

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Sixty-Second Series of Meetings Geneva, October 4 to 8, 2021, 2021

DRAFT GENERAL REPORT

prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This draft General Report records the deliberations and decisions of the following 22 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO (the “Assemblies”):

- (1) WIPO General Assembly, fifty-fourth (25th ordinary) session
- (2) WIPO Conference, forty-second (25th ordinary) session
- (3) WIPO Coordination Committee, eightieth (52nd ordinary) session
- (4) Paris Union Assembly, fifty-seventh (25th ordinary) session
- (5) Paris Union Executive Committee, sixty-first (57th ordinary) session
- (6) Berne Union Assembly, fifty-first (25th ordinary) session
- (7) Berne Union Executive Committee, sixty-seventh (52nd ordinary) session
- (8) Madrid Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (24th ordinary) session
- (9) Hague Union Assembly, forty-first (23rd ordinary) session
- (10) Nice Union Assembly, forty-first (25th ordinary) session
- (11) Lisbon Union Assembly, thirty-eighth (24th ordinary) session
- (12) Locarno Union Assembly, forty-first (24th ordinary) session
- (13) IPC [International Patent Classification] Union Assembly, forty-second (23rd ordinary) session
- (14) PCT [Patent Cooperation Treaty] Union Assembly, fifty-third (23rd ordinary) session
- (15) Budapest Union Assembly, thirty-eighth (21st ordinary) session
- (16) Vienna Union Assembly, thirty-fourth (21st ordinary) session
- (17) WCT [WIPO Copyright Treaty] Assembly, twenty-first (10th ordinary) session
- (18) WPPT [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty] Assembly, twenty-first (10th ordinary) session

- (19) PLT [Patent Law Treaty] Assembly, twentieth (9th ordinary) session
- (20) Singapore Treaty [Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks] Assembly, fourteenth (7th ordinary) session
- (21) Marrakesh Treaty [Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled] Assembly, sixth (6th ordinary) session.
- (22) BTAP [Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances] Assembly, second (2nd ordinary) session

meeting in Geneva from October 4 to 8, 2021, where the deliberations took place, and decisions were made in joint meetings of two or more of the said Assemblies and other bodies convened (hereinafter referred to as “the joint meeting(s)” and “the Assemblies of the Member States,” respectively).

2. In addition to this draft General Report, separate draft Reports have been drawn up on the sessions of the WIPO General Assembly (WO/GA/54/15 Prov.), WIPO Coordination Committee (WO/CC/80/5 Prov.), PCT Union Assembly (PCT/A/53/4 Prov.), Madrid Union Assembly (MM/A/55/2 Prov.), Hague Union Assembly (H/A/41/2 Prov.), Lisbon Union Assembly (LI/A/38/3 Prov.), Singapore Treaty Assembly (STLT/A/14/2 Prov.) Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (MVT/A/6/2 Prov.) and the Beijing Treaty Assembly (BTAP/A/2/2 Prov.). Furthermore, consolidated reports of the sessions of the other bodies have also been drawn up, as follows: WIPO Conference (WO/CF/42/1 Prov.), Paris Union Assembly (P/A/57/1 Prov.), Paris Union Executive Committee (P/EC/61/1 Prov.), Berne Union Assembly (B/A/51/1 Prov.), Berne Union Executive Committee (B/EC/67/1 Prov.), Nice Union Assembly (N/A/41/1 Prov.), Locarno Union Assembly (LO/A/41/1 Prov.), IPC Union Assembly (IPC/A/42/1 Prov.), Budapest Union Assembly (BP/A/38/1 Prov.), Vienna Union Assembly (VA/A/34/1 Prov.), WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly (WCT/A/21/1 Prov.), WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty Assembly (WPPT/A/21/1 Prov.), Patent Law Treaty Assembly (PLT/A/20/1 Prov.).

3. The list of the members and observers of the Assemblies, as of October 8, 2021, is set forth in document A/62/INF/1 Rev.

