October 1 is going to secure a smooth transition at the helm of WIPO.

“Thank you.”

25. The Delegation of Botswana submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair, Director General Gurry, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

“Mr. Chair,  
Botswana would like to thank you and your Bureau, as well as the Director General and his staff for the hard work in preparing for this Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, during these challenging and unprecedented times.

“Mr. Chair,  
At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“Mr. Chair,  
Botswana supports the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang, a national of Singapore, to the position of Director General of WIPO, together with the conditions of his appointment contained in documents A/60/2 and WO/GA/52/1 Rev.1, respectively. We congratulate him on his appointment and offer him the assurances of our firm support and cooperation in his new role.

“My delegation wishes to recognize the commendable leadership of the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, his Bureau and the Secretariat for successfully overseeing the electoral process which in our view was conducted in a transparent, credible and fair manner. Botswana also notes with satisfaction that Mr. Tang received overwhelming support in his nomination as Director General-Elect, thus giving assurances of his wide acceptance across the WIPO Membership.

“We also recognize and congratulate other candidates who contested for the position of Director General, we wish them success in their future work and we hope they will continue contributing positively to the work of WIPO.

“Mr. Chair,

We recognize that the situation we face today owing to the COVID-19 global pandemic has necessitated an unprecedented silent procedure for the appointment of the Director General. It is indeed commendable that we agreed to it in the spirit of goodwill and multilateralism to ensure continuity of the work of the Organization and a smooth transition. Needless to say, we underline the understanding that the adoption of this procedure was on an exceptional basis and will not create a new precedent.

“Regarding the appointment of the WIPO senior management team, it is desirable that in nominating his team, the Director General-Elect considers a balance between principles of geographical representation, gender balance and above all-merit-based appointments. It is well known that African Member countries are not sufficiently represented in the Secretariat of WIPO, and some like Botswana do not have representation at all. We therefore echo the sentiments of the African Group and stand ready to engage in this regard.

“Mr. Chair,

We also recognize that the Director General-Elect will take up his position during a time when humanity is faced with the most pressing challenge in a century; the COVID-19 pandemic has had a heavy toll on public health systems and an enormous socio-economic impact across the world. Despite the disproportionate impact on Africa, we are encouraged by the fact that technology, innovation and intellectual property are central to the resilience and recovery strategies, including access to medical and pharmaceutical products at affordable and reasonable terms.

“In this connection, and in view of the introduction of export restrictions on medical supplies critical to addressing COVID-19, the importance of exploiting intellectual property limitations and exceptions has never been more important, to ensure access and local production for purposes of mitigating vulnerabilities associated with overdependence on imports.

“We look forward to working with Mr. Tang as we explore avenues and opportunities to operationalize patent flexibilities to build our capacities to effectively address these health epidemics and pandemics – now and in the future. We need to ensure domestic pharmaceutical production that contributes to the diversification and resilience of our economies in the African continent.

“Mr. Chair,

It would be remiss of me to not express the sincere gratitude of the Government of Botswana to Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, for his leadership and championing intellectual property for development. We equally recognise and thank him for his leadership during these unprecedented times. We express the hope that he continues this astute leadership during his ‘last stretch’ at the helm of WIPO and wish him success in his future endeavours.

“Mr. Chair,

My delegation has learnt with sadness of the untimely passing of some members of staff of the WIPO Secretariat due to the Covid-19 disease. We join other delegations and the WIPO Secretariat to express our condolences to the families of the deceased.

“Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

26. The Delegation of Brunei Darussalam submitted the following statement:

“At the outset, Brunei Darussalam would like to align ourselves with the statement delivered by Singapore on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group (APG).

“We share the appreciation expressed for the able leadership and guidance of Ambassador Zniber and the Vice-Chairs, as well as the hard work and efforts of Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat during this challenging time. Our sympathies and thoughts are with everyone, particularly those directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Brunei Darussalam congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the Director General of WIPO. The election of Mr. Daren Tang is good news for Brunei Darussalam as not only does he hail from a fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member State but Singapore is also a close neighbor and partner of Brunei Darussalam. Mr. Daren Tang is also personally well known to many within the intellectual property rights and trade circles in both our countries, as well as having a well-earned reputation for leading Singapore’s Intellectual Property Office into innovative heights. We look forward to working closely with him on this next chapter of the WIPO.

“Brunei Darussalam would also like to express our deep appreciation for the contribution and commitment of Director General Francis Gurry throughout his twelve years leading the WIPO. During his two terms, he has navigated and led the organization through many major challenges, from addressing rapid technological change, and ensuring that intellectual property system encourage creativity and innovation. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

“Brunei Darussalam assures that it will continue to work closely with the WIPO and to support its efforts.”

27. The Delegation of Burkina Faso submitted the following statement:

“Chair,

“First of all, Burkina Faso would like to congratulate the Chair of the General Assembly, the Director General of WIPO and the Secretariat for their efforts to complete the process to nominate a new Director General, in spite of the difficult circumstances related to Covid-19.

“We also wish to extend our congratulations to the Chair of the Coordination Committee and his team for the manner in which they conducted the election of the new Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang, on March 4, 2020.

“Burkina Faso aligns itself with the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“Chair,

“Burkina Faso warmly congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination as Director General of the prestigious organization that is WIPO.

“We extend our full support to him in the conduct of his duties, which will continue to present significant challenges despite the work of his predecessor.

“Among these numerous challenges, particular attention should be paid to that presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, which is causing an unprecedented global crisis.

“It is for this reason that Burkina Faso calls on the new Director General to ensure that full attention be paid to the development of innovation and intellectual property, exceptions and limitations to patent rights in the field of health, and technology transfers in order to further integrate those issues into WIPO activities.

“Chair,

“The global importance of intellectual property cannot be overstated. Indeed, it is a formidable tool for African economic development.

“Burkina Faso therefore welcomes activities under the Development Agenda to build capacities and buttress technical assistance projects, as they contribute to promoting the effective and efficient use of the intellectual property system in socioeconomic development.

“Chair,

“Burkina Faso wishes to express its gratitude to the outgoing Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for the multifaceted support it has received.

“We also congratulate him for the positive outcomes achieved by the Organization, as well as the efforts made to increase its global standing.

“Burkina Faso wishes him the greatest success in his future endeavors.

“Chair,

“To conclude, Burkina Faso has no doubt that the new Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, will be able to meet all challenges faced by the Organization during his mandate effectively and decisively. He will always be able to rely on the support of Burkina Faso to do so.

“Thank you.”

28. The Delegation of Cambodia submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

At the outset, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and H.E. PAN Sorasak, Minister of Commerce and Chair of National Committee for Intellectual Property of Cambodia, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 60<sup>th</sup> Assemblies of WIPO. We take note of your determination in leading members to draft the decisions of the written procedure.

“We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Francis Gurry and his team for their tremendous leadership, strong commitment and tireless efforts to lead the World Intellectual Property Organization to the prosperity of IP as we have today. We appreciate and congratulate the achievements of WIPO have been notably made under his 2 terms served as the WIPO Director General.

“Cambodia attaches the importance of IP as one of the key drivers for economic growth and poverty reduction. The Royal Government of Cambodia, therefore, under the able leadership of our Prime Minister, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, has put in place the Industrial Development Policy, which IP is included and, in addition, a National IP Strategy has formulated and updated with the support of WIPO.



“Also, it has placed IP as an important part of its comprehensive economic policy to encourage innovative, creative and technological development as well as made great efforts to adopt IP laws and regulations since 2002. Currently, Cambodia is implementing various on-going projects such as the branding project, national IP strategy 2020-2025, project on resources and management diagnostic, establishment of technology and innovation support center, and drafting and amending IP laws and regulations.

“In order to catch up with the world IP system growth of international IP services and development, the Royal Government has integrated itself to the international agreements, conventions and treaties. For instance, recently, Cambodia has become the 95th member of the Madrid Protocol, 151st member of PCT, 66th member of the Hague Agreement, 1<sup>st</sup> State party to join the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2018, Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances in 2019. In principle, Cambodia is ready to be a member of Berne Convention. The instrument of accession regarding the Berne Convention will be deposited with the Director General once COVID-19 constraints allow. I would also like to emphasize that Cambodia has committed to join other WIPO treaties in the near future to enable us fully utilizing the IP system and its development.

“From the above efforts, many progresses have been made including Cambodia has risen in the overall rankings of Global Innovation Index and managed to achieve a GDP growth in average of more than 7% per annum for the last decades.

“Mr. Chair,

“For the selection of the next Director General of WIPO, the Royal Government of Cambodia expresses its congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination as the candidature of the above position by the Coordination Committee of WIPO. In line with the said nomination, I would like to confirm that the Royal Government of Cambodia supports Mr. Daren Tang as the next Director General of WIPO at the Extraordinary Session of WIPO General Assembly today.

“We believe that under his bright leadership and commitments, WIPO would achieve further progress and outcomes of IP for the better world including the expansion of WIPO’s global IP and increasing the participation of Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) to serve and play its active role in relevant divisions of the organization. In this connection, I would like to inform that members of Asia and Pacific Group (APG) have selected Cambodia as a candidate for membership of the Coordination Committee for a term of 2022-2023. I commend all members for the trust and selection.

“Mr. Chair,

As the above-mentioned achievements, activities and application, we wish to see that, under leadership of the new Director General, more attention and financial resource support the following:

- “1. To improve the representation of LDCs including Cambodia to serve at all level to ensure that the LDC’s interests are taken into consideration and well accommodated,
- “2. To increase the Technical Assistance and capacity building to support the branding of potential of local products, and
- “3. To support LDC countries in strengthening and improving their IP administration, innovation, invention and enforcement in responding to the change of the global IP situation as well as the needs of our people.

“Mr. Chair,

I would like to thank WIPO and all relevant stakeholders for supporting IP development to ensure that the IP system serves its fundamental purposes of encouraging creativity and innovation in all countries under the principle of “leaving no one behind”. Cambodia commits to work closely with the new appointed Director General and all members in the way forward with a positive spirit of multilateralism and constructive engagement.

“Finally, my delegation wishes the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO a successful adoption and conclusion.

“I thank you!”

29. The Delegation of Canada submitted the following statement:

“Canada congratulates Daren Tang for his appointment to the post of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Canada wishes to underscore the significant milestone that this achievement represents for Singapore and its commitment to multilateralism, as Mr. Tang becomes the first Singaporean to head an agency of the United Nations.

“Canada looks forward to working with Mr. Tang and his team toward further promoting the key role of WIPO in facilitating global business, innovation and trade. WIPO is the world’s IP office, and Canadian businesses of all sizes depend on WIPO services to grow, export, and conduct business internationally, supporting employment at home and abroad. In this regard, Mr. Tang’s policy orientations, including in view of his client-focused, pragmatic approach as Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, are promising.

“Canada believes that Mr. Tang will be a valuable partner as Canada continues to promote sound financial practices, results-based management, rigorous ethics, strong accountability, thorough transparency and overall good governance in the United Nations system and at WIPO. Canada also trusts Mr. Tang to leverage his negotiating experience to help continue building bridges among Member States as we jointly pursue collaboration in improving the global IP regime and meeting ever-changing realities. Canada will also continue to promote inclusive, Member-State-driven decision-making at WIPO. Canada assures Mr. Tang of its full collaboration as we build on our Organization’s strengths and continue to guide its advancement.

“Canada also congratulates and thanks Dr. Gurry for his 35 years of committed service to WIPO, and in particular the last 12 years as Director General, during which Dr. Gurry provided dedicated leadership to WIPO and its Member States. Dr. Gurry created a recognizable brand for WIPO as the crossroads of the IP world, led a sweeping Strategic Realignment Program that transformed the Organization, and helped foster WIPO into the enviable position it enjoys. Canada wishes Dr. Gurry every success in his future personal and professional endeavours.

“Canada also acknowledges all candidates who participated in this process, thanks them for their commitment to WIPO, and wishes them well in their endeavours at WIPO or elsewhere.

“Finally, Canada wishes to highlight and commend the excellent work of the Secretariat, including the Office of the Legal Counsel, in guiding Member States through this process in unprecedented circumstances with discernment, resilience and professionalism.”

30. The Delegation of Chile submitted the following statement:

“Thank you very much, Chair.

“Firstly, the Delegation of Chile would like to express its deep appreciation to Mr. Francis Gurry for his dedication and work on behalf of WIPO. We would like to emphasize that, thanks to his efforts and those of his team, the organization has garnered political and financial successes that have contributed greatly to its global position as the benchmark in intellectual property matters and as a driving force for multilateralism.

“We would also like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment to the post of Director General and to assure him of our country’s support during his term of office.

“Our delegation believes that intellectual property will remain at the top of the international agenda because of rapid technological advances, including the development of artificial intelligence, and because of the infinite creative capacity of human beings. Thus, we believe that in the current global pandemic, WIPO must be a beacon that directs and guides countries to work together and seek creative solutions for the benefit of humanity through IP.

“We hope that, in accordance with its mandate, WIPO will strengthen and improve its work in our region by positioning intellectual property as a strategic tool for development. The global innovation index has shown in recent years that our region still has much potential to exploit and it is essential that, in a globalized world, the use of IP is a “critical element” for achieving full integration into global value chains.

“We do not wish to miss this opportunity to highlight the importance of learning from past experiences in relation to WIPO’s normative agenda. In this regard, negotiations must be transparent, inclusive, consider all views and incorporate a balance. We reaffirm our commitment to achieving results on designs and request that work on exceptions and limitations be further strengthened. The pandemic and confinement have put particular pressure on the way schools teach. There is limited access to cultural content, such as museums, and to essential medicines, among others. This requires a specific and unequivocal response and therefore we see an opportunity for the Organization to promote normative work in these areas.

“Thank you very much, Chair.”

31. The Delegation of Colombia submitted the following statement:

“Your Excellency, the Chair of the General Assembly of WIPO  
Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors  
Distinguished delegates:

“On behalf of the Government of Colombia, I wish to state briefly that our country fully endorses the collective appreciation of our geographical region, expressed by the delegation of Jamaica as the current chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).

“Additionally and in a national capacity, Colombia would like to share the following key messages with the General Assembly.

“We welcome the selection of Mr. Daren Tang of Singapore as the WIPO Coordination Committee’s nominee for the post of new Director General of WIPO. From November 2019 to March 2020, a Colombian national competed for the same appointment, and we are well aware of the long and difficult road we have had to travel at

WIPO to reach this point. Colombia therefore welcomes Mr. Tang's nomination and encourages all WIPO Member States also to ratify their support for the nominee. This is because we are confident that, if confirmed by the General Assembly, the new Director General will be ideally able to assume and manage all the challenges facing WIPO now and in future.

"In addition, we congratulate and thank outgoing WIPO Director General Mr. Francis Gurry for his work and express our sincere appreciation for his dedication and commitment during his time at the helm. Our region and country have enjoyed his unwavering support on matters of priority for our countries.

"We would like to highlight the performance and leadership of Mr. Marco Alemán in implementing programs at WIPO.

"Finally, we emphasize that, as a country that promotes cultural industries, science, technology and innovation, and with a government that focuses on the orange economy, Colombia considers it vital to continue working with the incoming Director General, inviting him to learn about the interests of Colombia, which will be an ally in promoting the WIPO's services in the region.

"Thank you very much."

32. The Delegation of Costa Rica submitted the following statement:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, cordial greetings. We hereby express our agreement with the proposal made by the Coordination Committee of WIPO for the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); we offer him our sincere congratulations and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

"In the wake of this election, we hope to strengthen the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, enabling the continuation of regional cooperation, especially as concerns capacity-building for Offices and facilitating access to training courses offered by the Organization, the vast majority of which are not in Spanish.

"For many years, our country has used the IPAS system for both trademarks and patents. Accordingly, we are interested in seeing stronger WIPO technical support and assistance to user countries and access to source codes, in order to make it easier for user Offices to use the system.

"Regarding regional initiatives, we hope that WIPO can participate in current projects in Latin America, such as IBEPI and PROSUR, in order to strengthen them and obtain tangible results for our region.

"In relation to international treaties on intellectual property, we urge the development and implementation of a proposal on the financing of the Lisbon System on appellations of origin and geographical indications, to which Costa Rica is a party, as well as a support strategy for the countries of the region interested in signing the Madrid Protocol."

33. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire submitted the following statement:

"Chair, Director General, Heads of Delegations, Excellencies, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

"Chair,

"My delegation wishes to express its sincere gratitude to you and to the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador François Rivasseau, and to Mr Francis Gurry,

Director General of WIPO, for holding the sixtieth series of meetings of WIPO Member States at a time when the world is facing restrictions on health grounds as a result of Covid-19

“We congratulate the Secretariat for the high quality of documentation, which will make for the smooth running of our proceedings.

“Chair,

“Côte d'Ivoire associates itself with the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group and supports the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang for the position of Director General, after registering its agreement that the WIPO Assemblies should be exceptionally conducted in writing, as attested by documents A/60/C. N 3989 and A/60/C. N 3990 and WO/GA/52/2.

“Côte d'Ivoire wishes in particular to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang for his outstanding election and wishes him full success in the performance of his new functions. My country assures Mr. Tang of its support and full cooperation in contributing to the promotion and development of a balanced and efficient global intellectual property system that serves all Member States. Côte d'Ivoire knows it can rely on him to pursue this objective, which is clearly set out in the WIPO Convention, with devotion and abnegation.

“My delegation lauds the eminently democratic spirit that prevailed during the election of March 4, 2020. In particular, it salutes and thanks all the candidates for demonstrating their various strengths.

“Chair,

“Côte d'Ivoire wishes to recall the many challenges that WIPO faces. It is very important to face these challenges if certain objectives are to be achieved.

“As regards geographical distribution, my country is keenly interested in its implementation in the appointment and recruitment of senior officials and staff of WIPO, in particular within the senior management team. Developing and least developed countries are insufficiently represented within these spheres. Accordingly, Côte d'Ivoire, which has always espoused the principles of justice, fairness and democracy, hopes that these States will see greater involvement and participation in WIPO's activities.

“On the normative framework, Côte d'Ivoire is convinced that Mr. Daren Tang will give new impetus to this area, which is the most sensitive aspect of WIPO's work program as it seeks meaningful progress on various pending draft instruments.

“Côte d'Ivoire considers that the Covid-19 pandemic has revived the issue of access to medicines. This issue demonstrates that, for all States without exception, the flexibilities laid down in the Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights are relevant, welcome and beneficial. Côte d'Ivoire therefore wishes to restate its commitment to a more wieldy and inclusive use of these flexibilities to afford all countries, in particular developing and least developed countries, easier access to medicines.

“Chair,

“My country warmly congratulates Mr. Francis Gurry for his excellent work and remarkable achievements during his two terms in office. We wish in particular to express our profound thanks to him for the exemplary cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and WIPO.

To conclude, Côte d'Ivoire assures Mr. Daren Tang of its complete willingness to support him fully in the fulfilment of his mandate.

"It invites all delegations to be constructive to ensure that our work is crowned with success.

"Thank you."

34. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted the following statement:

"Mr. Chair,

"At the outset, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) would like to thank you, Ambassador Omar Zniber and the work team of WIPO Secretariat, who have made sincere efforts to ensure the successful proceeding of this extraordinary meeting in the time of crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Mr. Chair,

"The DPRK has the honor to express warm congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang, who has been appointed as the next Director General of WIPO by the current extraordinary meeting.

