

Statement:

Mister Chair, dear Delegates, dear Francis Gurry, director general of WIPO,

With your departure from WIPO, a period comes to an end during which our organisation Health and Environment Program had an intensive cooperation with WIPO. Actually, we were assisting and contributing since 2001, almost as long as you from 2008 on, at a great number of meetings and especially at the almost totality of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

The actual sanitary situation with the coronavirus pandemic and the WIPO-decision to exclude all NGO's, even those with an office in Geneva, from a physical presence, hinders us unfortunately to thank you personally for your engagement during your two mandates. You will surely regret that IGC was not able to get to a consensus, but the contrary interests of all parties were too important.

We wish you therefore all the best for your future and that this last Assembly 2020 will be a great success for you and all member states.

We wish furthermore a good start to the new director general, Mr. Daren Tang, and hope we will soon be able to meet him in person and not only on a computer screen.