4. The meetings dealing with the following items of the Agenda (document A/62/1) were presided over by the following Chairs:

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 32 and 33	Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly
Items 7, 30 and 31	Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Ms.) (Djibouti), Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee
Item 8	Shayea A. Alshayea (Mr.) (Saudi Arabia), Chair of the WIPO Conference, in his absence, Mercy K. Kainobwiso (Ms.) (Uganda), Vice-Chair
Item 21	María Loreto Bresky (Ms.) (Chile), Chair of the PCT Union Assembly
Item 22	Philippe Cadre (Mr.) (France), Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly

Item 23	David R. Gerk (Mr.) (United States of America), Chair of the Hague Union Assembly
Item 24	Pascal Faure (Mr.) (France), Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly
Item 27	Lucía Estrada (Ms.) (Uruguay), Chair of the Singapore Treaty Assembly
Item 28	Ali Alshanqeeti (Mr.) (Saudi Arabia), Chair of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly
Item 29	María Gabriela Campoverde (Ms.) (Ecuador), Chair of the Beijing Treaty Assembly

5. The agenda, as adopted, and the list of participants appear in documents A/62/1 and A/62/INF/5, respectively.

ITEM 1 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

6. The Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang (hereinafter referred to as “the Director General”).

7. The sessions were opened in a joint meeting of all the 22 Assemblies and other bodies concerned by Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

8. The opening statement of the Chair is recorded as follows:

“Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of the Organization,
“Your Excellencies, the Heads of Delegations,
“Dear Colleagues, Members of the Secretariat,
“Ladies and Gentlemen,

“It gives me great pleasure to announce the opening of the sixty-second series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO. I would like to welcome all of you, and everyone who is following from afar, to the session, which is being held amid the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

“As the term of Morocco as Chair of this General Assembly nears its end, allow me to express to all delegations my profound gratitude for their confidence and continuous support, which have underpinned our work throughout this mandate, taking place as it has in such unprecedented times.

“Our common, steady determination has enabled us to steer a path through this period judiciously and with foresight. We have managed, in spite of the pandemic, to work together to achieve the goals that we had set for ourselves. Indeed, the pandemic pushed us in good measure to adapt our capabilities and devise new ways of striving to achieve those goals. I would like to make at least four points in that regard:

- “First: Throughout the pandemic, the Organization continued to hold its meetings. More recently, we have seen a gradual return to work as normal, as in the case of the Program and Budget Committee and, now, at this session;
- “Second: We have ensured that our key events have been held according to the set timetable. In particular, I would like to mention the two ordinary general assemblies, the convening of which is linked to the work of the committees, and the extraordinary general assembly that led to the appointment of the new Director General;
- “Third: Since assuming the Chair of this General Assembly, I have made it a point to intensify regular consultative meetings on a broad range of subjects, including some of considerable urgency. Bilateral and multilateral meetings were held at various levels: ambassadors, experts and regional coordinators. The Secretariat of the Organization, and in particular the Director General, made a valuable contribution in providing the necessary support to the Chair in that regard;
- “Fourth. The feedback from and significant interaction by the representatives of the missions in Geneva with the Chair over the past two years show just how much the approach by Morocco as Chair of the General Assembly has helped to enhance understanding of the normative and institutional issues at hand and the related political and economic challenges. This approach has also helped to boost interest in the issues dealt with by the Organization.

“Without a doubt, what we have achieved thus far is due to the efforts of the regional group coordinators, your positive and constructive engagement and the able support of the Secretariat. Equally important has been the support of my deputy and assistants, who have contributed greatly to the ongoing consultations, and of course that of the committee chairs. To all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for their valuable efforts. We mean to continue on this path, aware of our grave responsibility, during this session and beyond, and to build on what he have achieved in order strengthen the role of our organization, WIPO, going forward.

“Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

“At this session, we shall focus on discussing the important issues set forth in the agenda. The agenda is balanced and reflects the concerns of all regional groups, as expressed during the various preparatory consultative meetings. This will help to ensure smooth proceedings.

“I would call on all participants to show the necessary flexibility and to bear in mind the circumstances in which we are working, and therefore to respect the health guidelines put in place in accordance with the directives of the Swiss authorities regarding social distancing, the mandatory wearing of masks and the reporting of any possible symptoms. Please also follow any other rules that the Secretariat may announce as necessary.