"At the same time, our heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr. Francis Gurry, who has made professional and dedicated efforts in achieving the strategic goals of WIPO while working at the Secretariat for over three decades.

"In particular, we would appreciate his outstanding leadership displayed in his work aimed at improving the international patent and copyright systems and encouraging creativity and innovation on a global scale through realigning WIPO programs and structures, etc. during the terms as Director General.

"Mr. Chair,

"The appointment of Mr. Daren Tang by a unanimous decision is the manifestation of recognition and trust by the Member States on his expertise in the field of intellectual property as well as on his humble and diplomatic fulfillment performed during his engagement in WIPO activities in recent years.

"In addition, it is regarded as a sign of expectation for him to represent the interests of all Member States and to fully demonstrate his experienced leadership in enhancing the role and capability of the organization, establishing a fair and just Global IP System and strengthening international cooperation.

"We hope that WIPO would actively promote science and technology and strengthen cooperation and exchange among Member States in conformity with the increased global interest in intellectual property as a catalyst for social and economic development, thus greatly contribute to achieving the SDGs adopted by United Nations.

"Today in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate that WIPO could make a distinguished contribution under its competency together with WHO and other International Organizations in the global joint response action, especially to realize equal access to COVID-19 health products.

"We are proud of Mr. Daren Tang being elected as the first Director General of WIPO from the Asia and Pacific Group and are ready to provide full support and cooperation for his successful leading of the organization in the future.

"The DPRK government would continue to actively pursue the national development in science and technology with the sound IP system as its leverage and further develop the cooperative relations with WIPO and its Member States.

"Thank you."

35. The Delegation of Denmark submitted the following Statement:

"Denmark wishes to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assemblies, Ambassador Zniber, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador Rivasseau, and the International Bureau for able steering and guidance in this election procedure in these difficult times.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing WIPO Director General Francis Gurry for his impressive and longstanding leadership of WIPO and wish him the best in future endeavors.

"Denmark congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as WIPO Director General.

"Denmark is a strong proponent of modernizing the multilateral organization and we are convinced that Mr. Daren Tang will contribute positively in this respect. The continued development of global IP services that are fit for purpose is key priority for Denmark.

"We look forward to the collaboration in the years to come and Denmark wishes Mr Daren Tang the best in his new role."

36. The Delegation of Egypt submitted the following statement:

"Mr. Chair,

"The Delegation of Egypt supports the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group. We would like to congratulate you for your election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. We also express our thanks to the WIPO Secretariat for its efforts in preparing this session as well as all related working documents, despite the enduring times the world is facing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. My delegation also would like to express its appreciation to Ambassador François Rivasseau, for his good leading of the Coordination Committee meeting, which was held on March 4, 2020, and led to the election of the new Director General of WIPO.

"The Delegation of Egypt would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination. We confirm our full readiness to support him in fulfilling his mandate and achieving the Organization's objectives for the benefit of the international IP system. My Delegation wishes all the success to Mr. Tang in establishing a senior management team for the Organization. We trust that the establishment of such a team would be based on fair geographical distribution, as well as on expertise and competence, in a way that responds to the aspirations and expectations of Member States.

"Mr. Chair,

"The Director General will take office in a time when the world is encountering the unprecedented challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. This challenge also brings with it negative consequences impacting all aspects and the world economy, as well as its expected effects on the multilateral system and efforts deployed by United Nations

Agencies, including WIPO. This situation requires that efforts be joined more than ever, and priorities be redefined in order to overcome the negative impacts of this crisis. Therefore, we would like to stress here the importance of enhancing the WIPO role in the future. This should be done in a way that reflects the vital role of IP in addressing world urgent challenges, notably by supporting research, development and innovation efforts in the field of public health, especially in developing countries, and increasing the application of compulsory licensing of patents related to public health and improving access to medicines.

“The Delegation of Egypt would like to confirm its commitment to collaborate with Mr. Tang in order to pursue the role played by WIPO. Such role aims at promoting creativity and innovation, implementing WIPO Development Agenda, enhancing the capacities of countries to achieve sustainable development goals, and extending its activities in the area of technical assistance and capacity building, especially in developing countries, to encompass all the goals of the 2030 Development Agenda. We look forward to seeing a progress made, in the coming phase, in the ambitious international instruments that are on WIPO agenda, in order to adopt a number of international conventions that would contribute to enhance and enrich the international IP system. We also look forward to the continuation of WIPO efforts towards increasing the use of modern technology and artificial intelligence, both within its internal working processes and within services provided.

“Mr. Chair,

“The Delegation of Egypt would like to take this opportunity to extend its thanks to the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his good management and leadership during the previous years. His efforts have contributed to the Organization’s financial stability, and to the support of its role within the United Nations System and the multilateral system in general. They have also contributed to the enrichment of the IP system, and the increase in using its tools in different fields. We wish all the success to Mr. Gurry in his future endeavors.

“Thank you Mr. Chair.”

37. The Delegation of France submitted the following statement:

“Chair,

“On behalf of the Government of the Republic of France, I join my counterparts in welcoming the election of Mr. Daren Tang as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“In addition, France associates itself with the statement made on behalf of Group B.

“Chair, I would also like to extend special greetings and thanks to the outgoing Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and to all the WIPO teams which, under his leadership, have made it possible to achieve excellent results in the promotion of intellectual property in recent years.

“Chair,

“At a time when multilateralism is sometimes challenged and even attacked, I wish to reaffirm my Government’s support for strong, modern and effective multilateralism, of which WIPO is a good illustration.



"The great challenges of our century are global, and the response must be global as well. Our countries are so closely linked, our citizens are now so dependent on each other that it is illusory to think we can succeed alone; unilateralism is outdated; it is on the wrong side of history.

"Multilateralism, on the contrary, offers a good response to the challenges of globalization. It embodies a certain philosophy of international relations, based not on the law of might or wealth, but on responsibility and solidarity.

"It protects our global commons. I am thinking in particular of health, trade, the environment, global warming and digital technology.

"In this context, WIPO plays a major role.

"We know how much the future of our societies depends on innovation in science, technology and the arts; we also know that innovation requires a framework that is protective, nurturing and stimulating.

"Because invention is extraordinarily difficult, demanding and fragile, inventors must therefore be able to count on fair recognition and fair remuneration; they must know that they will not be cheated, but rewarded; and they must also be able to share and exchange views in an arena that is no longer national, or even regional, but global. And WIPO must help to encourage them in their efforts, to give them both the openness and the security they need.

"For all these reasons, we support WIPO.

"Chair,

"France is aware that users of each of the intellectual property protection systems consider it fundamentally important that they function and are managed properly.

"That is also why France would like WIPO to fulfil its mandate in the right conditions and to fully preserve its integrity. Thus, we remain faithful to the principles and objectives of WIPO, as set out in Article 3 of its WIPO Convention of 1967, underscoring both the unity of the organization and the solidarity, in particular budgetary solidarity, across the Unions.

"In this respect, France, like its partners, will remain particularly attentive to the preservation and development of the Lisbon Union.

"However, France notes that some technical discussions, some of which began more than 20 years ago, have still not been concluded, at the same time as new projects are about to be launched, often requiring rapid responses, such as addressing challenges related to new technologies. I am thinking in particular of life sciences, artificial intelligence, robotics and metadata, for example.

"Therefore, while it is necessary to allow time for negotiations and sometimes to preserve their confidentiality, it is also important to adapt to the rapid technological developments in an ever-changing world.

"Results are awaited and these cannot be so far in the future as to be unreal.

“In conclusion, you may rest assured, Chair, that my delegation will play an active and constructive part in the work of WIPO under the leadership of Mr. Daren Tang. Let me assure him of my Government’s full support in the exciting task of leading an organization that must remain true to its founding principles.

“Thank you.”

38. The Delegation of Gabon submitted the following statement:

“Chair,

“Gabon is making this statement under Item 3 of the Agenda and associates itself with the statement of the African Group delivered by Zimbabwe.

“My country thanks the Chair of the Assemblies, Ambassador Omar Zniber, and assures him of its full support in the discharge of his mandate.

“These congratulations also extend to his Vice-Chairs and to the WIPO Secretariat, in particular to the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for the preparation of the documents of which we take due note, in particular document A/60/2, on the decision to appoint the Director General-Elect.

“Gabon would like to commend your efforts to make it possible to hold this 60<sup>th</sup> session of the WIPO Assemblies, given the exceptional situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic that is currently raging around the world.

“My country fully understands that the organization of this session of the Assemblies according to the written procedure meets an absolute imperative of prudence linked to the need to limit human interaction that could increase the spread of the virus, and that this constitutes a case of force majeure.

“We extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his outstanding election as Director General of WIPO and wish him every success during his term of office. In particular, we welcome the excellent result achieved by the candidate from Singapore, which reflects a great capacity to unite and a strong sense of consensus, but also the broad support of the majority of the voting States for the vision he has espoused.

“In view of his credentials and extensive experience in the management of intellectual property, we have no doubt about his ability to administer this great organization in a spirit of balance and respect for its various components.

“In this regard, we are pleased to stress the need, also expressed by Mr. Daren Tang during his campaign, to ensure equitable geographical representation within the WIPO Secretariat, particularly for countries with little or no representation. We agree with him that the presence of all Member States within the Secretariat is the starting-point for the erection of an international intellectual property system that can provide targeted responses in a context where disparities are legion.

“We would like to take this opportunity to commend Ambassador François Rivasseau, Permanent Representative of France, Chair of the Coordination Committee, and its Vice-Chairs, for the consensual conduct of the process leading to the election of the Director General of WIPO at the 27<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee, from March 4 to 6, 2020. We particularly appreciated the spirit of collegiality that prevailed throughout this process.

“Chair,

“The current health crisis has plunged all of our countries into an unprecedented situation, marked by widespread uncertainty that makes economic forecasting difficult, if not impossible. When the time comes to take stock, our Governments will undoubtedly have to face multiple challenges at the economic, social, health and cultural levels, as our societal structures have been profoundly disrupted.

“This pandemic reveals the extreme interdependence of our countries and the urgent need to adopt international standards that are both fair and respectful of the great diversity, particularly sociological, of our States.

In such circumstances, the mobilization of the United Nations and its specialized and related institutions and agencies is more important than ever to provide international frameworks that facilitate attaching the proper value to traditional assets, for example.

“Finally, Chair,

“My country supports the decision on the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang to the post of Director General of WIPO and the contractual conditions of service as contained in documents A/60/2 and WO/GA/52/1 Rev.

“Thank you.”

39. The Delegation of Georgia submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“On behalf of Georgia, I would like to express special gratitude to the leadership of WIPO to the Chairs of the General Assembly and WIPO Coordination Committee, for successfully conducting selection and appointment process of the WIPO Director General. Herein, I would like to also highlight the explicit efficiency and commitment by the WIPO Secretariat which has provided full support to its Member States and in the unprecedented situation caused by pandemic COVID19 organization could proceed with the planned election and appointment of the Director General in outstanding professional manner without any delays.

“I would like to express our deepest appreciation to Mr. Francis Gurry for his hard work and extraordinary success that WIPO has achieved during his 12 years term. His devotion in terms of expansion of IP system has brought international cooperation under this organization to new level. Herein, delegation would like to highlight importance of adoption of several international treaties that should have been impossible without Mr. Gurry’s active engagement and his enormous contribution in reaching consensus between Member States. I express special thanks Mr. Gurry for visiting Georgia in 2015 that triggered new initiatives between WIPO and Georgia resulting in Georgia’s active engagement on international platform and new joint projects carried out with WIPO assistance.

“With this statement I would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang for his appointment as the Director General of WIPO and wish him great achievements and venture management. The century we live provides unlimited possibilities and we are confident that Mr. Tang will utilize and enhance WIPO capacity to promote and develop environmental friendly green innovations, endorse digital transformation of the services IP offices provide and demonstrate sustainable support to the private sector to ensure economic growth and development of IP-based economic globally.

“Sakpatenti is dedicated to strengthen and deepen cooperation with WIPO and we are confident that the remarkable cooperation which we had over the course of last years will remain and will continue cooperation in same professional and efficient manner under the new management of WIPO.

“In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our deepest appreciation to WIPO Director General Mr. Francis Gurry, wish him best of success in his future endeavours and once again congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment on Director General position.

“Thank you, Mr Chair.”

40. The Delegation of Germany submitted the following statement:

“The German Government would like to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Zniber, for his leadership throughout these unprecedented times. We are very thankful that he conducted successfully these Assemblies given the unforeseen circumstances. We want to extend our thanks to the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador Rivasseau, the WIPO Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, and all other colleagues who have made it possible for this important session of the WIPO Assemblies to take place in these challenging circumstances.

“The German government asks the Director General-Elect Mr Daren Tang to accept our warmest congratulations on his election for the office of Director General by these Assemblies of the World Intellectual Property Organization. At the same time, we would like to wish him every success for his forthcoming term in office. As chair of the SCCR, he has already demonstrated his outstanding expertise and leadership skills in the WIPO system.

“As the global institution for intellectual property, the World Intellectual Property Organization is of paramount importance to Germany. Germany supports an international framework for intellectual property that strikes an adequate balance between the differing interests and concerns in this area. WIPO can rely on our unreserved support for the use of balanced and effective rules to promote global innovation, development and creativity, as well as economic, social and cultural development in all Member States.

“Artificial Intelligence will change the ways in which we think, work and interact. In this context, the IP system is a decisive driver for innovation and creativity both at the national and international levels. Germany is grateful for WIPO’s engagement in this area. In our view, WIPO can play a key role both as an international observatory identifying and monitoring trends and developments, as well as a global forum for the exchange of ideas and the coordination of efforts.

“The German Government firmly believes that the new Director General will succeed in continuing the reforms at WIPO embarked upon by his predecessor. We will also continue to support him in finding conciliatory and convincing solutions to the many, often heatedly debated issues surrounding intellectual property.

“We are confident that the focus of WIPO as the premier global organization for Intellectual Property will stay on ensuring that IP remains an efficient driver of innovation and creativity worldwide, and on the efficient and user-friendly delivery of its global IP services. We will actively support any efforts in achieving the new Director General’s ambitious goals in ethics, governance and independence. We know that trust can be built by means of transparency and accountability and are willing to promote these aims.

“We also want to take this opportunity to thank Director General Gurry for the commitment he has shown for this organization in the last twelve years of his leadership, as well as his even longer lasting dedication to WIPO and IP as a whole. He has attained remarkable results in transforming WIPO into an effective and user-oriented organization, and at the same time underlined the importance of modernizing the system of international IP treaties.

“We align ourselves with the statement made by Group B. In closing, we would also like to thank the International Bureau of WIPO under the guidance of its current Director General Francis Gurry for the excellent preparation of this rather unusual Assembly. We wish Mr. Daren Tang all the best for the coming six years and we will engage in close cooperation with him and his team.”

“Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

41. The Delegation of Ghana submitted the following statement:

“Thank you, Mr. Chair,

“The Delegation of the Republic of Ghana associates itself with the statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“Ghana wishes to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang of Singapore for his nomination and appointment as the next Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and to pledge its support to him, recognizing the fact that he is taking up the leadership of WIPO at a very critical time in the global community. Indeed, the importance Member States continue to place on creativity and innovation was reflected in the number of well-qualified candidates that were put forward for the election for the position of Director General. We accordingly, wish to acknowledge the efforts of all other candidates and in particular, Dr. Edward Kwakwa, our distinguished national and the African Union-endorsed sole African candidate, and urge them to continue working in the interest of WIPO.

“Mr. Chair, the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought a lot of pressure on many countries and the international community as a whole. The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated just how crucial multilateral institutions are to our collective health, prosperity, and security. Inasmuch as national governments are doing a lot on their own, there is the need for international cooperation. The challenge now is for international organizations and national governments to work together to find lasting solutions to deal with the pandemic. The role of international organizations, especially, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and WIPO are even more important at this point in time as the international community is expected to come together in a coordinated, coherent whole to respond to the wider socio-economic impacts of the crisis. The objective of WIPO, which is to promote the protection of IP through cooperation among its Member States and where necessary in collaboration with other international organizations still needs to be carried out despite the challenging times we find ourselves in. This Delegation notes with pleasure that there are still new accessions to WIPO treaties, in spite of the challenging public health circumstances. WIPO has recorded good results in the last few years. It is this Delegation’s hope that the pandemic will not impact, negatively, on the gains made by the Organization.

“Mr. Chair, it will be appropriate at this point to recognize and commend Dr. Francis Gurry, the outgoing Director General of this Organization for putting WIPO on a sound footing financially and leading the Organization to achieve a record high in demand for its global IP services in 2019. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors. The Delegation of Ghana further, records in advance, with appreciation, its gratitude to Director

General Gurry, who will pave a seamless way for his successor Director General Tang to take office on October 1, 2020, as shown by his exemplary commitment towards the greater good of the organization all these years.

“Mr. Chair, the appointment of the new Director General marks the beginning of a new phase in the life of the Organization. Mr. Daren Tang has the mandate to build on the foundation which has been laid by all previous Directors General of this Organization. Ghana hopes that Mr. Tang will strengthen the existing cooperation and work with Member States and regional groups to ensure that interests are fairly addressed to prevent marginalization in the Organization. To carry out this onerous task, Mr. Tang will need to build a solid management team to assist him carry out his mandate. The Delegation of Ghana is confident that he will be up to the task.

“Mr. Chair, Ghana has traditionally regarded multilateralism as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. The Delegation of Ghana therefore reaffirms its support to WIPO and to Mr. Daren Tang to ensure he has a successful term of office. We look forward to working with Mr. Daren Tang to advance WIPO’s mission of promoting the protection and use of intellectual property as a means of driving innovation, development and economic opportunity globally.

“We thank you for your attention.”

42. The Delegation of the Holy See submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“1. The Delegation of the Holy See expresses its sincere congratulations to you and to the Chair of the Coordination Committee for the integrity and the transparency manifested throughout the process for the election of the Director General, especially in these troubled times. Equally, we would like to take this opportunity to commend all of the frontline workers around the globe who “offer a witness of care and love for our neighbors, to the point of exhaustion and not infrequently at the expense of their health”<sup>1</sup>. It is also an occasion to manifest deep appreciation to Dr. Francis Gurry for his commitment to intellectual property in general, for his leadership and for the achievements during the twelve years as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The historical Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities and the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, concluded and entered into force during his mandate, among others, bear witness to his fruitful management.

“2. The Delegation of the Holy See congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as WIPO Director General. Given his record of accomplishment and the priorities he set out before the election, there is much expectation that this Organization will continue to be led in the right direction and stands ready to cooperate.

“3. The Holy See recognizes the role of the protection system of intellectual property in promoting the literary, scientific or artistic production and, generally, the inventive activity for the sake of the ‘common good’. At the same time, it emphasizes the ethical and social dimensions that uniquely involve the human person and its action. The exceptional challenge that the whole human family is currently facing demonstrates that the magnitude of the response must match the scale of the crisis and it must be multilateral, with countries showing solidarity to the most vulnerable communities and nations.

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, *Urbi et Orbi* Message, 12 April 2020.

“4. The current crisis has also exposed and highlighted the need to communicate the complexities of intellectual property and to place it in the context of innovation and creativity frameworks. The Delegation of the Holy See is confident that the new WIPO COVID-19 search facility of PATENTSCOPE will represent a critical tool in disseminating information on technologies that others may build upon for the global fight against COVID-19<sup>2</sup>. Such initiatives are a practical response that will provide scientists, engineers, public health policymakers, industry actors, and members of the general public with an easily accessible source of intelligence for improving the detection, prevention, and treatment of diseases such as the novel coronavirus.