“The success of this session, as ever, depends on the support and cooperation of all participants so as to achieve the optimum outcome, while ensuring the health and safety of all.”

ITEM 2 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. Discussions were based on document A/62/1 Prov.2.

10. The Delegation of China, observing that the current session of the Assemblies was being held in a hybrid format and had been compressed into a shorter period than was customary, that certain items, such as the composition of the Coordination and the Program and Budget Committees and the issue of convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the Design Law Treaty, were complicated and required extensive consultations, and noting the difficulties posed by the participation in meetings of delegates of the Member States in different time zones, said that the limited time available should be used to focus on the core tasks and future development of WIPO. A certain organization had resubmitted, in spite of concerns raised by the Delegation at the previous session of the Assemblies, its application for observer status. The Delegation recalled that decisions on the admission of observers had always been, and should continue to be, taken by consensus among Member States and said that it would again raise its concerns under Agenda Item 6.

11. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, adopted the agenda as proposed in document A/62/1 Prov.2 (referred to in this document as “the Consolidated Agenda”).

ITEM 3 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12. Discussions were based on document A/62/INF/1 Rev.

13. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel wished to recall that at the current year's Assemblies, Member States were to elect officers, that is, one chair and two vice-chairs for each of the 22 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions. The Legal Counsel recalled that all officers, with the exception of those of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Executive Committees, were appointed to a two-year term. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Executive Committees, however, served a one-year term. The Legal Counsel also reminded Member States that, in accordance with the election cycle of the officers of the WIPO General Assembly as provided in Rule 6 of the Special Rules of Procedure of the WIPO General Assembly, their term of office would begin following the final meeting of the WIPO General Assembly at its, present, Fifty-Fourth (25th ordinary) Session. He was pleased to announce that Member States had reached consensus in respect of some of the officers to be elected and went on to read out the names of the nominations for positions that the Secretariat had, so far, received.

14. The Chair proposed that the Assemblies first endorse the names as read out by the Legal Counsel, which had already gathered consensus among Group Coordinators, and revert to the agenda item at a later stage to complete the elections for the outstanding positions of officers. In the meantime, he encouraged delegations to submit the remaining nominations and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.

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

16. Reverting to the agenda item on the last day of the Assemblies, the Chair invited the Legal Counsel to provide the meeting with an update on the nominations and consultations for the remaining vacant position of officers.

17. The Legal Counsel announced that Member States had reached consensus on officers to be elected and read out their names, which concluded the nominations for officer positions during the Assemblies. He also informed that the names of the officers to the bodies were contained in the informal document that had been circulated to all delegates, through Group Coordinators, earlier in the morning.

18. The Chair then proposed that the Assemblies endorse the nominations read out by the Legal Counsel that had gathered consensus among Group Coordinators.

19. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as appears in document A/62/INF/2.

ITEM 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO

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

“Your Excellency, Ambassador Zniber, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly,
“Honorable Ministers, Excellencies,
“Distinguished Delegates,

“It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you to the Sixty Second Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

“I would like to thank you, Ambassador Zniber, as the Chairperson of the WIPO General Assembly, for your valued guidance in advance of this week, as well as throughout my first year as the new Director-General.

“Special mention must also be made of Ambassador Sabri Bachtobji, whose able and adroit guidance of the Program and Budget Committee have helped us as the new Administration to achieve support from the Committee for many important program and work related proposals.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Presiding Officers of WIPO committees, working groups and other bodies for your leadership and engagement over the last year, as well as the Regional Coordinators for the arduous but critical task of coordinating your respective regional groups.

“Finally, I wish to also express deep appreciation for those of you from capitals who are calling in, or are with us in Geneva. Your support is key to our delivery of impact to your economies, and your continued engagement with WIPO, sometimes at great distances from Geneva and even through these difficult times, reminds us that this is indeed a global IP community, and a global WIPO family.

“Excellencies,

“Along with the rest of the UN family, and indeed, the world, the past year has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has presented this Organization and my fellow colleagues with novel and difficult challenges.

“Beyond the disruptions caused to WIPO’s work, we join you in mourning the lives lost to the pandemic and the devastating impact it continues to have on economies and societies the world over.

“But rather than overwhelm us, our shared grief must inspire in us a steadfast and common resolve to overcome the pandemic and build back better.

“To do this, we must envision the opportunities before us and seize them, even as we work to overcome the current crisis.

“While the pandemic has impacted lives and livelihoods, it has also accelerated pre-pandemic trends towards the use IP, innovation and creativity as engines of growth.

“As revealed by WIPO’s 2021 Global Innovation Index, IP filings, R&D expenditure and venture capital deals all grew in 2020, despite the deepest economic contraction of modern times.

“At the same time, we face global challenges that threaten the very existence of our lives, and our planet – the pandemic, climate change, unequal growth and others enshrined in the UN SDGs.

“In these times, the work of WIPO, and indeed for all of us, cannot be business as usual.

“In these times, we must harness our energies and deploy our expertise to help to overcome these global challenges as well as lay the foundations for future growth

“Excellencies,

“In June, we published a new five-year Medium Term Strategic Plan, in which we laid out WIPO’s new Vision and Mission.

“The aim of the MTSP is twofold:

“...to reinforce WIPO’s traditional areas of strength, as the provider of global IP services and the convener of the international IP community.

“...and to ensure that IP acts as a powerful catalyst for jobs, investments, economic development and social vibrancy in all economies and in every region of the world.

“To achieve these aims, our work will be built around four Strategic Pillars, underpinned by a Foundation.

“Under our first pillar, WIPO is broadening our communications and engagement strategy so that we connect with new audiences, in new ways.

“At the heart of this approach is making IP relevant and relatable to everyone, everywhere.

“From the young Kenyan entrepreneur Navalayo Osembo-Ombati who is using IP to grow her running shoes business.

“...to Kim Haneul who is transforming discarded face masks into a new furniture brand in the Republic of Korea.

“...to Maria Sanchez Amono who is part of the Argentinean team that has patented a new type of roof tile made from recycled materials.

“IP is lifting up people and communities around the world, and we need to share these stories.

“As we move forward, we will continue to find new ways of reaching groups such as youth, women and small and medium sized enterprises who have too often been on the margins of the IP ecosystem.

“This year’s World IP Day was centered on the theme of “SMEs – taking your ideas to market”. It was the most successful IP Day in WIPO’s history, with the greatest number of engagements all over the world as we worked with all of you to bring the IP message to this important community.

“Our work to serve the underserved will continue, and I can share with you that the theme for next year’s World IP Day will be on IP and Youth.

“Many of you have also underlined the importance of IP and Gender issues, and I take this opportunity to reiterate our full support in finding concrete ways to bring greater gender inclusivity to the global IP ecosystem.

“Under our second pillar, WIPO will continue to play an active role as a shaper of global IP norms and standards, and be the global convener for the discussion of IP issues.

“While these roles have faced challenges over the last twelve months, WIPO will continue to find new ways of bringing the international community together to advance the normative agenda, build respect for IP and share perspectives on emerging issues such as IP and Frontier Technologies.

“More broadly, the number of Member States joining WIPO-administered treaties continues to expand, with 45 accessions and ratifications in the last year and a further 26 accessions and ratifications during the first half of 2021.

“The Marrakesh Treaty, which expands learning and education possibilities for the over 250 million people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, remains WIPO’s fastest growing Treaty.

“In just five years, it has grown to cover 107 countries worldwide.

“But when it comes to Marrakesh – and the work of WIPO’s Accessible Books Consortium – it is not the statistics that take center stage but the people whose lives it has changed around the world.

“From supporting young people in their education, to boosting and furthering careers, to delivering new leisure and learning possibilities, the Marrakesh Treaty is another powerful example of IP in action.

“WIPO has also stepped-up our engagement with other intergovernmental organizations over the last twelve months.

“Through our enhanced trilateral cooperation with the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization, we are supporting societies and economies to overcome the pandemic and rebuild.

“WIPO’s stance has been clear and consistent: we believe in vaccine equity and that no one is safe until everyone is safe.