“5. In the coming years, digital transformation and artificial intelligence will present new challenges; the Organization and its services have to adapt urgently to this continually changing scenario. Artificial Intelligence is not “neutral”. It is a result of many disciplines involved each entailing a specific area of responsibility. As recalled by Pope Francis, “Solid reasons need to be developed to promote perseverance in the pursuit of the common good, even when no immediate advantage is apparent. There is a political dimension to the production and use of artificial intelligence, which has to do with more than the expanding of its individual and purely functional benefits (...). There is a need to create intermediate social bodies that can incorporate and express the ethical sensibilities of users and educators”<sup>3</sup>. The Delegation of the Holy See believes that questions of ethics, human rights, and creative sector markets are central considerations, both in re-examining existing IP policy goals in a changing world, and in affirming our shared responsibility and common purpose to ensure that these emerging technologies are developed and used ethically and for the good of humanity and the environment.

“Among the various important areas of concern that this body is called to address, some new debates are of particular interest to this Delegation:

- reaching an agreement on a text of an international legal instrument, which will ensure the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, and folklore. The crucial role played by indigenous communities in relationship with their ancestral lands calls for a different model of development which takes into consideration the connection between the human person and the environment. During this biennium of negotiation, the Holy See considers it critical that the discussion on the legal instrument must not only favor the preferential option on behalf of the poor, the marginalized, and the excluded, but also consider their leading role. “Others must be acknowledged and esteemed precisely *as others*, each with his or her feelings, choices, and ways of living and working. Otherwise, the result would be, once again, “a plan drawn up by the few for the few”<sup>4</sup>, if not “a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority”.

- moving forward in the negotiation on the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcast Organizations, taking into account current rapid technological developments. The service provided by broadcasters and the significant value of broadcast calls the Member States of WIPO to continuous work in updating the existing international framework with due regard to technological developments.

- the copyright system must continue to play its essential role in incentivizing and rewarding creativity and innovation and, at the same time, to take into account the broader interests of our society, such as education, research, access to information and creative content. Promoting the quality and the accessibility of education worldwide should be a priority for every Member State and, in this context, limitations and exceptions are a key issue to take into account. Education, which etymologically means ‘to bring out’ or ‘to lead

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<sup>2</sup> Patent Scope COVID 19 Index , launched on 22 April 2020 available at <https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/covid19.jsf>

<sup>3</sup> Pope Francis, Meeting with the Participants in the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Academy For Life, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 239; AAS 105 (2013), 1116.

out', has a fundamental role in helping people to discover their talents and potential and to use them at the service of mankind: each person has something to offer to society and must be enabled to provide his or her contribution. The challenges facing our human family today are global, in a more wide-ranging sense than is often thought. Through education, it is possible not only to form minds to a broader vision capable of embracing distant realities, but even more to recognize that mankind's moral responsibility today does not just extend through space, but also through time, and those present choices have repercussions for future generations.

"In conclusion, Mr. Chair, allow me to renew the Holy See's congratulations to the Director General for his election and to express again our willingness to collaborate as usual with him and the Secretariat.

"Thank you, Mr. Chair."

43. The Delegation of India submitted the following statement:

"Mr. Chair,

"At the outset, India would like to align itself with the statement delivered by Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group (APG). We also express our sincere appreciation to the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, for ably steering the proceedings of this meeting, despite the challenging circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We would also express our gratitude to the WIPO Secretariat for their hard work during this difficult time. Our thoughts are also with colleagues and their families who have been affected by the pandemic.

"Mr. Chair,

"2. India would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. We are confident that Mr. Tang will take this organization to greater heights in the coming years.

"3. India also extends its sincere appreciation for the meticulous work done by Director General Mr. Francis Gurry and his team in the last 12 years. Under the leadership of Mr. Gurry, the India-WIPO relationship attained great heights. Mr. Gurry has effectively led and steered the activities of this organization during his tenure as Director General of WIPO.

"Mr. Chair,

"4. India is confident that Mr. Tang and his team would continue to steer the organization in a transparent and inclusive manner, while maintaining a fine balance between fostering innovation on one hand and fulfilling the developmental needs of its Member States on the other hand. We are hopeful that we would make substantial progress in the near future on all substantive and governance issues pending in the various committees of the organization. The work on the WIPO Development Agenda needs to continue as well as revitalized.



“Mr. Chair,

“5. India believes that the transition phase needs to be smooth and seamless so as to ensure effective functioning of the services of the organization. Once again, we would like to extend our sincere wishes to Mr. Tang for his appointment and wish him the best for the road ahead in his role as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“Thank You.”

44. The Delegation of Indonesia submitted the following statement:

“At the outset, we would like to convey our sincere appreciation to Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber, for his very able stewardship during this time of COVID-19 pandemic. We also highly commend Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts during these difficult times. Furthermore, our deepest sympathy goes to colleagues who have been affected by the pandemic.

“Indonesia associates itself with the statement by the distinguished delegate of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, and wishes to convey a few remarks in its national capacity.

“First, we would like to express our hearty congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. Indonesia certainly shares the views of Mr. Tang on how intellectual property could be used to promote socio-economic development. We welcome his commitment to change the way people think about and work with intellectual property in order to make it relevant not only to the policymakers but also ‘the people of the street’. As a fellow member of the APG and ASEAN, Indonesia has every confidence in Mr. Tang’s ability to balance the interests of all stakeholders in order to forge consensus in the organization.

“Second, the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly disrupted much of our way of life. However, there are indeed lessons that can be learned not only to mitigate and resolve the current crisis but relevant as well to better prepare ourselves for such similar crisis in the future. It is taken for granted that intellectual property promotes innovation. In times of crisis, however, speed is of the essence. The public’s need for equitable, effective, and affordable access to the solution, whether in the form of a vaccine, treatments, or cures, should be at the forefront. International collaboration and cooperation are a must, and flexibilities should be exercised in the face of this pandemic. Balancing the interest of right-holders and the public interest has always been the main concern of policymakers but when global challenges pose an unprecedented threat to human lives, it is clear what should be the priority.

“Third, Indonesia reiterates its view on intellectual property as a powerful tool for development; for economic, social, and cultural development. However, it is clear that its effectiveness depends very much on how laws, policies, and practices are designed and effectively implemented. Thus, whether in the discussions of ongoing normative agenda or new and emerging issues, development considerations should continue to be an integral part of WIPO’s work. Furthering the WIPO Development Agenda is essential in order to ensure that the global intellectual property system remain relevant and beneficial to all.

“Last, but certainly not least, we would like to convey our sincere appreciation to Director General Gurry for his dedication and hard work in the last 12 years. Under his strong and effective leadership, WIPO has successfully addressed major challenges posed by increased demand for its services, rapid technological changes, and existing knowledge

gap between developed and developing countries. We strongly believe that Mr. Tang will continue the excellent work that Director General Gurry has achieved. It is also our hope that under Mr. Tang's leadership, WIPO will forge ahead toward a better and more balanced geographical representation in the Organization.

"We look forward to continuing our great cooperation with WIPO. Rest assured that Indonesia remains committed to support and promote the global intellectual property system in order to encourage creativity and innovation as well as fulfil the development needs of WIPO members.

"Thank you."

45. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) submitted the following statement:

"1. At the outset, we feel obliged to cherish the memory of the victims of the COVID-19 and pay tribute to courageous doctors and frontline health care professionals for their sacrificial efforts to save human lives.

"2. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran extends its warm felicitations to the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the General Assembly for their deserved election and congratulates them for professional conduct of this General Assembly session in the format of written procedure.

"3. We would also like to thank the current WIPO Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry for exemplary discharge of his responsibilities during his 12 years tenure as WIPO's Director General. Dr. Gurry's outstanding legacy will always be dearly felt and appreciated within WIPO and beyond. His deep sense of dedication to multilateralism, and his wise measured approach toward inter-State collaboration were key in making WIPO as one of the most flourishing organizations in the past decade. We wish him best of success in whatever tasks he may undertake upon completing his term as Director General of WIPO.

"4. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran warmly congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the new Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. We are confident that he would mobilize all necessary professional qualities and collective wisdom needed to lead WIPO at a very crucial juncture; at the time of rapid technological changes and when multilateralism face with serious challenges.

"5. WIPO is the leading international authority in the area of IP which is mandated to promote invention and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system. Given the emerging challenges, the new Director General has before him an enormous task to promote the role of WIPO to respond effectively to the legitimate concerns of all Member States.

"6. Technological advances may have their own setbacks in terms of increasing inequalities. It is one of the WIPO's responsibilities to mitigate, through its development programs, the disadvantageous effects of rapid technological changes on the capacity of developing and least developed countries. In this regard, there is a need for an effective collaboration, and a mutually responsive relationship between Member States and the Secretariat to enable the Organization to keep pace with technological and economic changes. The role of the Director General for creating networked coordination to make the Organization more effective and more accessible to play its bridging role is essential.

“7. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to attach high significance to WIPO as an embodiment of multilateralism and collective norm-setting. We should make every effort to shield WIPO against unilateralist agendas. To address the challenges caused by unilateralism, all stakeholders need to stick to rule of law, respect international law and be committed to multilateralism.

“8. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue its constructive role in fulfilling WIPO’s global mandate and advancing the agendas of its Governing Bodies and Committees through cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat. We are confident that our cooperation with WIPO will be further enhanced during Mr. Tang tenure.”

46. The Delegation of Israel submitted the following statement:

“Israel would like to thank the Chair of the WIPO Assembly, Ambassador Zniber and the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador Rivasseau, the Secretariat and everyone involved in the preparations for this important session. It is increasingly necessary to find alternative solutions that allow us to continue our cooperation and work during these extraordinary times.

“We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry whose tireless work and professionalism throughout his tenure contributed significantly to WIPO’s development and success among the international agencies and organizations. Thanks to his vision for the future of the organization, he paved the way to be better prepared for challenging times as we confront now, fighting Covid-19.

“Israel would like to take this opportunity and congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his election as Director General of WIPO. We are confident that he will continue pursuing the successful path to further strengthen WIPO’s role as a leading United Nations Specialized Agency supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

“Israel, as one of the leading PCT filers per capita, an active actor in WIPO’s international systems and through our role as an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examining Authority, will continue to be a committed member of WIPO and looks forward to working closely with Mr. Tang to realize our common goals.”

47. The Delegation of Japan submitted the following statement:

“First of all, Japan would like to express its appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry for his leadership in fulfilling WIPO’s missions, including, most recently, dealing with the difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic in cooperation with IP offices. We also commend the WIPO Secretariat for their efforts in holding the General Assembly under such difficult circumstances. Japan will be actively involved and engaged in WIPO’s efforts to overcome the situation.

“Japan wishes to convey its warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of WIPO and would like to pay tribute to the remarkable talent and the outstanding caliber of Mr. Tang. With his abilities, leadership and wealth of experiences in the field of IP, we are confident that the new Director General will take the lead in further vitalizing this organization and developing its activities to move it to the higher plateau while ensuring transparency, impartiality and accountability in the management of WIPO.

“Japan believes that it is important for WIPO, under the leadership of the next Director General, to advance the following initiatives: first, leading international initiatives to properly reform and modernize the intellectual property (IP) system in response to rapid and sweeping innovation in such fields as artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of

Things (IoT), and second, playing a more active role in paving the way to establishing a better international system, therefore, ensuring the proper protection and utilization of IP, so that all people in all Member States can enjoy the fruits of innovation fairly.

“In order to support WIPO in achieving these missions as well as in overcoming the current challenging situation, Japan is determined to participate more actively and responsibly in the management of WIPO. Japan looks forward to working closely with Mr. Tang and his team.

“Finally, Japan would like to conclude its statement by expressing again its sincere congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang and wishes him every success.”

48. The Delegation of Kenya submitted the following statement:

“The Delegation of the Republic of Kenya thanks the Chair of the Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber; the Vice-Chairs; the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Dr. Francis Gurry; and the WIPO Secretariat for convening the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO, despite the extraordinary circumstances that the world is facing.

“Kenya also aligns with the statement that was made by the Republic of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“Kenya further commends the WIPO Coordination Committee, led by the Chair Ambassador Rivasseau, for the transparent manner in which the Committee conducted its 27th Extraordinary Session on 4-5 March 2020, which culminated in the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang for the position of WIPO Director General. Kenya fully endorses the nomination process and congratulates Mr. Daren Tang for the successful nomination and assures him of unwavering support upon his assumption of office.

“Mr. Chair

“The Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO are held in extraordinary circumstances, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have learnt, with profound sadness, that the WIPO Secretariat has also been adversely affected by the pandemic and that some members of staff have succumbed to the COVID-19 virus. We join other delegations in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the WIPO Secretariat and to the families of the staff who passed on.

“Mr. Chair

“Intellectual property is at the center of the fight against COVID-19 both in terms of response and prevention of future recurrence. This has reinvigorated the debate on the balance of rights and obligations in the context of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, particularly with respect to access to medicines to alleviate the pandemic. Kenya therefore looks forward to continued engagement with WIPO and all stakeholders to advance this dialogue on striking a balance between intellectual property rights and public health.

“In conclusion Mr. Chair,

“Kenya reiterates its support to Mr. Daren Tang and wishes him a successful tenure once he assumes office.”

49. The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan submitted the following statement:

“On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic I would like to thank the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Dr. Francis Gurry and the WIPO staff for ensuring the continuity of all of the services and information resources in the area of intellectual property.

“We wholeheartedly support the written statement made on behalf CACEEC.

“We are fully aware of the gravity and scale of the COVID-19 coronavirus infection pandemic, but, due to the guidance provided by WIPO and the solidarity shown by the world community, many institutions responsible for granting intellectual property rights have continued their work, thus providing the conditions for innovation and creativity for the benefit of everyone. We are part of a noble cause.

“We are particularly grateful to the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, Ambassador François Rivasseau, under whose leadership the procedure of nominating a candidate to the post of the Director General of WIPO has been successfully completed. As everyone already knows, the election took place in a transparent and friendly atmosphere and resulted in the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang. We offer our sincere congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang and assure him of our full support in pursuing the course announced by him.

“We note the brilliant work of Dr. Francis Gurry during his tenure as the Director General of WIPO, and deeply appreciate the fact that Mr. Daren Tang will continue pursuing the reforms initiated by Dr. Gurry. Mr. Tang’s ample expertise, as well as his bold solutions and balanced approach, will undoubtedly lead WIPO to a new level of development, and, in this regard, we would like to see more innovation – both literally and figuratively speaking. The history of successful breakthroughs is a tale of perseverance that overcomes rejection. A big part of any reformer’s success is his ability to convince others of the value of his ideas. We wish Mr. Daren Tang perseverance and success in realizing his aspirations.

“In conclusion we would like to note that we look into the future with great optimism, and our faces are turned to the Sun; when we hear that ‘our world is never going be the same as before’, we hope that it will become better.”

50. The Delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere congratulation to you Ambassador Omar Zniber for your election as the Chair of WIPO General Assembly and my congratulations also go to all Vice-Chairs. I am confident that under the leadership of our new Chair and his team the frameworks of WIPO will have a great success.

“Mr. Chair,

“On this occasion, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deepest appreciations to Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, his team and WIPO Secretariat for the excellent performance of WIPO frameworks in providing the valuable assistance to the Member States, including the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Director General Dr. Francis Gurry and his team have provided a great contribution for the development of the WIPO frameworks. If we may recall in the past years,

Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry has devoted his commitment to strengthening the WIPO frameworks and the global intellectual property system, which have delivered concrete benefits to all WIPO members and stakeholders.

“At the same time, Mr. Chair, please allow me in taking this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations and to extend my warmly welcome to Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the new Director General of WIPO which will start his term from October 1, 2020. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic is particularly proud of having ASEAN’s national be elected as the Director General of WIPO.

“I am confident that with his knowledge, wisdom, rich experiences and the highest determination, Mr. Daren Tang will bring the WIPO an inclusive approach which will contribute the interests to all Member States as well as to further strengthen the rules-based multilateralism systems for the WIPO frameworks.

“In conclusion, I would also like to reiterate that the Lao People’s Democratic Republic is pleased to lend its full support to Mr. Daren Tang for his noble functions and may I convey my best wishes to our new Director General and his team good health and a great success of their new upcoming assignments.

“I thank you Mr. Chair.”

51. The Delegation of Latvia submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“The Delegation of the Republic of Latvia would like to express gratitude to the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and the Secretariat of the WIPO for ensuring a successful transition of the on-site meeting of the WIPO General Assembly Fifty-Second (28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session to a written procedure. We value your efforts and flexibility in the unprecedented times we are facing.

“The Delegation of the Republic of Latvia would like to express sincere appreciation to Dr. Francis Gurry for his remarkable efforts in implementing the mission of the WIPO over the last 12 years. His commitment and achievements as the Director General of the WIPO have greatly contributed to the development of the IP system globally. In addition, we appreciate the excellent cooperation between our institutions throughout the years.

“The Delegation of the Republic of Latvia would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of the WIPO. We wish him success in his new role and in achieving the set priorities. We are confident that under his leadership, the WIPO will continue to strengthen its effectiveness and integrity. We are looking forward to working with Mr. Daren Tang to promote innovation and leverage the rapid technological evolution for the benefit of the WIPO and its Member States.

“Thank you.”

52. The Delegation of Lebanon submitted the following statement:

“The Delegation of Lebanon aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the regional groups to which it belongs. We would like to make the following statement in our national capacity:

“At the outset, we wish to congratulate Ambassador Omar Zniber, for conducting the work of the General Assembly with his customary composed style. We also express

appreciation and support for the two Vice-chairs. We thank the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, and the WIPO Secretariat for the good preparation of this Assembly and continuous conduct of the work of the Organization in an optimal manner during these enduring times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The Delegation of Lebanon congratulates Mr. Daren Tang for his nomination to the post of Director General of WIPO. We would like to assure him of our trust and full support in his mission to lead WIPO toward the enhancement of global innovation with the view to achieve the development objectives of Member States by establishing a balanced and efficient international IP system.

“We wish to take this opportunity to extend to Mr. Francis Gurry our deep appreciation and consideration for his great achievements during his tenure of office at the head of this Organization. He successfully moved the Organization’s performance to higher levels in terms of services provided to Member States as well as scientific and intellectual contributions that help us explore various aspects of the future of humanity. We reiterate to Mr. Gurry that Lebanon acknowledges the support he continuously provided to us. We wish him good health and success in his future endeavors.

“Mr. Chair,

“While Lebanon is currently facing major determining challenges, we would like to assure you of our commitment, more than any time before, to build and develop our national capacity in the field of IP, especially by modernizing our legislative system for the protection of IP rights, and by integrating IP concepts in various sectors, in line with best international standards. In this regard, we look forward in the coming years to reinforce our cooperation with WIPO on the promotion of a knowledge-based economy by encouraging creativity, innovation and research and development.

“During these exceptional times that the whole world is facing, my Delegation wishes to praise WIPO for its effective role in favor of the SDGs and international cooperation in order to provide a better future and more welfare for our people. We also look forward to WIPO’s work, within its field of expertise, in facilitating international efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and alleviate its consequences.

“Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

53. The Delegation of Malaysia submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group. At the outset, Malaysia would like to express our appreciation to the Chair of the Assemblies, Ambassador Omar Zniber, the Vice-Chairs, Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for their effort in convening the 60<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO in view of the challenges and restrictions faced as a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic. Malaysia would also like to take this opportunity to convey our deepest condolences to all WIPO members on the loss of lives due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“Mr. Chair,

“Malaysia joins others in warmly congratulating Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. Malaysia is confident that Mr. Tang would strive to continue and strengthen the good work of WIPO and its members. Malaysia also wishes to express our gratitude to the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee,

Ambassador François Rivasseau, for his excellent leadership in ensuring the smooth conduct of the entire election process.

“Throughout these years, Malaysia has worked closely with the Secretariat, engaged actively in WIPO activities and participated in various programs organized by WIPO. Malaysia recognizes the tremendous contributions made by WIPO under the leadership of Director General Francis Gurry notably the successful conclusion of the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties. On this note, Malaysia wishes to place on record our thanks and appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry for his commitment and dedication throughout his tenure.

“Mr. Chair,

“WIPO is recognized as an international Organization with a clear mandate in ‘developing a balanced international Intellectual Property legal framework to meet society’s evolving needs’. During these challenging times when the world is currently facing Covid-19 pandemic, which has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths worldwide, the role of WIPO is now more important than ever.

“As the next Director General of WIPO, Malaysia hopes that Mr. Tang would engage with all Member States to discuss and collate views regarding IP-related issues concerning the pandemic. Malaysia also hopes that Mr. Tang would continue to support the priorities and interests of developing countries, such as the advancement of normative agenda, the ongoing negotiations within the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) and the issue of a better geographical balance in the work of the Organization.

“Malaysia acknowledges that Mr. Tang will be assuming his new position at a very critical time when the political realities and narrative related to intellectual property has become increasingly prominent and challenging. In this regard, Malaysia expresses our full support and readiness to engage constructively with Mr. Tang and the Secretariat in order to fulfil the Organization’s mandate.

“Once again, Malaysia congratulates Mr. Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO and conveys our best wishes for his successful term of office.

“Thank you.”

54. The Delegation of Mexico submitted the following statement:

“Chair,

“The coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on the way we interact and has cast the world into an unprecedented crisis. It is a very encouraging sign that, despite the difficulties, we are able to move forward with the agenda of this WIPO General Assembly and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions. Mexico appreciates your leadership, Chair, and also recognizes the work of all the delegations and the Secretariat. There is no doubt that united, we can better face challenges and adversity.

“The Government of Mexico congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of the Organization for the term running from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2026. We wish him every success in the discharge of his mandate and offer him our fullest cooperation.



“If there is one thing that the current situation has made clear, it is that innovation and scientific development are the tools that will enable us to tackle COVID-19. Our mission is to encourage innovation, ensure the protection of inventions and creations and promote the access that is indispensable to achieving a balanced and effective international intellectual property system. We are confident that under Mr. Tang’s leadership, WIPO will continue to strengthen and promote IP for the benefit of all, leaving no one behind.

“There is a need, as Mr. Tang pointed out, to ‘connect’ everyone and promote dialogue and consensus between developed and developing countries. We are convinced that a holistic approach to promoting innovation, taking into account all stakeholders and circumstances, will make it possible to eliminate the perception that intellectual property only benefits certain segments of society.

“We agree with Mr. Tang’s approach that IP must be made global. To do this, we believe, we must take into account the importance of geographical diversity in the composition of the management team and, more generally, of WIPO’s staff. In addition to geographical balance, we hope that gender equity will be properly incorporated.

“Chair,

“In conclusion, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to Mr Francis Gurry and his team for the excellent work they have done over the last 15 years, as reflected in a strong, dynamic and financially stable Organization. We thank him for his strategic vision that has enabled WIPO to establish itself as a leading-edge Organization. We wish you every success as you enter the final phase of your tenure at the helm of the Organization. In the meantime, you have our full cooperation and support.

“Thank you very much.”

55. The Delegation of Morocco submitted the following statement:

“Chair, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“In these troubled times, when the whole world is in the throes of an unprecedented health crisis, allow me first to extend my deepest sympathy to those who have been affected by the coronavirus, particularly the staff of our organization, to whom I offer my sincere condolences following the death of a colleague of COVID-19. My condolences also go to the family of the deceased.

“The ongoing coronavirus pandemic poses a threat to the health, safety and well-being of humankind. To overcome this health crisis, we must be more united and supportive than ever.

“Chair,

“The Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco thanks you and the Chair of the Coordination Committee for your tireless efforts to bring the process of electing the new Director General of WIPO to fruition despite the unprecedented circumstances created by COVID-19.

“The Kingdom of Morocco takes this opportunity to thank the WIPO Secretariat for its valuable mobilization during this process.

“Chair,

“The Kingdom of Morocco heartily congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his outstanding election as head of WIPO, which has demonstrated the confidence which Member States have in him and in his proven ability to lead the Organization for the next six years.

“Morocco is confident that with Mr. Daren Tang at the helm, WIPO will buttress its presence in the international arena and wishes him every success in office. It looks forward to working with him to advance WIPO’s agenda for the benefit of all its members.

“This is also an opportunity to pay a vibrant tribute to Mr. Francis Gurry, a man of great diplomatic, professional and human talents who, through his skills, his in-depth knowledge, and his holistic and forward-looking vision, has left an indelible mark on WIPO’s progress in the service of its Member States.

“Chair,

“The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the excellent cooperation between Morocco and WIPO and takes this opportunity to express its firm will and determination to work in a constructive and cooperative spirit with the new Director General, with a view to achieving the objectives of the intellectual property system.

“Morocco is aware of the challenges of the knowledge economy and the effects of globalization in the digital era, which have made intellectual property protection a national priority at a time when creativity and innovation have become essential for socio-economic development.

“This places WIPO, as the UN specialized agency responsible for intellectual property, at the center of global attention, given its contribution to the improvement and development of the global intellectual property system and the tangible results achieved.

“WIPO’s substantial achievements in the past decade are the result of the efforts of all stakeholders, collective intelligence, and the involvement of all members in building consensus. Nevertheless, further efforts are needed to address the needs and concerns of Member States, particularly developing countries, and to meet the multiple challenges we face today.

“In that connection, the delegation of Morocco would like to emphasize the following:

“1. effective and efficient implementation of the Recommendations of the WIPO Development Agenda;

“2. intensification of appropriate technical assistance, capacity building and technology transfer;

“3. the need for WIPO to accompany the far-reaching and fast-moving changes related to the bottom-up role of artificial intelligence and block chain, through the examination of their legal and policy ramifications, and the impact of artificial intelligence on creativity and innovation; and

“4. the importance of paying special attention to the normative agenda.

“In conclusion, I again warmly congratulate Mr. Daren Tang and hope that the situation will soon return to normal so that we can resume our work with the necessary enthusiasm and eagerness to advance in our quest to promote WIPO’s values and objectives.”

56. The Delegation of Myanmar submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair, Mr. Director General, Excellencies,

“We would like to express our appreciations to the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat of WIPO for their able leadership and unwavering effort in making this session possible in the most appropriate manner under this difficult circumstances of the outbreak of pandemic. We also wish those who have been affected by the pandemic a speedy and full recovery.

“Firstly, Myanmar would like to congratulate the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang to the post of the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Despite having numerous challenges ahead, Myanmar sincerely hopes that Mr. Daren Tang will fulfill his duties by using his vast experiences and IP expertise in addressing various challenges and contribute much to strengthening the global intellectual property system.

“Myanmar will render its full support and cooperation to Mr. Daren Tang in discharging his responsibilities as the Director General in the near future and continue to work on further consolidating the function of the WIPO in close cooperation with other Member States.

“Taking this opportunity, we also wish to express our profound respect and sincere appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry, for his distinguished leadership and outstanding capability during his tenure at the office. It is undeniable that the role of WIPO is paramount importance in this global context. Hence, Myanmar looks forward to intensifying our cooperation with WIPO in the coming years and remains committed to our partnership with WIPO. We would be grateful if WIPO could continue to support Myanmar in implementing its national IP related laws and its efforts in opening the national IP Office as well as acceding to international IP treaties administered by the WIPO.

“Thank you.”

57. The Delegation of Nigeria submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“Nigeria aligns itself with the statement presented today by the representative of Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“2. My delegation congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his election as the new Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). We are confident that under his leadership, WIPO will continue to excel in the promotion of its mandate. His antecedents leave us no doubt that significant milestone will be achieved by WIPO as a result of his adept and competent leadership.

Mr. Chair,

“3. Nigeria would like to acknowledge with appreciation the achievements of Mr. Francis Gurry during his tenure as WIPO’s Director General. We are particularly pleased with the important work he did in the implementation of the Development Agenda. We have also seen continued growth in the effectiveness and profile of the Organization. We wish Mr. Gurry success in his future endeavors.

“4. My delegation is delighted to acknowledge the wealth of experience of the incoming Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, in the use of Intellectual Property (IP) as a catalyst for development. This delegation would therefore, look forward to the continued use of IP in a more responsible and responsive manner for the benefit of developed and developing countries. In particular, WIPO should address the concerns of all Member States bearing

in mind their developmental needs. The development dimension of intellectual property should remain a central point in the policy direction of WIPO.

Mr. Chair,

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that there is much to be derived from the traditional knowledge systems and the rich biodiversity found in different regions. Member States should be able to harness these diverse resources and through a balanced use of the intellectual property incentivize the knowledge holders to use these resources for the common benefit of humanity. This delegation therefore looks forward to rapid progress in the work of the IGC on the protection of TCEs, TK and GR.

“6. Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to the WIPO Nigerian Office and will continue to meet its obligations under the agreement with the organization and provide necessary support towards the realization of its objectives.

“7. Strident steps have been taken by Nigeria, with the cooperation of WIPO, in initiating a number of activities and programs to advance its intellectual property systems and promote innovation and creativity in the different industries. We will continue to count on the support and leadership of the new Director General to deliver on these initiatives. The continued relevance of the Organization is in its capacity to deliver real benefits of the intellectual property system to a greater number of Member States for the sustained development of the majority.

“8. To conclude, Mr. Chair, we welcome the commitment of the Director General-Elect to continue increasing the profile and efficiency of WIPO. In that regard, you can count on the full support of my delegation.

“Thank you.”

58. The Delegation of Oman submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues,

“At the outset, we would like to support the statement made by the State of Qatar on behalf of the Group of Arab countries, and the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group. We take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Omar Zniber Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, for conducting the work of the General Assembly during these exceptional circumstances. We would also like to express appreciation and gratitude to the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his efforts in serving this august Organization throughout his term of office. Praiseworthy is the major leap that WIPO achieved under his leadership in various fields of activity to the benefit of Member States. Thanks to his efforts, the Organization maintained solid financial stature. He had a leading role in developing the work of the Organization, keeping abreast of new technologies such as the introduction of AI in WIPO's work. The Sultanate of Oman and Mr. Gurry have developed excellent working relations taking cooperation with WIPO to higher stands. We wish Mr. Gurry every success in his future endeavors.

“Mr. Chair,

“On the bilateral level, Oman praises an excellent and fruitful cooperation with WIPO and its officials, through the Arab Bureau. Thanks to their continuous support and activities, Oman was able to benefit from various programs in support of its vision in this field; participated actively in the realization of WIPO's strategic objectives; and developed and modernized novel IP tools and models. Oman benefited from a number of cooperation programs with WIPO in capacity and institution building, modernization and revision of IP

laws, as well as establishment of a national IP strategy. In addition, our cooperation with the WIPO Academy has benefited various stakeholders, including judges, professionals, women inventors, universities, schools, SMEs, research centers and civil society associations. This close cooperation has triggered a quantitative leap in the level of awareness and knowledge, and helped disseminate IP culture and boost interest in IP rights, creators and innovators as well as scientific research across the country. Such interest witnessed an even greater leap when H.M. Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan of Oman, announced in his first speech last February after he was sworn in as Sultan, that “focus on education at all levels and provision of an enabling and conducive infrastructure for scientific research and innovation will be one of our national priorities. We shall provide the necessary means for its realization as it is the foundation that will enable the next generation to contribute to build the ground for the future to come.”

“Mr. Chair,

“We would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his election to the post of Director General of WIPO. We welcome his election as well as the decisions made by the Assembly in this regard. We take pride in the election of a Director General from the Asia and Pacific Group. We look forward to cooperating with Mr. Tang in all fields to the benefit of the Organization, Oman and the region at large.

“Thank you Mr. Chair.”

59. The Delegation of the Philippines submitted the following statement:

“The Philippines congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his well-deserved appointment as WIPO Director General. As the global community deals with the unprecedented challenges brought about by the ongoing pandemic, the Philippines is confident of Mr. Tang’s able leadership of an international organization whose contributions remain crucial in efforts to hasten innovation and, in line with the WIPO Development Agenda, facilitate access by developing countries to essential knowledge and technology. Mr. Tang can rest assured of the full support of the Philippines as we collectively forge a path towards, and meet the challenges and opportunities of, what we are all expecting to be the ‘new normal’ in the face of this pandemic.

“The Philippines also takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Francis Gurry for his dedication, wisdom, and service. Mr. Gurry’s vision has brought WIPO greater international renown, especially by removing the shroud of mystery that often accompanies discussions on intellectual property and actively raising its profile as a distinct yet salient feature of economic development programs. The robust partnership that the Philippines and WIPO enjoyed during his term is inscribed in no less than the annals of the Office of the Philippine President, which granted him the Sikatuna Award in 2018, the highest order of diplomatic merit that can be granted by the government to foreign nationals. WIPO’s efforts to help countries like the Philippines craft national intellectual property strategies have complemented domestic efforts to spur sustainable and innovation-led economic growth.

“Finally, the Philippines notes the extraordinary circumstances facing us now and fully understands the need to conduct this special session of the WIPO General Assembly via exceptional procedure. As the global community continues to address the impacts of COVID-19 and as WIPO Member States anticipate innovative work processes that are being shaped more and more by health imperatives, the Philippines reaffirms its

commitment to contribute to the advancement of WIPO's norm-setting agenda and the further strengthening of WIPO's role as a specialized agency of the United Nations naturally imbued with a development mandate.

"Thank you."

60. The Delegation of Poland submitted the following Statement:

"Mr. Chair,

"The Delegation of Poland would like to express its great satisfaction with the election and appointment of Mr. Daren Tang to the post of WIPO Director General and offer our warmest congratulations on his victory and best wishes for a successful term of office. We strongly believe that Mr Tang's outstanding leadership and diplomatic skills combined with his extensive knowledge and expertise in the field of IP protection will further strengthen the solid standing of WIPO on the international forum and contribute to promoting wider awareness of IP issues. We are confident that under Mr Tang's leadership WIPO will continue to encourage creative activity, promote the protection of IP worldwide, and be actively engaged in a constructive dialogue in the spirit of transparency, accountability and good governance. We also believe that the development of the normative agenda and the consolidation of the institutional reforms will remain central to the Organization. It is a real privilege and pleasure for us to work with Mr. Daren Tang in the coming years. We offer him our full support in all his future undertakings and are looking forward to our joint undertakings with the view to continuing the long-standing and friendly relations between WIPO and the Republic of Poland.

"At the same time, the Delegation of Poland wishes to convey its high esteem to Dr. Francis Gurry, the outgoing Director General, and to thank him for his 12 years of service to WIPO. We acknowledge the skill, wisdom and diplomatic acumen with which Dr. Gurry has handled his charge. Furthermore, we applaud numerous initiatives Dr. Gurry introduced during his leadership, which have not only contributed to the Organisation's visibility and closer interaction with the Member States but broadened the scope of IP, thus concretely demonstrating its relevance in our global community.

"Against this background and mindful of the fact that Dr. Gurry's term of office draws to a close in a few months' time, we take this opportunity to extend to him our warm wishes for the future.

"Thank you very much."

61. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea submitted the following statement:

"The Delegation of the Republic of Korea first wishes to extend its appreciation to Ambassador Zniber and the Vice-Chairs for their leadership in moving the agenda forward amid the unprecedented global health crisis. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for their dedication and hard work.

"At the 28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the WIPO General Assembly, the Delegation of the Republic of Korea extends its sincere congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. We believe that Mr. Tang will bring his extensive experience and expertise to WIPO and that his leadership and commitment will play a vital role in promoting global dialogue on intellectual property and enhancing regional and international cooperation, bringing together the Member States and Stakeholders from various sectors. We are confident that Mr. Tang will make significant contributions by fulfilling his pledge to build on the strong foundation of WIPO, strengthen

the global intellectual property ecosystem, and leverage intellectual property to drive development.

“The Delegation of the Republic of Korea would also like to take this opportunity to pay its respect and express its heartfelt appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry for his invaluable service to WIPO and for his outstanding contributions to the success of the Organization. Dr. Gurry’s dedication and leadership has brought about the remarkable achievements over the years and has contributed to the strengthening of a balanced and effective global intellectual property system for the benefit of all WIPO Member States and stakeholders. We believe that the Director General’s vision, compounded with his vast expertise and experience, has led to the enduring legacy of WIPO.

“We trust that Director General-Elect Mr. Tang will continue the meaningful and invaluable work of WIPO, with a focus on the aforementioned commitments. We fully support his pledge, acknowledging the role of WIPO as a global forum for policy, intellectual property services, and cooperation.

“Meanwhile, the Republic of Korea will remain steadfast in its cooperation with WIPO and the Member States in strengthening the global intellectual property ecosystem, shaping policies in a balanced and inclusive manner, and enhancing the global services for the convenience of applicants and innovators as well as for the protection of intellectual property and the resolution of disputes. Honoring the development agendas of WIPO and the Member States, we will continue to contribute to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development by sharing our experiences and knowledge and providing technical assistance in the field of intellectual property, particularly through our Funds-in-Trust. Additionally, we reaffirm our commitment to close cooperation in tackling the challenges posed by the changing environment and in further paving the way for the future.

“Once again, we extend our warmest congratulations to Director General-Elect Mr. Tang and our sincere appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry. We stand ready to fully take part in future endeavors to be undertaken by WIPO.

“Thank you.”

62. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia made the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

“I am pleased to present my best compliments to the Delegations of Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) represented in these Sixtieth Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. We are confident, Mr. Chair, that you will lead this meeting and the work of the Organization towards the best results during your mandate. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-chairs on their election and wish you all a successful term.

“Mr. Chair,

“In a context of exceptional circumstances and precautionary measures taken worldwide to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, holding this extraordinary session in the form of written procedure comes as a confirmation of the importance attached by Member States to this event. In this regard, allow me, Mr. Chair, to thank the Organization for the efforts made.

“The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has also taken precautionary measures in fighting this pandemic, namely the extension of prescribed time limits for filings and responses related to grant, registration and renewal procedures. In addition, SAIP continues to provide online user services in an uninterrupted and efficient manner, including reception of new application, examination and registration of previously filed applications. All challenges are being addressed to ensure business continuity.

“Mr. Chair,

“At the outset, I would like to thank the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee for his efforts during the Committee’s meeting held in March 2020. I would also like to thank all the Committee Members for their contribution in recent discussions and consultations under the process of the election of the next Director General for the Organization, resulting in the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang for the post of Director General of WIPO.

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group.

“Mr. Chair,

“Allow me now to address Mr. Daren Tang, on his nomination for the post of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“Mr. Daren Tang,

“In the name of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we would like to congratulate you on your nomination for the post of Director General of the Organization. We are fully aware of the responsibility vested on you as leader of this ambitious organization for the years to come. Congratulations for the trust that Member States have expressed towards you, as we will have the opportunity to benefit from your expertise and competence in leading the important work of the Organization’s program to ensure that IP contributes to development objectives. We would like to express our full support to you in fulfilling your mandate and wish you success.

“Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Allow me now to address the current Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry.

“Mr. Francis Gurry,

“In the name of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we would like to express appreciation and gratitude for the efforts you have made over the last years serving the Organization. We also acknowledge your support for IP in Saudi Arabia, the highlight of which was your successful visit in 2016. We look forward to the continuation of your kind efforts during the remaining period of your term, and would like to wish you further success.

“Mr. Chair,

“We look forward to meeting you soon in better and safer circumstances.

“Thank you.”



63. The Delegation of Senegal submitted the following statement:

“Senegal associates itself with the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“Chair,

“My delegation would like to extend to you and your Vice-Chairs its warm congratulations on your election as Officers of the WIPO General Assembly and its best wishes for success in your mission, while assuring you of its confidence and support in this regard. It also expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, and to the Secretariat of the Organization for their valuable support in strengthening the intellectual property system of the world in general and that of Senegal in particular. My delegation also congratulates the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador François Rivasseau, and the Vice-Chairs, for their contribution to the process of electing the new Director General of WIPO.

“Chair,

“Senegal is pleased to have expressed its support for the proposal for a written procedure, contained in note C. N 3989 of April 22, 2020, thus contributing to the attainment of the quorum and majority required for the holding of the present special session of the General Assembly in the exceptional circumstances of a health crisis of international concern.

“My country considers that a smooth transition is necessary to guarantee the continuity of global intellectual property services provided through the unique framework of WIPO as a multilateral forum for dialogue, consultation and negotiation.

“Accordingly, my delegation approves the draft decisions on the terms and conditions of appointment of the Director General-Elect, Mr. Daren Tang, as contained in documents WO/GA/52/1 REV and WO/GA/52/2 Prov. It congratulates him on his outstanding election during the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Coordination Committee from March 4 to 6, 2020.

“Chair,

“Senegal reaffirms its unwavering commitment to further strengthening its cooperation with WIPO, which has, fortunately, been beneficial both multilaterally and bilaterally. My delegation will continue to participate actively and constructively in the scientific work of the various Committees, through targeted projects and proposals, and to facilitate political negotiations on all issues, including standards.

“Among other issues, my country restates its keen interest in consolidating the following areas of cooperation:

- the resale right, which is addressed in the proposal submitted jointly with the Congo, within the SCCR;
- the protection of country names against their registration as trademarks, submitted together with a number of friendly countries, to the SCT;
- projects relating to the development of the audiovisual sector and the music industry, within the CDIP;
- geographical indications, with the completion of the process of protection of the *Madd de Casamance*, in this respect;
- technical and legislative assistance and capacity-building;
- access to infrastructure and technology for the management and administration of intellectual property rights;

- reducing the digital divide in the context of emerging areas such as artificial intelligence and blockchains, as global trade goes digital;
- access to medicines in connection with the patent system and TRIPS flexibilities.

"In conclusion, Chair, my delegation wishes every success to the Director General-Elect, Mr. Daren Tang, and once again expresses its confidence in and full support for Mr. Tang.

"Thank you."

64. The Delegation of Singapore submitted the following statement:

"1. Singapore would like to thank Ambassador Zniber and the Vice-Chairs for their sterling leadership of the General Assembly, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also thank Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for the General Assembly documents and their hard work in organizing this Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly's confirmation of Mr. Daren Tang, a son of Singapore, as the incoming Director General of WIPO is a momentous occasion for my delegation.

"2. First, on behalf of the Singapore delegation, I would like to thank each and every Member State for the support you have given to Mr. Tang. Singapore is deeply honored and humbled by the trust and confidence you have placed in him. You can be assured that Mr. Tang will work hard to advance the interests of all WIPO Member States, and ensure that WIPO will continue to remain relevant and keep pace with rapid technological transformation.

"3. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Tang had emphasized the importance of building an inclusive, balanced and forward-looking global IP ecosystem, and for WIPO to work closely with all the stakeholders to find solutions to global challenges. At a time when multilateralism is beleaguered, we are encouraged by Mr Tang's commitment to bring Member States together, and steer WIPO towards this important mission.

"4. Second, we welcome Mr Tang's promises to build greater confidence in the management of the organization, through rigorous observance of governance standards, fairness and transparency, as well as building greater diversity in the staff in order to better reflect gender and geographical balance. Mr. Tang brings with him the ethos of professionalism, integrity and accountability, which he has imbibed during his distinguished service in the Singapore Civil Service. Hence, this ethos will underpin the way in which he leads WIPO in the years to come.

"5. Third, COVID-19 has, and will continue, to bring uncertainty and challenges. It is thus important for WIPO Members, and for WIPO as an Organization, to ensure that the Director General transition process is smooth and seamless. This will ensure that Mr Tang is able to build on the strong foundation laid by Dr. Gurry. We are confident that post-Covid-19, WIPO can and will emerge stronger and even more relevant.

"6. Singapore stands ready to contribute constructively to support the new Director General's work and the advancement of WIPO's agenda. We commend once again the stellar legacy of Dr. Gurry in steering WIPO for the past 12 years, and we are confident that Mr. Tang will build upon the strong foundation to bring WIPO to greater heights.

"Thank you."

65. The Delegation of South Africa submitted the following statement:

"The South African delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Republic of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group.

"Our Delegation joins others in warmly congratulating Mr. Daren Tang for his appointment as the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). We have full confidence in Mr. Tang to lead WIPO to new heights wherein the organization plays a key role in advancing innovation which fuels the global digital economy. We also take this opportunity to sincerely thank Director General Gurry for his stewardship of WIPO for the past twelve years and the many achievements the Organization has registered under his leadership. Dr. Gurry has empowered developing countries to advance their IP systems and be integrated into the global IP architecture.

"Mr. Chair,

"This WIPO Assemblies meeting is taking place in an unusual written procedure format due to the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that the world will win the fight against Covid-19 but that can only happen if there is political commitment of all states to prioritize international cooperation and solidarity. The multilateral system is also crucial in coordinating efforts for the fight against the pandemic. WIPO, on its part, can play an important enabling role in the search for innovative medical solutions to curb the spread of the virus and access to treatment.

"Mr. Chair,

"We look forward to working closely with the new Director General to accelerate progress in the areas of capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries in general, and African countries in particular, so as to equip them with the necessary tools for modernization of IP offices to meet the needs of the digital age. We are cognizant of the negative economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and realize that it may also impact on the revenues that WIPO generate; however, this should not in any way have any bearing on WIPO's developmental programs that are rooted in Developmental Agenda (DA). South Africa also looks forward to making much needed progress on normative issues that have proved to be a stumbling block in the work of WIPO. In particular, we wish to see the expedition of an international instrument for the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore (GRTKF).

"Once again, we congratulate Mr. Tang and it is our expectation that the senior management team that will assist him in discharging his duties will be chosen in a fair and transparent manner so that it becomes an inclusive team that is representative of the wider membership of WIPO.

"Thank you."

66. The Delegation of Sudan submitted the following statement:

"Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"We would like to support the statements made on behalf of the groups to which our country belongs. We would like to thank Ambassador Omar Zniber, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, and his Vice-chairs, as well as the WIPO Director General, Francis Gurry, and the WIPO officials at the Arab Bureau for their efforts in ensuring business continuity during this pandemic that is affecting the world as a whole.

"The Delegation of Sudan wishes to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination to the post of Director General of WIPO. We pledge to give Mr. Tang our full support in the performance of his new duties.

"Our thanks go to Mr. Francis Gurry for serving the Organization, and acknowledge his efforts and dedicated work for the development and success of WIPO.

"Finally, the Delegation of Sudan hopes that the world gets over this pandemic very soon and that Member States continue their support for the Organization in the fulfilment of its constructive role in the field of intellectual property.

"Thank you, Mr. Chair."

67. The Delegation of Switzerland submitted to the following statement:

"Chair,

"Switzerland would like to thank you and the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for your efforts to ensure that this important extraordinary session of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO can take place at this very special time. Our thanks also go to all the colleagues who have worked with you to achieve this result.

"We would also like to express our warm thanks to Mr. Gurry for his unfailing commitment to the Organization, particularly during his twelve years at the helm. We will have the opportunity to return to this in more detail at the WIPO Assemblies in September 2020.

"Switzerland congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the new Director General of WIPO. His in-depth knowledge of intellectual property and his diplomatic skills will certainly be major assets in this new position. Mr. Tang will be able to count on Switzerland's full support in achieving the objectives he has set out and outlined during the electoral process. We share his vision of making intellectual property more attractive and accessible to all stakeholders.

"Switzerland also notes that the reinforcement and balanced development of the international intellectual property framework is a critical element for the future of WIPO. One way of achieving this objective is to pay particular attention to all of WIPO's registration and classification systems, in order to ensure their proper functioning and to continue to encourage their growth.

"In addition, WIPO has a central role to play in multilateral and international discussions on cross-cutting intellectual property issues. WIPO must fully assume its leading role in this field, in cooperation with relevant UN and international organizations.

"We are confident that under Mr. Tang's new leadership, WIPO will be able to meet the challenges ahead for the Organization, while seizing the opportunities that lie ahead. Switzerland wishes Mr. Tang every success in his new position and looks forward to working with him."

68. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic submitted the following statement:

"Mr. Chair,

"The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic supports the statement made on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group. We would like to express appreciation for efforts made by the Chair and Vice-chairs of the WIPO General Assembly, the Director General of WIPO and the WIPO Secretariat in the conduct of procedures for the election of the next Director General, despite the enduring times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Mr. Chair,

“The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to express deep appreciation to the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his great contribution to the development of WIPO and the success of its work thanks to his vision, dedication and commitment to enhance the global IP system. Concrete benefits have been realized for WIPO Members, through a variety of relevant and significant initiatives that he has launched. We would like to express gratitude and appreciation for the constructive cooperation, under his leadership, between WIPO and the Syrian Arab Republic for the development of the IP system in our country.

“Mr. Chair,

“The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination for the post of Director General of WIPO. We are confident that Mr. Tang will build on the solid achievements of the Organization leading it toward further success. My Delegation looks forward to working with Mr. Tang on the development of a global IP system that contributes to the social, economic and cultural development of Member States. We also look forward to continuing the constructive cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and WIPO, under the leadership of Mr. Tang, for the promotion of IP in Syria, including the establishment of a national IP Academy and a Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC), as well as active participation in WIPO programs, meetings, activities, committees and other bodies.

“In conclusion, the Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to stress the importance of continuing on a transparent and inclusive governance of WIPO, while striking the right balance between promoting innovation and creativity on the one hand, and, on the other hand, enhancing Member States development objectives and their capacity to use IP for economic development. My Delegation reiterates its congratulations to Mr. Tang and wishes him success in his new role as the next Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“Thank you Mr. Chair.”

69. The Delegation of Tajikistan submitted the following statement:

“The Republic of Tajikistan would like to thank the Chair of the Assemblies, Ambassador Omar Zniber, the Vice-Chairs, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Mr. Gurry, and WIPO team for preparing and organizing the Sixtieth Series of WIPO Assemblies Meetings.

“We wish especially to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Gurry for the fruitful cooperation and excellent engagement between WIPO and our country over the last twelve years.

“Tajikistan expresses its appreciation to the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee for the successful conducting of the 27th Extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee on March 4-5, 2020 and we note our satisfaction with the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang as the Director General of WIPO.

“We congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his new appointment and assure him of our readiness to provide support and actively cooperate on a wide range of issues. We are confident and firmly believe that the new Director General will be able to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the mandate and goals of WIPO.

“Finally, the Republic of Tajikistan would like to once again congratulate the Director General on his election and confirm its readiness to cooperate in all areas of WIPO's activity.”

70. The Delegation of Thailand submitted the following statement:

“Thank you Mr. Chair,

“Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia and Pacific Group delivered by Singapore.

“We would like to start by expressing our appreciation to Ambassador Zniber and, the Vice-Chairs of the General Assembly, Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for their hard work despite the challenging circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Thailand also sincerely congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the new Director General of WIPO. Given Mr. Tang's diverse knowledge in the areas of intellectual property, trade, and innovation and his experience in a prominent agency such as IPOS, Thailand is confident that Mr. Tang would be able to strengthen and develop intellectual property for Member States.

“Thailand also would like to thank Mr. Francis Gurry for his sincere and effective collaborations. Under his guidance, a strong global intellectual property system has been developed which delivers concrete benefits to all WIPO Members and stakeholders, including Thailand. We are grateful for his outstanding contributions and services to WIPO.

“Mr. Chair,

“Despite the current situation of COVID-19 outbreaks, Thailand remains confident in the works of WIPO and will continue to support the organization's operations to further develop intellectual property systems with a view to driving the global economy further.

“Thank you Mr. Chair.”

71. The Delegation of Tunisia submitted the following statement:

“The Delegation of Tunisia endorsed the statements by Qatar on behalf of the Arab Group and Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

“Chair,

“Tunisia would like to thank and congratulate the Chair of the Assemblies, Ambassador Omar Zniber, and the Vice-Chairs of the Assemblies. It also commends the efforts of the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat to facilitate the holding of the sixtieth series of the Assemblies of the Member States despite the exceptional circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

“Tunisia also takes this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador François Rivasseau, Chair of the Coordination Committee, its Vice-Chairs and the WIPO Secretariat for the successful and excellent organization of the 27<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee on March 4 and 5, 2020, which culminated in the election in full transparency and integrity of a new Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang.

“Chair,

“My delegation would like to extend its warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang for his outstanding election to the post of Director General of WIPO. The overwhelming support that he received during the election reflects the considerable confidence placed in his person. This will be very useful to him in making decisive progress towards the finalization of a number of negotiations that have remained at a standstill for several years, mainly on a number of legal instruments under negotiation and on the question of the Organization’s field offices.

“The same foundation of confidence will also help the new Director General to consolidate the positive results already achieved by the Organization, and, we hope, to buttress the Organization’s efforts to bring about the economic, social and cultural development of its member countries, particularly the developing countries.

“Tunisia would like to assure the Director General-Elect of its full support and readiness to support his efforts in this regard.

“With regard to the senior management team, Tunisia would like to support the position expressed in the African Group statement and to stress the importance of an equitable geographical distribution of posts within that team, as well as adequate representation of the regional group with the largest number of member countries. Here too, my country expresses its readiness to lend its support in order to contribute to the success and achievement of the objectives set out by the new Director General and to the fulfilment of his functions.

“Chair,

“My Delegation would like to take this opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to Mr. Francis Gurry, for the manner in which he has guided our Organization since 2008, but also for his leadership, clear-sightedness and immense professionalism. It also expresses its gratitude to him for the exemplary cooperation from which Tunisia has benefited during his two terms of office.

“Mr. Gurry spared no effort to put his wealth of experience and expertise, as well as his wisdom, at the service of WIPO and its Member States. We are confident that his vision will continue to inspire WIPO’s future work.

“Finally, on behalf of my country, I would like to assure you of our full support in the fulfillment of your mandate, for the success of which we express our best wishes.

“Thank you.”

72. The Delegation of Turkey submitted the following statement:

“We would like to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Zniber, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador Rivasseau, Director General Dr. Francis Gurry, all the Group Coordinators, the Member States and the Secretariat for their dedication and hard work to make this extraordinary General Assembly happen as we are all going through unprecedented and difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries around the globe and overcoming this challenge will require a genuine cooperation.

“We would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Francis Gurry for his dedication and hard work during his tenure to further improve and strengthen intellectual property rights worldwide for the benefit of all the Member States. WIPO has continued to be the main international platform for intellectual property matters under his able leadership.

“WIPO is one of the most important international organizations given its role and responsibilities. It has direct impact in shaping the rapidly and continuously evolving economic and social lives of the countries. Smooth functioning of WIPO is critically important for the benefit of all the Member States. In this regard, for the election of the next Director General, even during these difficult times we are all experiencing, we are happy to see that all the appropriate measures have been taken and implemented in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

“Turkey would like to take this opportunity also to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang for his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. We firmly believe that he has all the qualities to lead WIPO out of these difficult times and into the future. The wide spread support Mr. Tang received during his nomination and appointment process shows the confidence of members in him.

“In the period ahead, WIPO will play an important role in the post-COVID economic recovery. But, that process will also bring new challenges. Before the pandemic we all anticipated that WIPO would have to deal with challenges mainly from the accelerated changes in technology such as AI, big data and adapt to the new environment associated with those changes. Having been the executive director of the one of the most innovative and successful national offices in the world, we believe that Mr. Daren Tang’s vision and experience would be a great asset for WIPO to rise to the new challenges. Turkey has always highlighted during the election process and before that bridging the gaps in the intellectual property world will continue to be a serious task. This task may become more complex in the period ahead but it can be achieved. Mr. Daren Tang’s already proven skills would certainly be critically important in this regard.

“Finally, we would like to reiterate our gratitude to all the honorable and distinguished colleagues for their hard work to realize this extraordinary General Assembly in these extraordinary times. Turkey wishes all the success and good luck to Mr. Daren Tang in his new role as the Director General of WIPO when he takes the helm. Turkey will support all efforts for a smooth transition process. Also, we wish good health to those who have been affected by and suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Thank you.”

73. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates submitted the following statement:

“The United Arab Emirates (UAE) wishes to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber, the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, as well as the WIPO Secretariat and Member State Delegations, for their unceasing efforts to ensure continuity of the conduct of this meeting despite the difficult circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The UAE supports the statement made by the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group. We would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination to the post of Director General of WIPO and wish him all the success. The UAE pledges its commitment and support for the Organization and the Director General-Elect in their efforts to establish an efficient and balanced international IP system. We are confident that he has the expertise and competence to lead this ambitious organization forward to the benefit of the global IP community.



“Praiseworthy is the central role played by WIPO under the leadership of its Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry. Efforts have been geared at modernizing the IP landscape and systems, and providing prime services and development activities with a positive economic, social and cultural impact.

“We would like to stress our deep appreciation for the contribution made by Mr. Francis Gurry during his tenure of office. He was keen on promoting creativity and innovation, sponsoring WIPO AI projects, providing tools for the international community, launching dialogue fora on emerging IP issues, improving public-private partnerships on topics such as environment and public health, as well as creating WIPO Academy training and education IP programs.

“We probably all agree on the importance of supporting WIPO’s focus on digital transformation and promoting technology and AI-based innovation, especially in the context of challenges faced due the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide. Encouraging creativity and innovation in these fields through IP applications will stimulate research on efficient solutions to fight the current crisis in the medical, economic, social, educational and other fields. Today, we have all realized the importance of the role of advanced technology and applications in enhancing countries’ capacity in addressing major challenges and ensuring business continuity and productivity in exceptional circumstances. This is a further reason for reinforcing WIPO’s role in disseminating an IP culture, developing tools and a recurred environment for innovation, creativity and inventiveness.

“The United Arab Emirates looks forward to the next term of WIPO under Mr. Tang’s leadership, to ensure that the IP system fulfils its main goal which is the promotion of creativity and innovation in a world of fast technological change, while focusing on development objectives for all. We call on all Member States to support the new Management through effective international cooperation and joint efforts in addressing the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Thank you Mr. Chair.”