“But the goal of achieving vaccine equity is complex and multi-faceted.

“This is why in June, the Directors General of the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization and I met and we agreed to strengthen our cooperation by developing cohesive cross-Agency solutions to the challenges that our economies face in overcoming the pandemic.

“We agreed to organize a series of technical capacity-building workshops and to combine our expertise on health, IP and trade matters in a joint platform of trilateral technical assistance.

“The first trilateral workshop on technology transfer and licensing took place last week with over 200 participants from around the world.

“This enhanced trilateral cooperation sits alongside WIPO’s own package of COVID-19 response measures, which will see an additional 3 million Swiss francs being set aside over the next biennium.

“Through tailored technical assistance and capacity building support, including on vital issues such as tech transfer, WIPO is stepping up our measures to support its Members in containing the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better.

“Under our third pillar, we will work to strengthen the provision of global IP services, knowledge and data.

“In spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic, PCT filings grew by almost 4 per cent last year, with only marginal declines in both the Madrid and Hague systems.

“PCT filings are up a further 2 per cent during the first six months of 2021. And we have seen a strong rebound in Madrid and Hague filings up 18 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, year-on-year.

“WIPO will continue to modernize the provision of our global IP services, with a strong emphasis on engaging more extensively with our customers, so that we will be able to serve them – the innovators and creators of the world, more effectively.

“We will also support the development of key reports such as the Global Innovation Index, as well our WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search platforms that are helping to address global challenges and making progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Under the fourth pillar, WIPO’s Development Agenda will look at how we can be impact-driven, rather than just activity-driven. We will not do this in a one-size-fits-all approach, but customize it so that it is tailored to the specific needs of individual Member States.

“Our ambition is to enable all countries – especially developing countries and LDCs – to use IP as a powerful tool for economic and social development.

“To give just one example of this approach, I would like to speak briefly about WIPO’s program on Women Entrepreneurs and IP in the least developed countries.

“Working in close collaboration with a Ugandan NGO – which itself was established by an alumni of a previous WIPO project – the program began by providing mentorship to a group of female entrepreneurs on how IP can help their business to grow.

“With WIPO’s support, individual action plans have been created for each member of the group, with a focus on issues such as business registration and trademark filing.

“Caroline Matovu is one of the entrepreneurs we are supporting.

“Caroline created a homemade detergent in her back garden, Trion, which is being used by hospitals, supermarkets and schools to keep surfaces clean and protect public health as Uganda fights the pandemic.

“Instead of just a short seminar or workshop lasting days, our relationship with the in-country NGO is enabling us to provide more intensive on the ground support for these entrepreneurs lasting weeks and months.

“In Caroline’s case, she has quickly created a strong brand that people have come to trust. Thanks to her involvement in the program Caroline is currently pursuing a trademark to underpin the quality of her product.

“Last month, we began a similar project in Sudan and are in the process of rolling this out in other countries too.

“The power of this approach is that it transforms IP into a clear driver of business growth – allowing innovators and creators from anywhere to recognize IP as a powerful tool for realizing their hopes and aspirations.

“The Foundation of the Four Pillars and all this work is the exceptional people that make up WIPO.

“Time and again the staff of WIPO have risen to meet the challenges we have faced over the last twelve months.

“My deepest gratitude goes to my colleagues throughout the organization for their professionalism, resilience and commitment, which has enabled WIPO to adapt to a different way of working whilst delivering the results you as Members have come to expect.

“But this Foundation can be made even stronger.

“Through our new HR Strategy we have made a very candid assessment of how WIPO’s organizational culture needs to evolve, and how we are committed to fostering an open, collaborative and inclusive culture – one that suits an organization whose mission is to support innovators and creators around the world.

“Diversity will remain an important goal for us, as I believe that it is a source of strength and will allow us to better connect with all regions in the world.

“Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt global economies, I am gratified to share with you that WIPO has maintained a healthy financial position over the last twelve months. Our surpluses last year were at the highest ever in the history of the organization.

“However, healthy financials is not a state of affairs we can take for granted given the uncertainties of the global economy.

“Moreover, we owe it to Members to ensure that we continue using our resources responsibly, efficiently and prudently, so that we can invest in future infrastructure and skills, in order to continue serving you well.

“Coupled with strong governance that will draw on the best practices within the UN family and beyond, we will manage and administer the organization in an efficient, effective and energetic manner.

“Excellencies,

“As always, you have an extremely busy agenda ahead of you this week.

“You will take a number of important decisions for the Organization, including on our program of work and budget, and on the work plans of our committees and working groups over the coming year.

“I would also like to reiterate the great importance that WIPO attaches to multilingualism as a core value of the UN system.

“The administration sees multilingualism as firmly linked to our broader efforts at engaging a wider audience with the important work we are undertaking here at WIPO. Multilingualism helps to drive multilateralism and we are delighted that the revised policy on languages has been recommended for approval.

“Dear Colleagues and Friends,

“We meet against the backdrop of the greatest challenge humanity has faced in modern times – an inflection point which will come to define our collective future and that of generations to come.

“While the path ahead will not be easy, it is through innovation and creativity that we will overcome the pandemic and build back in a fair, inclusive and sustainable way.

“But innovation and creativity need to be carefully and skillfully nurtured, in order that they may truly create impact.

“If we do this right, our future can truly be one where every WIPO Member uses IP as a powerful tool to create jobs, attract investments, grow businesses, and ultimately develop economies and societies.

“With your steadfast support, active encouragement, and strong partnership, I am confident that we will bring about this change, and together achieve our vision of a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by IP for the good of everyone.

“Thank you.”

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

21. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 111 States, two intergovernmental organizations and 10 non-governmental organizations provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (the), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA), Health and Environment Program (HEP), IP Justice, Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), Latin American School of Intellectual Property (ELAPI), League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and South Centre (SC).

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

ITEM 6 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

23. Discussions were based on documents A/62/3 Rev. and A/62/4 Rev.

24. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/62/3 Rev., and recalled that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO were invited to consider applications by five international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and six national NGOs, as listed in paragraph 4 of the said document, for observer status in the meetings of the Member States of WIPO.

25. The Delegation of China wished to make a statement regarding the request for observer status by the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF). The Delegation recalled that during last year's Assemblies, China had already pointed out that the affiliated websites of WMF contained a large amount of content and misinformation that ran counter to the one-China principle, United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 2758, as well as the long-standing position of WIPO on Taiwan-related issues. The Delegation noted that it was aware of the additional information provided by WMF, in an attempt to demonstrate that WMF did not have any direct management relations regarding its affiliates. The Delegation believed that the additional content was still not clear regarding the nature of the affiliates and that it did not solve the serious concern of China about the Taiwan-related issues. Therefore, the Delegation could not accept WMF's application for observer status. The Delegation further pointed out that WIPO,

being a specialized agency of the UN, should observe UNGA Resolution 2758 as well as the long-standing position of the Organization on the Taiwan issue, that is the one-China principle. Considering the above, the Delegation expressed the view that WMF should not be admitted as an observer in WIPO and stressed that it did not agree with the acceptance of WMF to be an observer in WIPO. The Delegation also wished to recall that, in the past, the admission of organizations as observers had always been made on the basis of consensus among the Member States and the Delegation hoped that all parties would continue to observe this principle, when discussing this issue.

26. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its support for the approval of the full list of applications for observer status as it appeared in document A/62/3 Rev. The Delegation noted that observers were meant to enrich debates and bring diverse and informed views which link to, and support, the activities and objectives of WIPO. In the Delegation's understanding all the applicant organizations listed in the working document met the requirements requested by WIPO, otherwise the Secretariat would not have published their applications. It understood that one organization was requested to submit additional information regarding its application and had done so, fully answering the questions posed. The Delegation noted that WMF was similar to many other NGOs who had views on copyright-related issues and who had already been granted observer status in WIPO. Regarding this applicant organization, the Delegation further explained that it had also already clearly demonstrated its interest in the field of intellectual property (IP) and its organization's link to WIPO's work. The Delegation pointed out that WMF had submitted input to WIPO artificial intelligence (AI) and IP call for public input and used the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation services frequently. Therefore, the Delegation reiterated its call to make the UN, including these bodies; the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, more transparent and accessible for civil society organizations and to ensure that its processes remain focused on enriching the work of this Organization. The Delegation believed that WMF's observer status should be decided on the merits of its application and its ability to contribute to WIPO discussions on IP issues, which it had proven. The Delegation said it had no information that would lead it to believe that any of the applications would not be able to contribute to the consultations and debates about current IP issues and therefore urged the meeting to approve, at this session, all the applicant organizations as contained in the working document.