74. The Delegation of the United Kingdom submitted the following statement:

“1. The United Kingdom aligns itself with the Group B statement. We commend Ambassador Zniber, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Rivasseau, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Dr. Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General, and all other colleagues who have made it possible for this important session of the WIPO Assemblies to proceed in these unique and unprecedented times.

“2. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Director General Gurry for his long lasting dedication to intellectual property in general and to the World Intellectual Property Organization in particular. We look forward to reflecting fully upon the twelve years of his leadership and accomplishments during the sixty-first series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies scheduled for September 2020.

“3. This delegation would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his election and appointment as the next Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. This is an important moment, commencing a transition period from one leadership of this Organization to another. In this regard, the United Kingdom wishes to thank the chairs and vice-chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee, Director General Gurry, as well as the WIPO Legal Counsel and his team for guiding us through the electoral process.

“4. The decisions made during this transition period will inevitably affect the functioning of the Organization under the new leadership. Therefore, we anticipate that the Director General-Elect will participate in discussions to enable a smooth transition on 1 October 2020 and ensure that this important organization functions well in the years to come.

“5. The United Kingdom delegation sees numerous challenges and opportunities going forward. The fundamental elements underlying the success of the WIPO are keeping the organization, the international IP system and the IP narrative fit for purpose.

“6. Fit for purpose for businesses to secure international protection effectively. We wish to engage in a discussion on a vision of the international IP system in 10 years and beyond. This includes clear pathways that enable services to be provided digitally from end-to-end, as well as enhancing document-sharing services like the DAS. The current COVID-19 crisis poses both challenges as well as opportunities in this sense.

“7. Fit for purpose for a robust IP narrative that informs complex discourse on global innovation and creativity. We call for a strong WIPO engagement strategy encompassing the use of its convening power as well as its knowledge base and resources. In our view, this will help deliver on the organization’s core mandate “to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world” for both IP stakeholders and global decision makers.

“8. Fit for purpose for practitioners and policy makers around the globe to develop sound policies and advice. The United Kingdom welcomes the efforts so far on understanding the impact of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies relating to intellectual property. This delegation wishes to continue and strengthen this work stream going forward.

“9. Fit for purpose for Member States and the organizational structure to govern the WIPO well. We will continue to stress the importance of the principles of accountability, transparency, ethics, independence, as well as efforts to minimize the organization’s environmental footprint. Likewise, we wish to discuss the current structure of WIPO committees and potential improvements.

“10. The United Kingdom wishes Mr. Tang great success in his new role as Director General and looks forward to cooperating closely with him and his team in the coming six years.”

75. The Delegation of the United States of America submitted the following statement:

“The United States supports the statement submitted by the Delegation of Germany on behalf of Group B, and we extend our warm congratulations to Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of WIPO. We also thank the General Assembly and Coordination Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs for their excellent stewardship during the election and appointment confirmation process, particularly during the current challenging circumstances when in-person meetings have not been possible.

“We take this opportunity to thank Director General Francis Gurry for his leadership of WIPO over his two terms as Director General. Mr. Gurry has been an eloquent advocate globally for the importance of intellectual property and its impact on society as a whole. His specialized expertise in the field was a tremendous resource for the Organization. During his tenure, WIPO saw a steady increase in the use of its invaluable patent, trademark, and industrial design services, and brought two important copyright related treaties into force. We also commend his forward looking vision that brought WIPO’s work

into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We wish Director General Gurry the very best in his future endeavors.

“Turning towards WIPO’s future, this Organization will continue to be an important international body advancing global economic interests, including our own. The United States has appreciated working with Daren Tang over many years, both in his role as Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, and as Chair of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We look forward to working with him as Director General of WIPO to continue promoting intellectual property in all sectors of society and throughout all regions of the world. We wish him all the best in his new role.

“We also recall the United States’ deep commitment to the principles of transparency and accountability in all international organizations. In this regard we look forward to a smooth transition process over the next few months and working closely with the incoming Director General, the Secretariat, and our Member State colleagues to ensure WIPO’s continued progress with incorporating these principles throughout the Organization’s work. In this vein we will also engage constructively during the informal discussions, to be held before the Fall 2021 General Assembly, that will focus on updating the Director General’s contract.

“Lastly, we sincerely thank the WIPO Secretariat for their tireless efforts to find a way for the General Assembly to adhere to the adopted timeframe to confirm this appointment despite the unexpected and difficult circumstances. We extend our wishes for safety and health to all during these times.”

76. The Delegation of Viet Nam submitted the following statement:

“First, Viet Nam associates itself with the statement delivered by Singapore on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group.

“Second, Viet Nam would like to congratulate Director General Francis Gurry and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for achieving excellent results in terms of organizational and financial growth, particularly in 2019 and successfully leading the development of the international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity in recent years.

“Third, we extend our sincere thanks to Director General Francis Gurry for his dedication and great contributions to WIPO and the international IP throughout these years. His value for innovation and creativity and the excellent service to the organization has significantly advanced the work of WIPO and in the promotion and protection of intellectual properties worldwide. We would also express our warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang for his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. We are confident that his expertise and leadership will further strengthen the Organization, in face of the new challenges and difficult years ahead.

“Lastly, the complex development of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world and its socio-economic impacts present new challenges to all countries, the multilateral system in general and WIPO in particular. As an active and responsible member of WIPO, Viet Nam stands ready to work closely and constructively with other WIPO members to promote the work of WIPO and its role in achieving sustainable development goals for the benefits of all member countries.”

77. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations welcomes the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang as the Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization and assures him our fullest support and cooperation. We are confident that Mr. Tang will successfully lead WIPO to navigate through these challenging times and serve the membership and global community in accordance with the vision of WIPO.

“We would also like to record our appreciation for outgoing Director General Mr. Francis Gury, who provided excellent leadership to the organization. He has many achievements on his record, including making WIPO a world-class organization and one of the best among the United Nation system.”

78. The Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) submitted the following statement:

“In accordance with item 3 of the Draft Consolidated Agenda of the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (document A/60/1 Prov.) the Eurasian Patent Organization has the honour to announce its support for the nomination of Mr. Daren Tang to the post of the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.”

79. The European Patent Organisation (EPO) submitted the following statement:

“The European Patent Office congratulates Mr Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The EPO is eager to work with Mr. Tang and his leadership team to promote a high-quality, effective and balanced intellectual property system that supports innovation-driven economies.

“In view of sweeping changes in society driven by digital disruption, climate change and the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation in all its forms is essential to overcoming current and future challenges.

“The European Patent Office is confident that WIPO will continue to promote the development of the IP system, ensuring that it remains accessible to inventors and creators from every region of the world. We look forward to working with WIPO and its Member States to promote global innovation, collaboration and growth.”

80. The Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office) submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair of the General Assembly,

“At the outset, we welcome the exceptional convening of this session "in the form of written procedure" based on the agreement of the Member States of WIPO, as indicated in document A/60/C. N3989, with our thanks to you and your team for preparing and arranging of this session to be held in this exceptional circumstance, we wish its works all the success.

“In this regard, we are pleased to express our congratulations on the selection of Mr. Daren Tang from the Republic of Singapore and his appointment as Director General of WIPO for 6 years beginning on October 1, 2020, and we wish him all the success in his duties during the coming period, which we believe will involve a new pattern of challenges.

We are confident that Mr. Daren will lead the WIPO team to go beyond that and move its business towards more growth and efficiency.

“Also, we are pleased to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the WIPO Director General Mr. Francis Gurry for the efforts he made during his two periods in the office, during which a new growth in the WIPO businesses and a higher level of financial sustainability was recorded.

“Mr. Chair,

“The world is going through these days an exceptional circumstance, because of the outbreak of the new Coronavirus (Covid-19) and its transformation into a global pandemic, as announced by the World Health Organization, for which the world has lost a lot of lives, in addition to many health, economic and social implications and challenges, and disruption of the movement of goods and the supply chains around the world, including devices, equipment, and materials necessary to maintain human health.

“Mr. Chair,

“In light of this global pandemic, and the resulting repercussions covering various aspects of life, the GCC Patent Office has taken several important decisions and measures aimed at alleviating the expected effects on patent applicants and agents around the world, and to help them maintain their rights in their patent applications and granted patents, one of which is extending the time limits stipulated by the law.

“Mr. Chair,

“Intellectual property system and its international agreements play a pivotal role in stimulating research, development and innovation centers and institutes of both the public and private sectors worldwide to reach a treatment and vaccine for this epidemic, and the development of medical material and devices that contribute to reducing the outbreak of the virus and to minimizing its implications, in addition to regulating the exploitation of the associated IP rights in the cases of emergency and general pandemics.

“In the end, we look forward to further expansion and growth in the important role of WIPO in establishing a balanced and effective international IP system that stimulates innovation and creativity, and takes into account the various levels of development around the globe, with our wishes for health and safety for all.”

81. The World Trade Organization (WTO) submitted the following statement:

“As the Assemblies take a milestone decision on the WIPO's future leadership, the WTO would like to express its appreciation of the close and valued collaboration that has marked the relationship between the two organizations in the field of IP for a quarter century.

“This year marks both the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention Establishing WIPO and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the TRIPS Agreement, which incorporated significant parts of WIPO-administered conventions. The multiple connecting points between the two organizations that resulted from this deeply integrated legal system provide the backdrop to the ambition of our Members to "establish a mutually supportive relationship" between the WTO and WIPO enshrined in the Preamble of the TRIPS Agreement. That ambition is further concretized in the formal co-operation agreement between the two organizations which will see its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 22 December this year.

“The collaboration between our organizations envisaged by our founding Members has resulted in fruitful cooperation across a wide range of activities. Coordination and collaboration in the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building have been particularly valuable, exemplified by the annual joint flagship activities, the Advanced Course for Government Officials and the Colloquium for Teachers and Researchers. WIPO and WTO have worked together to assist developing and least-developed Members to find tailored solutions when implementing the flexible TRIPS standards in their domestic IP systems. WIPO's reporting over the years on technical assistance to the TRIPS Council now amounts to an impressive record contribution to Factual information on the negotiation history of WIPO conventions is regularly sought from WIPO by WTO panels when their provisions are pertinent in WTO disputes. A shared engagement in the trilateral co-operation in the area of public health has helped create a stronger, empirically based platform to support Members' policy capacity and strengthen technical assistance in this vital area. And valuable practical co-operation has continued on implementing the transparency of legislative texts.

“We would like to express our warm appreciation to Director General Gurry for his leadership during years that have seen co-operation between our agencies expand in scope and deepen in richness of quality. We have been working together in a spirit of collegiality and partnership, within the mandates set for the two organizations by our respective memberships. Looking towards the future, we recognize the challenges and opportunities presented by the continuing need to ensure that the IP system remains an effective policy tool that is adaptable to the evolving priorities and circumstances of all nations. The multilateral system should respond effectively to global issues such as public health and the environment, and new developments such as electronic commerce and artificial intelligence. At a time when the critical need for international co-operation is so directly manifest, we look forward to continuously further strengthening our relationship in the years to come under the new leadership of Mr. Tang that the WIPO Assemblies is set to confirm in its historic decision today.”

82. The Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN) submitted the following statement:

“Mr. Chair,

“The Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN) would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide a statement to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) General Assembly for the record of its May meeting in Geneva. CCFN is an independent, international non-profit alliance whose membership includes companies and organizations from many developed and developing countries. Our mission is to preserve the legitimate right of producers and consumers worldwide to use common names, to protect the value of internationally recognized brands and to prevent new barriers to commerce.

“We congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his election to serve as the next Director General of WIPO. We are confident that he will provide valuable leadership during this critical period for WIPO and the global economy. We also sincerely thank Mr. Gurry for his years of service to WIPO as the Director General.

“CCFN looks forward to working with Mr. Tang and his team to ensure that WIPO members and interested parties are provided balanced information on issues related to common names in order to allow them to make informed decisions in the best interests of their producers, consumers, trading partners and other stakeholders.

“To achieve these goals, we are committed to ensuring that common names are treated in an equitable manner that affords them equal stature to Geographical Indicators (GIs) in WIPO's policies, programs and initiatives, as this is essential to the sustained integrity of the whole Intellectual Property (IP) system that WIPO is tasked with promoting and

defending. Looking ahead, we are optimistic that issues related to preserving the use of common food names will be given the level of attention needed in order to fully inform and educate WIPO members and others about the importance of these issues within the global context of properly balancing and crafting IP policies.

“We are committed to working with WIPO to advance both institutional and programmatic solutions to ensure that those looking to WIPO for objective guidance and assistance on GIs and related intellectual property issues are also fully aware of the importance of safeguarding the use of common food names and how to best accomplish that.

“It is very important to recognize that the impact of imbalanced approaches to GI policies in markets around the world puts at risk due process rights, transparency and public consultation procedures, and can create barriers to widely produced products. Companies relying on common food names are operating in good faith, using terms that have been in the public domain for many decades, yet face unprecedented efforts to ban the use of the widely recognized terms they rely on. Balancing the interests of common name users with those of GI holders is a fundamental component of ensuring that IP systems take into account the interests of all relevant stakeholders.

“We pledge to work collaboratively with Mr. Tang and his team in the future development of WIPO’s and WIPO members’ programs as they related to GIs and common names.”

83. The Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) submitted the following statement:

“Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), that works with libraries to enable access to knowledge in developing and transition economy countries, congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“As the first Director General to be newly appointed from outside the Organization, you bring to the role valuable knowledge of the practical workings of IP law and policy, and its impact on modern business, science and society. In the field of copyright, that most closely affects the work of libraries, the experience of Singapore, a young, newly industrialized nation that has recently undertaken its biggest copyright law reform in 30 years, is especially relevant. Libraries welcomed the review’s technology-friendly approach to the law, the desire to better support creators and enjoyment of creative works in the digital age, and the transparent consultation process.

“Under your leadership, we hope that you can ensure that such principles also apply at WIPO, especially around work on copyright limitations and exceptions. In particular, we hope that you can

- encourage analysis and evidence-based policy-making to promote understanding and help inform policy debates and norm-setting activities at WIPO. For example, by utilizing the Office of the Chief Economist to assess the economic effects of IP policy choices.
- provide a fresh focus on the importance of a balanced IP system in supporting economic, social and cultural development, and in WIPO’s role supporting attainment of all the SDGs.
- ensure that WIPO’s technical and legislative assistance is development-oriented and appropriate to national priorities and levels of socio-economic development.

“Concerning the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), we hope that you will encourage real progress on the agenda items limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, education and research institutions, while ensuring that any new WIPO treaty on the protection of broadcast organizations is properly balanced to protect public access to information.

“Access to information for research, scientific discovery and education has been brought sharply into focus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries around the globe have had to urgently shift operations online to support education, research and communities, bringing to the fore the challenges of compliance with copyright laws many of which are out-of-date and not fit for purpose in the digital age.

“We hope that under your leadership, WIPO will be able to respond positively to these global challenges, such as COVID-19 and climate change, so that WIPO can demonstrate its true global potential.

“We look forward to working with you.

“Thank you.”

84. The Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIP) submitted the following statement:

“On behalf of the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIP), we would first like to express our sincere congratulations to the current Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his excellent work at the helm of WIPO. We also congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment to the post of Director General of WIPO and wish him every success in his endeavors.

“ASIP is a non-profit organization founded 56 years ago. Its main purposes are to promote and protect the collective interests of its active associates through the study and dissemination of intellectual property; to encourage normative development and the defense of intellectual property in American countries; and to improve the knowledge and professional practice of its associates.

“Throughout its history, ASIP has forged numerous and fruitful collaborative partnerships with entities that share its vision. These partnerships have included very close cooperation with WIPO for several years.

“Projects undertaken in collaboration with WIPO include the following.

- Activities with the Patent Law Division  
ASIP supported WIPO in the patent drafting course, which was held during the ASIP seminar in March 2020 in Uruguay.

“We are working to ensure that this workshop is recognized by Latin American Offices, with a view to organizing an introductory course on patent drafting.

- Roving Workshops on PCT and ePCT  
We have been supporting WIPO in these PCT workshops.

“We have been involved in several other events to promote intellectual property in the region and in different Latin American countries.

“In the light of the current global situation, we consider it important for WIPO to support and assist countries in the region with the automation of their platforms and training of their officials.



“ASIPI joins WIPO and the local and global intellectual property communities to work responsibly towards a better world. For this reason, ASIPI supports the WIPO Green Acceleration Project, which promotes the innovation and dissemination of green technology. Through its ASIPIVerde program, ASIPI also seeks to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in Latin America in areas focused on environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and social welfare.

“We greatly appreciate the work of WIPO and are pleased that, after several years and countless joint initiatives, we maintain the same momentum and desire for successful collaboration, always in support of the IP system.”

85. The International Authors Forum (IAF) submitted the following statement:

“The International Authors Forum (IAF) wishes to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, the Chair of the SCCR, the Director General of WIPO, the Deputy Director General of WIPO for the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, and the staff of the Secretariat of WIPO for the excellent work done over the past year. We would also like to offer our congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination as the Director General of WIPO.

“IAF represents authors from the text, screenwriting and visual arts sectors and their interests in copyright. Its members are over 70 organizations representing well over 700,000 authors worldwide.

“We hope all involved in the Assemblies and beyond keep safe, and acknowledge the positive work of WIPO in the current crisis. We hope to contribute to efforts in supporting the many people affected by this crisis.

“Regarding exceptions and limitations, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the secretariat over the last year in establishing additional seminars to encourage discussion on this issue. Ultimately it is authors’ work that is being discussed at WIPO. For authors to contribute to the culture around them a balanced approach to exceptions is necessary. Authors cannot work and create when they are not adequately paid, even the best-intentioned exceptions to copyright must not disadvantage the human right of authors to seek a living from their work.

“Considering any significant changes to limitations and exceptions, care should be taken to honor international copyright provisions that enable and encourage licensing and fair remuneration. Authors are proud their work contributes to library and archive collections which are essential in ensuring the preservation and availability of knowledge, culture and heritage. Authors want the widest possible lawful access to their work and recognize the institutions vital to encouraging access for all. While achieving access, a balance must be struck to allow authors proper remuneration for their work.

“IAF favors adding the artists’ resale right to the SCCR agenda. Resale Right can give a fair contribution from the global art market to the community of the creator. It is important that artists in all countries can benefit from the resale of their creations; this is a matter of equity with how creators of other works are respected and rewarded for the continued enjoyment of their creation.

“We welcome the proposal expressed at the SCCR 39th session to look further into the benefits of public lending right (PLR). PLR is a positive mechanism that provides recognition for authors for the loans of their books from libraries. PLR is greatly valuable to authors both as a connection to ongoing readers, encouraging literacy as well as the seed of the authors’ next creation. It rewards authors for contributions made to a vital public good, the availability of culture in public libraries. IAF supports the development of centrally funded PLR schemes that are to the benefit of, readers and libraries.”

86. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) submitted the following statement:

“The International Council of Museums (ICOM), an international organization representing museums and museums professionals in over 138 countries, would like to express its sincere thanks to the current Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his leadership of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) from October 2008 to September 2020. Along his many achievements, his guidance led to the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty in 2013, which promotes the inclusion of and access to education for the visually impaired by including limitations and exceptions to traditional copyright laws. We would also like to thank him for his cooperation with ICOM and the museum community by including museums in discussions on copyright limitations and exceptions and establishing the ICOM-WIPO Art and Cultural Heritage Mediation service.

“We would also like to extend our best wishes to Mr. Daren Tang, who has been nominated for the post of Director General of the WIPO, and with whom we had the opportunity to collaborate and discuss cultural heritage preservation issues during his tenure as Chair of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). The Committee’s analytical work highlighted the extent to which museums have not been supported by their national copyright laws to make, *inter alia*, preservation copies of cultural heritage, without which our history and identity is at risk of disappearing. Inconsistent, non-existent or inadequate copyright laws hamper the public service mission of cultural heritage institutions to safeguard our heritage. With the ever-increasing threat of climate change, the need to address this situation is becoming even more urgent.

“At a time when we face extraordinary challenges, we hope that the WIPO can act as a force for change by moving discussions on copyright limitations and exceptions towards international action in favor of preservation copies and legal certainty for cultural heritage institutions.

“We trust that WIPO will continue to promote a balanced approach to the copyright system, as well as strong measures, both at national and international level, always ensuring the full participation of civil society representatives in the discussions.

“We look forward to continuing to engage and participate in the development of a global intellectual property ecosystem that supports our cultural institutions to work for the benefit of all by safeguarding the history, life and identity not only of countries and peoples, but of humanity as a whole.”

87. The International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI) submitted the following statement:

“Founded over 100 years ago, FICPI is the international representative association for IP attorneys in private practice throughout the world, with about 5,500 members in 86 countries and regions, including Europe, China, Japan, South Korea and USA.

“FICPI aims to study all administrative or legislative reforms and all improvements to international treaties and conventions, with the object of facilitating the exercise by inventors and IP owners of their rights, of increasing their security, and of simplifying procedure or formalities.

“In pursuance of this aim, FICPI strives to offer well balanced opinions on proposed international, regional and national legislation based on its member’ experience with a great diversity of clients having a wide range of different levels of knowledge, experience and business needs of the IP system.

“FICPI appreciates the opportunity to file a written statement to the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO.

“Congratulations.

“FICPI expresses our congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination as the candidate for appointment to the post of Director General of WIPO by the WIPO Coordination Committee, and look forward to continuing our relationship with WIPO under his leadership.

“Key issues

“We have highlighted below some of the key issues facing the global IP community, apart from those arising from the current pandemic.

“IP Services

“FICPI members and their clients are key users of WIPO’s IP services, and we anticipate our continued involvement in the Working Groups relating to these systems.

“Confidentiality of communications between clients and their IP advisors.

“The topic of confidentiality of communications between clients and their IP advisors (sometimes referred to as client-attorney privilege) has been on the agenda of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) for a long time. FICPI appreciates the sharing session that took place at SCP31 and believes such an important aspect of the IP system should continue to be discussed on a multilateral level.

“Design Law Treaty

“A draft text of the proposed Design Law Treaty has been ready for progression from the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) to a Diplomatic Conference for many years, but progress has continually stalled. Such a treaty would offer significant benefits to both users and Offices by harmonizing the formal aspects for design registration, and therefore FICPI expresses our continued support for this important project.

“Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) Crisis

“Users of IP Systems in Member States and regions have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 crisis. It would be helpful if the International Bureau encouraged Member States and Regional Representatives to consult with users and devise measures to ensure intellectual property rights are preserved to the extent possible, including providing relief, to the greatest extent possible, when deadlines cannot be met owing to circumstances created by the pandemic.”

88. The International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) submitted the following statement:

“Dear Director General, Your Excellencies,

“The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and Institutions represents the interests of libraries of all types and their users globally, with members in 153 countries worldwide.

“We would like to thank the current Director General, Dr. Gurry for his excellent work, in particular regarding the success of the Marrakesh Treaty. This Treaty, WIPO’s fastest moving in terms of new accessions and ratifications, reflects the importance and the urgent need for exceptions to copyright as a vital element of balance in the copyright system. It has underlined the potential of WIPO to find solutions to failures in the IP system, and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

“We wish you the best for the future and hope to have the opportunity to continue our collaboration.

“IFLA would also like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. You take on this role at an important time, with the limits of current copyright law in many countries becoming increasingly clear in a digital environment. In too many WIPO Member States, public interest activities are complicated or made impossible by outdated laws – or their absence – despite the fact that they would do no harm to markets.

“The situation we face today with the COVID-19 pandemic has only underlined the need for such laws in order to ensure that the essential functions of libraries can continue on the basis of legal certainty, and not just the goodwill of rightholders.

Even when the pandemic is over, the need for the sort of long-term solutions that action at WIPO alone can provide remains. In particular, as we highlighted on World IP Day, this absence of international legal provisions stands in the way of efforts to preserve our heritage faced with the threat of climate change. More than 350 organizations, institutions and professionals in over 90 countries called for action to address this. We trust that WIPO will hear these calls.

“You bring valuable experience to the role. We note your strong track record in Singapore, and in particular the planned copyright reforms which provide an excellent example of the use of solid legal and economic evidence, and which have led to a result which balances interests users and rights holders.

We have also appreciated your contributions during your term as Chair of the SCCR, including the clear indication of the need to find digital-ready, cross-border solutions for cultural heritage, education and other uses during your introductory speech to the regional workshop held in Singapore in April 2019.

“In becoming Director General, we hope that you will be able to refresh and redouble efforts to realize the potential of WIPO as a catalyst and guide for evidence-based change, benefitting libraries and their billions of users worldwide.

“We look forward to continuing to work with you.”

89. The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisation (IFRRO) submitted the following statement:

“IFRRO wishes to thank the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, the Chair of the SCCR, the Director General of WIPO, the Deputy Director General of WIPO for the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, and the staff of the Secretariat of WIPO for the excellent work done over the past year. We also offer our congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his nomination for the post of Director General of WIPO.

“The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations, IFRRO, is the network for the Collective Management Organisations and author and publisher organisations in the text and image sector, with 155 member organisations in more than 80 countries worldwide.

“On capacity building, we welcome WIPO’s engagement with stakeholders, including IFRRO, in public private partnerships that enhance access to works and support the effective implementation of copyright. Since the last General Assembly, new joint WIPO/IFRRO projects have been launched in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America, and the initial results of those projects are very promising. The work done by the Accessible Books Consortium remains of high importance, and IFRRO is proud to be a member of its advisory Board.

“On exceptions and limitations, we congratulate the WIPO Member States and the WIPO Secretariat for the impressive work done over the last year. IFRRO attended the International Conference on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries, Archives, Museums and Educational & Research Institutions in Geneva in November 2019, and we also participated in all three regional seminars in Singapore, Nairobi, and Santo Domingo. We appreciated the quality of the discussions, the amount of information shared, and the common understanding that emerged from the debates at those seminars.

“The issue of exceptions and limitations was thoroughly discussed, and their importance as a part of the copyright framework, alongside that of effective collective management was acknowledged.

“IFRRO’s view is that the international copyright framework has sufficient flexibility to support access to content and ensure the well-functioning of schools, universities, libraries and other institutions. The issue rather is in the lack of capacity and infrastructure and the non-implementation of already existing international instruments into national legal systems.

“Finally, IFRRO continues to favor adding the resale right to the SCCR agenda, and welcomes the proposal expressed at the SCCR 39<sup>th</sup> session to look further into the benefits of public lending right.”

90. The Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) submitted the following statement:

“JPAA, Japan Patent Attorneys Association having over 11,000 qualified Patent Attorneys in Japan, would like to sincerely congratulate an appointment of Mr. Daren Tang as a new Director General of WIPO. Although COVID-19 pandemic situation unfortunately bars us from directly extending our warmest congratulations in an in-person meeting, we would like to express our appreciation for inviting JPAA for our congratulatory address for the new Director General of WIPO, Mr. Tang.

“Recognizing Mr. Tang’s valuable efforts and achievements within Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) in Singapore and beyond Singapore, in ASEAN regions, which has successfully transformed the IPOS from a conventional registry and regulatory agency

into an innovative agency, JPAA strongly believes that WIPO will have, and also has to have, a key role in a new era of global IP system for igniting and advancing new innovation such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) in more sustainable and meaningful manner for all stakeholders all over the world, under the strong leadership of the new Director General.

“JPAA has been proactively involved and participating in WIPO’s activities and meetings since last century. We would like to continue our efforts and contributions for bringing the voices from users and practitioners in a real IP world to WIPO. JPAA looks forward to working closely with WIPO as we go forward.

“Lastly, JPAA would like to conclude with our heartfelt congratulations on Mr. Daren Tang and wishes him all the best for his future initiatives.

“Thank you.”

91. The Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) submitted the following statement:

“Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

“Mr. Tang will head the UN agency that is responsible for shaping intellectual property norms and practices in ways that serve the public, including marginalized communities. In recent years, WIPO has moved some of its negotiations into off-the-record informals, making it more difficult for the public to know what their national delegations favor in this UN forum, and we are troubled by this drift toward less transparency and less accountability for national negotiators.

“WIPO has failed to introduce economic analysis into its core activities. For example, there is no analysis of the economic impact of the proposal for a new broadcasting treaty, on the distribution of income between artists, performers and the public, on the one hand, and owners of broadcasting organizations on the other, as well as on the waste associated with orphaned works, and additional transaction costs to consolidate rights and reduced access to creative works.

“The Director General should modernize policy analysis at WIPO, engage with civil society, and resist the relentless pressure from rent-seeking rightholder lobbies to turn WIPO back into a captured institution.

“WIPO needs to provide useful and timely advice to countries struggling to address intellectual property barriers in the development, expanded manufacturing and access to new services and products to prevent and treat COVID-19 related illnesses. The new COVID 19 IP tracker is a start, but more can be done. The Director General should address this issue, in the context of the need to scale manufacturing capacity and provide affordable access to all of relevant technologies.”

92. The Director General-Elect Mr. Daren Tang submitted the following acceptance speech:

“Your Excellency Ambassador Omar Zniber, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates.

“I am humbled and honored by the trust and support that the members of the General Assembly have given me in appointing me as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“At the outset, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Chairperson of our Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber. Thank you, Ambassador, for your calm, wise and impartial leadership in guiding all members and directing the proceedings of our Assembly under these unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances.

“I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee, Ambassador François Rivasseau. Thank you for your unfailing patience and skillful diplomacy in guiding us through the many months leading up to my nomination as Director General by the Committee, and for always ensuring that respect for due process was upheld.

“Above all, I wish to express my most sincere thanks to all Member States for your support and confidence in entrusting me with this immense responsibility. I promise to discharge it to the utmost of my ability, with humility and sincerity, and to always be guided by the interests and needs of all the Member States. Our common aspirations and goals can only be achieved through support from and mutual co-operation with all of you, and my work and that of the Secretariat will be conducted on the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability.

“My profound gratitude also goes to the Singapore government, whose support for me as its nominee was critical to the successful outcome of the campaign. I am proud to be a son of Singapore, and my hope is to bring the values of professionalism, integrity, inclusiveness and multilateralism, all of which are very much part of the Singapore ethos, in the service of the global IP community.

“Mr. Chair, at this juncture I also wish to pay the highest tribute to the WIPO staff and leadership, and in particular to the outgoing Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry. Dr. Gurry first joined WIPO in 1985. He has served this Organization untiringly for 35 years in various capacities, and as its Director General for the last 12 years. His acuity of mind, his intellect and vision, his leadership, as well as his magisterial command of IP are known to us all. Without exception, we all owe you an immense debt of gratitude, Dr. Gurry. For me, it was personally a privilege to have worked with you, and to now have the opportunity to build on your sterling accomplishments and those of your predecessors. I thank you warmly for a lifetime of committed service to WIPO and wish you the very best in your many future endeavors.

“Distinguished Delegates,

“This year marks 50 years since the WIPO Convention came into force, and we find ourselves meeting under extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances on this occasion. Many of us are wondering when life can go back to normal and what the new normal would look like. In these uncertain times, we need to return to fundamentals. We have to ask ourselves what is truly important, to be our ballast in this storm and serve as our compass as we emerge from it.

“I believe that there are two fundamentals underpinning the work of WIPO. First, as human beings we have an innate drive to innovate and create. Indeed, it is one of the defining characteristics of the human race and will continue to be so. Second, as a UN agency, our mission is to help channel this drive to better the lives of our people, our communities, our countries and our world. This is why the WIPO Convention continues to be relevant even 50 years later, in its exhortation to all of us that “in order to encourage creative activity we should promote the protection of IP throughout the world.

“To achieve this mission, we have to overcome not just the urgent and extraordinary challenge that confronts all of us at present, but also the deeper forces of unilateralism and parochialism that threaten to undermine the very basic tenets of our institution. Our response to all these challenges must be to work even more closely together, not just because of the international character of our agency, but because the most important challenges we face simply cannot be tackled or solved without a common, global effort.

“Distinguished Delegates,

“Turning to the work ahead, I first want to thank the many members and individuals who have taken the time to share their views with me about how we can advance the mission of WIPO and take it to the next stage. Your views have been invaluable in allowing me to outline what lies ahead of us. Our conversation and engagement on the work and future of WIPO must be continuous, so that WIPO can be fully energized by a common vision across all its members, stakeholders and the WIPO staff.

“It is my conviction that while the fundamentals of WIPO remain unchanged, the demands and expectations placed on us by our peoples and the world require us to go beyond continuing to do what we do well. We must also explore innovative ways of doing what we now do, as well as trying some things which are entirely new but will bring meaningful and positive impact to our communities. Our work can be channeled along three themes.

“First, we must prioritize work towards building an inclusive global IP ecosystem that serves the interests of all countries and their stakeholders. Special attention must be paid to those that need more help, especially the developing countries and the least developed amongst them. Such support must be done in a manner that respects and understands the relevant political, economic and cultural context in which it is being rendered.

“After 50 years, there are still many Member States who continue to feel that it is not clear how IP has brought concrete benefits to their communities or their economies. This must be addressed. Inclusiveness therefore also means that our support is rendered not just to IP offices, but also work with them to support the stakeholders within a country – the artists, the creators, the start-ups and SMEs, and others – to have access to the right training and receive the support they need. Success must be measured not just by activity but by impact. Ultimately, we need the people of each country to see a direct connection between IP as a legal right and their lives as innovators, creators, business owners, workers and consumers.

“Second, we must work towards a balanced global IP ecosystem, ensuring that the institutions, companies, policy makers, users and all stakeholders in our global innovation community can participate in, and benefit from, this global IP ecosystem.

“WIPO’s IP registries will remain a cornerstone of our work – through it, we provide a platform for the inventions of our people and enterprises to reach out to the world. Indeed, this aspect of our work makes WIPO unique – no other UN agency interacts with inventors and innovative enterprises from around the world on a daily basis as we do, through the hundreds of thousands of IP filings that flow through our registration systems each year.



These systems are core and critical to WIPO's mission success and must be constantly improved to deliver optimal services for all users.

"As for the valuable data that is generated by these systems or which is otherwise held by WIPO, we must use technology and analytics to transform them into insights that can be shared with Member States and the international community, to allow us to make even better operational and policy choices, whether nationally or globally.

"Our work on the normative agenda must be re-energized. Let us come together and find the political will to commit to overcoming the current impasse. In some areas, we are not far from reaching consensus. To give this area a push, I will undertake intensive consultations in the coming months. As we embark on this new decade, we owe it to our peoples to bring this work to fruition, to regain momentum in a core area of our work, and to ensure that we continue to remain relevant.

"Third, WIPO must work towards a vibrant and forward-looking global IP ecosystem.

"It must help the world broaden its perspective of IP beyond its legal and technical aspects to its powerful role as a supporter of entrepreneurs and enterprises, catalyst for investments, driver of economic growth and a promoter of social vibrancy.

It must support our innovators in our start-ups and SMEs, and our artists in the various creative fields, both of whom represent the future of our world, to connect more closely to our markets and communities.

"WIPO should also leverage on its role as a global, neutral and professional platform for IP offices to come together to discuss common challenges, share best practices, incubate projects and bring the global community of IP offices even closer together. It should engage and work closely with other UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs to find solutions to global challenges such as sustainable development, climate change, public health and access to information and knowledge, especially since such challenges increasingly touch on aspects of IP.

"Even as we look to the advancement of our mission, it is important that we build the strongest organizational foundations for our work. As the Chief Executive of WIPO, a key part of my duties will be to work closely with WIPO colleagues to lead and manage the organization well, so as to execute our mission professionally and effectively.

"First, as an agency that supports innovators and creators around the world, WIPO itself must be a dynamic, open, and transparent Organization, with a diverse staff membership that better reflects a fair gender and geographical balance. We will strive to recruit the best amongst the well-qualified as staff members, and to build a culture where there is mutual respect, free from fear or favor, and focused on action and impact. But it will not be enough to recruit the best people into WIPO. To retain and grow them, we must also invest in training our people, which in turn will make us a more effective Organization, whose staff who are not just passionate about making a difference but are effective at doing so.

"Second, WIPO needs to continue emphasizing high standards of governance, across the breadth and hierarchy of the agency. This will help it to continue earning the trust, goodwill and credibility of members and other stakeholders, and enable it to successfully carry out its work.

"Third, WIPO needs to continue being financially healthy. At present, we are in a position of financial strength. This is a testament to the skill and efforts of the WIPO leadership as well as result of the increased interest in innovation globally. However, the current

situation has amply demonstrated that this must never be taken for granted and we must continue to be prudent in the way we manage our assets and resourceful in the way we execute our work. With this approach, we will have sufficient resources to sustain our agency and continue strongly supporting each and every one of you.

“Distinguished Delegates,

“Even if the world around us right now is in a state of flux, the fundamental tenets of WIPO remain unchanged. WIPO is still the custodian of the global IP ecosystem, ensuring its robust health and advancing its future development. Since the creation of the Paris and Berne Conventions in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the entry into force of the WIPO Convention 50 years ago, the world has suffered the ravages of history and profoundly transformed time and again. Yet each time we and our predecessor institutions did not merely survive but emerged from it stronger and more relevant. This is because of the wisdom, courage and leadership of those who came before us, who brought the WIPO Member States together each time we faced moments of upheaval, to set aside our differences and work collectively for the common good.

“It is this proven willingness to share joint responsibility, confront challenges and transform together that have allowed WIPO to continue to be relevant and vital to the world. As your new Director General, I ask you, in the midst of these extraordinary times, to join me in living up to this spirit, to overcome the challenges we face and together to renew, reinforce and re-energize WIPO as it sets on a new path.

“I thank you all.”

[Annexes follow]

C. N 3989

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents his compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, namely, the three Assemblies of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO that will meet in extraordinary sessions on May 7 and 8, 2020: (1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-second (28th extraordinary) session; (2) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (31st extraordinary) session; and (3) Berne Union Assembly, forty-ninth (25th extraordinary) session. The Covid-19 pandemic, and related public health restrictions, including Host State prohibitions on public gatherings of more than five people, have required the Organization to reassess the feasibility of physically hosting in-person governing body meetings at its headquarters. In these exceptional circumstances, and relating only to the meetings of the WIPO Assemblies on May 7 and 8 to appoint the next Director General, the Organization has engaged in timely consultations and preparations to nevertheless ensure the orderly and effective conduct of these meetings in an alternative format.

The challenges faced by the international community at this time are unprecedented, and ensuring that critical functions continue unimpeded requires innovation and agility within the applicable legal frameworks. It is for this reason that the following, necessarily equally unprecedented, written procedure is hereby proposed that would allow the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly, and the Berne Union Assembly to take relevant decisions at their May meeting for the successful discharge of their treaty obligations as part of the process of the election of the Director General.

In the first instance, Member States are requested to respond affirmatively as to their agreement or disagreement to conduct the May 7 and 8 meeting of the WIPO Assemblies in the form of a written procedure by which they would consent to the draft decisions under consideration. Member States shall provide their affirmative responses to their respective Group Coordinators, who are requested, in turn, to transmit the positions of their Group Members, in writing, to the International Bureau **no later than 5 p.m. April 20, 2020**. The written responses of the Group Coordinators, on behalf of their Members, will be evidence of, and the basis for determining, whether the required quorum for the meeting of Member States, in the form of a written procedure, has been reached.

/...

In accordance with Article 6(3)(b) of the WIPO Convention, Article 13(4)(b) of the Paris Convention, and Article 22(3)(b) of the Berne Convention, one-half of the countries members of the respective Assembly shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum has been reached, and at least two-thirds of the Member States (representing the required majority pursuant to Articles 6(3)(d), 13(4)(d), and 22(3)(d) of the WIPO, Paris and Berne Conventions, respectively) consent, the decision to proceed with a written procedure, as set forth below, shall be considered adopted.

The International Bureau will then communicate, via Group Coordinators, by April 22, 2020 whether quorum and the required majority to adopt the written procedure have been reached.

In the second instance, should Member States agree to conduct the May 7 and 8 meeting of WIPO Assemblies in the form of a written procedure, they will authorize the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to circulate, on April 27, 2020, the relevant draft decisions regarding the appointment of the next Director General for their consideration, and, *in the absence of explicit objection*, in the form of a negative written response, **within 7 calendar days, or no later than 5 p.m. May 4, 2020**, such decisions shall be considered adopted. Recognizing that no vote is technically possible and foreseen for the adoption of the draft decision(s) in accordance with the written procedure, it is therefore underscored that any explicit objection to the proposed decision(s) shall specify clearly the precise nature of the objection to allow the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to determine its legal significance, if any, consistent with the applicable rule(s) of procedure.

It is noted that Member States will have a separate opportunity to provide any written statements that they wish to be reflected in the official report of the meeting; the written procedure is exclusively for the purpose of adopting the decisions under consideration, and shall not be used as the format through which Member States make any general observations or interventions. Member States will be requested to provide any such statements to be included in the formal report of the meeting to the International Bureau by **May 7, 2020**. Thereafter, the relevant decisions shall be considered adopted and the meeting closed on May 8, 2020.

In summary, the timeline of steps as part of the proposed written procedure are as follows:

April 20	Deadline (5 p.m.) for Member States ( <i>via</i> Group Coordinators) to respond affirmatively as to their agreement or disagreement regarding the proposal for written procedure.
April 27	Chair of the WIPO General Assembly issues circular formally notifying the decisions to be taken in the May 7 and 8 meeting.
May 4	Deadline (5 p.m.) for receipt of any explicit written objection to the decisions under consideration.
May 7	Deadline (5 p.m.) for the receipt of any statements by Member States to be included in the formal report of the meeting.
May 8	Decisions considered adopted and meeting closed.

/...

It is recalled, once again, that the global Covid-19 pandemic has prompted the need for exceptional measures across all segments of society and governance. The proposed written procedure is therefore one such response in this context, and shall not be considered a precedent for the conduct of future meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO Member States in otherwise non-exceptional circumstances. Further, it is understood that decisions adopted as part of the written procedure were taken validly and consistent with the applicable legal framework and shall not be the subject of any challenge thereto.



April 14, 2020

C. N 3990

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents his compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to Note C. N 3989, dated April 14, 2020, regarding the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, namely, the three Assemblies of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO that will meet in extraordinary sessions on May 7 and 8, 2020: (1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-second (28th extraordinary) session; (2) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (31st extraordinary) session; and (3) Berne Union Assembly, forty-ninth (25th extraordinary) session.

Further to the proposal as set forth in Note C. N 3989, it is hereby confirmed that the requisite quorum and the required majority have been met to conduct, exceptionally, the meeting of the WIPO Assemblies on May 7 and 8 to appoint the next Director General in the form of a written procedure. WIPO Member States have thereby authorized the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to circulate, on April 27, 2020, the relevant draft decisions regarding the appointment of the next Director General for their consideration, and, in the absence of explicit objection, in the form of a negative written response, within 7 calendar days, or no later than 5 p.m. May 4, 2020, such decisions shall be considered adopted.



April 22, 2020



C. N 3991

The Chair of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents his compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to Note C. N 3989, dated April 14, 2020, regarding the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (WIPO Assemblies) on May 7 and 8, 2020, and Note C. N 3990 dated April 22, 2020, confirming that the requisite quorum and the required majority were met to conduct, exceptionally, the meeting of the WIPO Assemblies to appoint the next Director General in the form of a written procedure. Accordingly, WIPO Member States have authorized the Chair to circulate the relevant draft decisions regarding the appointment of the next Director General for their consideration and eventual adoption.

In this regard, the Chair wishes to communicate the following two draft decisions to be taken, in the form of the aforementioned written procedure, by the WIPO Assemblies on May 7 and 8, 2020, as set forth in documents A/60/2, paragraph 5, and WO/GA/52/1 Rev. paragraph 5, respectively:

“The WIPO General Assembly and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, each as far as it is concerned, are invited to:

- (i) consider the nomination of the WIPO Coordination Committee referred to in paragraph 3 of document A/60/2; and
- (ii) appoint Mr. Daren Tang as Director General for a term from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2026.”

“The WIPO General Assembly is invited to approve the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General, as set forth in Annex I to document WO/GA/52/2 Prov.”

With respect to the decision proposed regarding the conditions of appointment of the Director General, a Summary by the Chair (document WO/GA/52/2 Prov.), detailing the informal consultations and relevant exchanges among members of the Working Group on the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General-Elect (Working Group), which led to informal agreement among Member States on those conditions, is attached to this Note.

/...

It is recalled that, pursuant to the written procedure as set forth in Note C. N 3989 and as agreed by Member States, in the absence of explicit objection, in the form of a negative written response, within 7 calendar days, or no later than 5 p.m. May 4, 2020, the above-mentioned draft decisions shall be considered adopted.

In this context, it is also recalled that Member States will have a separate opportunity to provide any written statements that they wish to be reflected in the official report of the meeting ; the written procedure is exclusively for the purpose of adopting the draft decisions under consideration, and shall not be used as the format through which Member States make any general observations or interventions. Member States are requested to provide any such statements to be included in the formal report of the meeting to the International Bureau by May 7, 2020. Thereafter, the relevant decisions are adopted and the meeting of the WIPO Assemblies closed on May 8, 2020.

April 27, 2020



[Document WO/GA/52/2 Prov. follows]



## **WIPO General Assembly**

### **Fifty-Second (28<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session Geneva, May 7 and 8, 2020**

#### **SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR**

*prepared by the Chair*

1. On April 20, 2020, WIPO Member States agreed to the proposal of the Director General of WIPO, as contained in Note C. N 3989, to conduct, exceptionally, the May 7 and 8 meeting of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly to appoint the next Director General of WIPO in the form of a written procedure. In so doing, Member States authorized the Chair of the General Assembly, to circulate the draft decisions for their consideration, and, eventual adoption.
2. As per past practice, a "Working Group on the Conditions of the appointment of the Director General-Elect" (Working Group) was to be appointed by the WIPO General Assembly to provide recommendations on these conditions so that they may be fixed, or adopted, by the General Assembly. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly presides over the Working Group, and the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee is its Vice-Chair. The other members of the Working Group consist of: (1) the Vice-Chairs of the WIPO General Assembly and of the WIPO Coordination Committee; and (2) the Coordinators of the African Group, the Asia and Pacific Group (APG), the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), Group B, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), and China.
3. Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with the proposal for, and eventual agreement of Member States to proceed, exceptionally, with a written procedure for the conduct of these meetings, the Chair proposed a similarly exceptional approach to the work of the Working Group. As detailed in document WO/GA/52/1 Rev., the Chair proposed to convene the Working Group informally and to engage in consultations with it to provide recommendations regarding the conditions of appointment of the Director General.

As further proposed in that document, the results of the informal consultations would be reflected in the present Summary by the Chair, to be annexed to the circular containing the proposed decisions for adoption as part of the written procedure agreed by Member States for the conduct of the May WIPO Assemblies.

4. To this end, the Chair invited views and comments from the Working Group as of April 20, 2020, on the draft contract for the Director General (as based on document WO/GA/52/1 Rev. ANNEX), so that any proposals or recommendations on which informal agreement had been reached could be reflected in the draft decisions circulated on April 27, 2020. The Chair also organized a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, with the Working Group.

5. During the April 22 meeting, the Chair first noted that 151 Member States had responded affirmatively to confirm their consent to the written procedure, and had thereby authorized the Chair to circulate the draft decisions to which the present Summary by the Chair is annexed, and that reflect the informal consultations. The Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, His Excellency François Rivasseau, Permanent Representative of France, the Vice-Chairs of the WIPO General Assembly, His Excellency Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh, Permanent Representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of), and His Excellency Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative of Georgia, and the Vice-Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, His Excellency Andreano Erwin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia, all expressed their support both for the informal process underway and for the draft contract under consideration.

6. The Chair then requested Group Coordinators to express their views on behalf of their Group Members. Zimbabwe, on behalf of the African Group, expressed its support for the proposed conditions of appointment of the Director General, and the text of the contract, as currently drafted.

7. Singapore, on behalf of the APG, raised three points with respect to the process and substance of the conditions of appointment: (1) the two decisions, namely to appoint the next Director General, and to fix the conditions of his appointment, should be adopted at same time; (2) the conditions of the Director General appointment are also set out in the WIPO Convention and WIPO Staff Regulations and Rules; and (3) any changes to the contract should be limited to technical updates and details, such as contract dates and names of parties.

8. The Russian Federation, on behalf of CACEEC, noted that the benefits of the Director General are consistent with standards for agency Executive Heads and that its group is of the view that the current text of the contract is in line with established practice and should be left as is. CACEEC also agreed with the modalities as presented by the Chair, and they hoped to reach a mutually acceptable and consensual solution.

9. Latvia, on behalf of CEBS, expressed that it was pleased to hear that more than 150 Member States had accepted the written procedure, for which its group had a 100per cent response and acceptance rate. The Coordinator noted that while he had not seen other proposals, he noted that in the current, exceptional, circumstances, it would be difficult to conduct negotiations on any such proposal. Consequently, he recommended that the Working Group follow existing practice and adopt the draft contract as proposed. He also noted that he could anticipate work on proposed amendments for the following term of the Director General, to begin in six years, for which the Working Group would have a better opportunity to conduct negotiations.

10. China confirmed its support for the text of the contract as currently drafted.

11. Germany, on behalf of Group B, noted that the agreement of over 150 Member States to the written procedure was a good result, and was also pleased to confirm that Group B similarly had a 100 per cent response and acceptance rate. The Coordinator then expressed his desire to make four points: (1) his Group could support the text of the contract as currently drafted for the term of the Director General beginning 2020; (2) due to the current extraordinary circumstances, Group B Members were not able to effectively engage in discussions on proposed amendments; (3) Group B would therefore refrain from introducing textual changes at this time, but requested that, before the 2021 Assemblies, the Chair of the General Assembly hold informal consultations concerning possible amendments as regards the term of the Director General beginning 2026; and (4) requested that this be reflected in the present Summary by the Chair.

12. Jamaica, on behalf of GRULAC, expressed its appreciation for the preparation of the working documents and the consultations, and was pleased to hear the large number of Member States responding affirmatively to the written procedure. The Coordinator noted that it had consulted with members of its Group on the draft text of the contract and that while a number of members had provided feedback, others were still consulting with capitals. It had not received any proposals for amendments, and, for Group members that provided feedback, they indicated their preference to avoid changes given that the current contract terms have worked effectively and that it was difficult to conduct negotiations in the absence of face-to-face meetings. Consequently, the *status quo* was best. The Coordinator added that any changes would need to be based on international law and applicable WIPO rules. Further, in these circumstances, consideration of and agreement to any changes would be difficult as some capitals were operating under emergency measures, which would cause delays.

13. In concluding the meeting, the Chair requested the Working Group to convey any additional comments by the close of business on April 23, 2020 so that they could be properly reflected in the Summary by the Chair and draft decisions, as appropriate. No further comments were received.

14. Consequently, in considering the conditions of the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang as Director General, the Working Group decided to recommend to the WIPO General Assembly the same conditions that the WIPO General Assembly approved in 2014 when Mr. Francis Gurry was appointed, modified to reflect an annual inflationary adjustment in respect of the housing and representation allowances in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Geneva. In addition to the representation and housing allowances stipulated in the contract, the Working Group also received, at the outset of the informal consultations, an indicative estimate of the monthly remuneration of Mr. Tang, provided by the International Bureau based on the United Nations common system financial parameters given in March 2020. The conditions of the appointment of Mr. Daren Tang as Director General, as reflected in the draft contract and indicative estimate of monthly remuneration, are set out in Annexes I and II, respectively, to this Summary by the Chair.

[Annex I follows]

## CONTRACT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

THIS CONTRACT is entered into this [...] day of [...] 2020

between

the WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (hereinafter  
called “the Organization” or “WIPO”)

and

Mr. Daren Tang

### WHEREAS:

- A. Article 6(2)(i) of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (hereinafter called “the WIPO Convention”) provides that the WIPO General Assembly shall appoint the Director General of WIPO upon nomination by the WIPO Coordination Committee.
- B. Article 9(3) of the WIPO Convention provides, *inter alia*, that the Director General of WIPO shall be appointed for a fixed term, which shall be not less than six years, and that the period of the initial appointment, as well as all other conditions of the appointment, shall be fixed by the WIPO General Assembly.
- C. The term of the appointment may end according to the relevant provisions as set out in the WIPO Convention and the Staff Regulations and Rules of the International Bureau of WIPO.
- D. Upon the nomination of the WIPO Coordination Committee, the WIPO General Assembly appointed Mr. Tang as Director General of WIPO on May 8, 2020.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Term of Appointment

1. The appointment of Mr. Tang as Director General of WIPO shall be for a fixed term of six years, commencing on October 1, 2020.

Salary and Allowances

2. Throughout the term of his appointment, the Organization shall pay to Mr. Tang

(1) an annual net salary equivalent to the highest salary payable to the Head of a Specialized Agency of the United Nations which has its headquarters in Geneva;

(2) an annual representation allowance of 62,870 Swiss francs, which will be updated annually according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Geneva\*; and

(3) an annual housing allowance of 77,145 Swiss francs, which will likewise be updated annually according to the CPI for Geneva.

3. The Organization shall make available to Mr. Tang a car and chauffeur for official duties and pay the expenses relating thereto.

4. Mr. Tang shall be entitled to appropriate security protection, where necessary.

Pension

5. Mr. Tang shall be entitled to participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, in accordance with the Regulations and Rules of that Fund and with the pensionable remuneration determined in accordance with the methodology of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

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\* The CPI for Geneva is issued by the Office cantonal de la statistique

Application of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

6. Except as may be otherwise modified herein, Mr. Tang shall have the rights and assume the obligations which are provided for in the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the International Bureau of WIPO.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES HAVE THIS [...] DAY OF [...] 2020  
SIGNED THESE PRESENTS

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Omar Zniber  
Chair  
WIPO General Assembly

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Daren Tang

[Annex II follows]

Monthly Remuneration - Director General

The calculation is an indicative estimate of what would be the monthly remuneration of Mr. Daren Tang as Director General of WIPO pursuant to WIPO Staff Regulations 3.1 and 3.5 based on the parameters given in March 2020\*)  
(in addition to the Representation and Housing Allowances included in his contract)

Net monthly salary	
[ (\$ 168'782 x 0.97) : 12 ]	SFr. 13,643.20
Post Adjustment Geneva	
[ (\$ 168'782 x 0.97 x 0.782) : 12 ]	SFr. 10,669.00
	<hr/>
	SFr. 24,312.20
DG's Contribution UNJSPF	
[ (\$ 389'766 x 0.97 x 0.079) : 12 ]	-SFr. 2,489.00
DG's Contribution Social Security Insurance**)	-SFr. 298.00
	<hr/>
Monthly pay	SFr. 21,525.20

\*) Official United Nations exchange rate in March 2020: 1 US\$ = 0.97 Swiss francs  
Post Adjustment multiplier for Geneva in March 2020: **78.20**

\*\*) contribution to the medical insurance of the DG only; dependants not considered

[End of Annex II and of document]

C. N 3992

The Chair of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents his compliments and has the honor to refer to the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (WIPO Assemblies) on May 7 and 8, 2020, namely, the three Assemblies of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO that will meet in extraordinary sessions on May 7 and 8, 2020: ( 1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-second (28th extraordinary) session; (2) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (31<sup>st</sup> extraordinary) session; and (3) Berne Union Assembly, forty-ninth (25th extraordinary) session.

Further to the agreement of WIPO Member States to conduct the WIPO Assemblies, exceptionally, in the form of a written procedure, as set forth in document A/60/C. N 3989, and as confirmed in document A/60/C. N 3990, the Chair wishes at this time to invite Member States, as well as Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and other entities admitted as observers at WIPO, to provide written statements that they wish to be reflected in the official report of the said WIPO Assemblies. WIPO Member States and observers are requested to provide any such statements to be included in the report of the meeting to the International Bureau, in the form of an electronic document, at [LegalCounsel@wipo.int](mailto:LegalCounsel@wipo.int) no later than 5 p.m. May 7, 2020.

The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly wishes also to note that the usual limitations on the length of statements that would typically apply in an in-person meeting will similarly apply in this context, to ensure a consolidated report that reflects the statements provided, but remains conducive to efficient translation and dissemination. To this end, statements should not exceed the limit of 1000 words for statements made on behalf of WIPO Groups, 750 words for statements made by WIPO Member States, and 500 words for statements made by observers. Any statements exceeding these lengths will be edited by the International Bureau for brevity in the report of the meeting.

April 29, 2020





C. N 3993

The Chair of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents his compliments and has the honor to refer to the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (WIPO Assemblies), namely, the three Assemblies of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO that met in extraordinary sessions on May 7 and 8, 2020: (1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-second (28<sup>th</sup> extraordinary) session; (2) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (31<sup>st</sup> extraordinary) session; and (3) Berne Union Assembly, forty-ninth (25<sup>th</sup> extraordinary) session.

Further to the decision taken by Member States to conduct the WIPO Assemblies, exceptionally, in the form of a written procedure (see Note C. N 3989, dated April 14, 2020, and Note C. N 3990, dated April 22, 2020), two draft decisions regarding the appointment of the next Director General of WIPO were circulated by the Chair in C. N 3991, dated April 27, 2020, for consideration by Member States. In this regard, the Chair has the honor to announce that no explicit objection to the draft decisions, in the form of a negative written response, was received by the International Bureau of WIPO, within 7 calendar days or until 5 p.m. May 4, 2020.

Accordingly, the following two decisions were adopted:

“The WIPO General Assembly and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, each as far as it is concerned, considered the nomination of the WIPO Coordination Committee referred to in paragraph 3 of document A/60/2 and unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Daren Tang as Director General of WIPO for the period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2026.”

“The WIPO General Assembly unanimously approved the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General, as set forth in Annex I to document WO/GA/52/2.”

The aforementioned decisions will be included, together with written statements provided by WIPO Member States, observers, and the Director General-elect, in a General Report of the Assemblies, which will be made available in due course.

The Chair has the honor to declare closed the Sixtieth Series of Meetings of the WIPO Assemblies.



May 8, 2020