27. Speaking on behalf of Group B, the Delegation of the United Kingdom thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/62/3 Rev. and expressed its support for all requests for observer status contained therein. The Delegation observed that the document set out that all requests for observer status received by the Secretariat contained the requisite information and that, to the understanding of Group B, this would mean information necessary to enable the consideration, and subsequent granting of, observer status. The Delegation noted that it was therefore Group B's view that the published requests had complied with all proper procedures. It further pointed out that all organizations in the document met the admission criteria and procedures for applying for observer status at WIPO, as indicated on the WIPO website. Observer organizations brought technical expertise and insights to the deliberations of WIPO and if they were able to show the direct relationship between their objectives and the field of IP, the Delegation believed that it was important that such organizations would be able to observe and contribute to proceedings. It highlighted that it had been a common practice at WIPO to welcome the involvement of a wide diversity of NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, industrial groups and other stakeholders in consultation processes and discussions regarding current IP issues. The Delegation pointed out that this had been part and parcel of the transparency and inclusiveness Member States cherished in WIPO. The Delegation noted that Group B was unaware of any information that would lead its members to believe that any of the organizations listed in the working document would not be able to bring valuable contribution to the deliberations on current IP issues. Together with the compliance regarding the procedural steps, the Group therefore urged the approval of the full list of applications as was listed in document A/62/3 Rev.

28. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) took note of the information provided in document A/62/3 Rev. on the agenda item relating to requests received from different entities to attend the meetings in WIPO as observers. The Delegation said it wished to recall that, as rightly mentioned by the distinguished Delegation of China, the decision concerning admission of observers to the meetings of WIPO had always been taken by consensus and the Delegation therefore understood the concern raised by some Member States. It stated that consensus among Member States for the admission of observers was lacking with regard to the application by one particular entity, and that such consensus would be needed to grant observer status.

29. The Delegation of the Russian Federation said that it believed in the principle of the admission of observers as a technical matter and recalled that at the previous year's session of the Assemblies there had been discussions on the request for observer status by WMF. In its view, the provision of additional information was not sufficient to adopt a decision on this matter at this juncture. The Delegation reiterated that decisions on the matter of the admission of observers were taken by consensus and that such procedure had to be respected, as a number of delegations had already stated. It further reaffirmed that this practice existed in the Organization and so this Organization should not create any precedent. The Delegation noted that once the decision had been adopted there was no way of impeding anything, the meeting had to abide by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness. Therefore, it then reiterated the fundamental importance of adopting all agenda items of the Assemblies on the basis of consensus. In that regard, its Delegation supported the proposal, made by a number of delegations, to postpone the decision regarding this specific organization to a later date.

30. The Delegation of Pakistan acknowledged the contributions of the NGOs to the work of WIPO and explained that the granting of observer status to a large number of NGOs to participate in the work of the Organization was the recognition of their important contribution. The Delegation noted that the granting of observer status was possible with the agreement of all Member States, and in the particular case, it wished to underline the importance of agreement among all WIPO Member States and echoed the views expressed earlier on the matter.

31. Observing that there were no more delegations wishing to take the floor, the Chair took note that consensus had been reached on all the requests for observer status, except for one, namely the request for observers status by the Wikimedia Foundation. Therefore, the Chair proposed the following decision paragraph, which reflected the proposal contained in document A/62/3 Rev., with the exception of the request by the Wikimedia Foundation.

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

- (a) International non-governmental organizations:
 - (i) Cumulus, The International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media (CUMULUS);
 - (ii) Latin American Audiovisual Authors Societies Federation (FESAAL);
 - (iii) *Union des Fabricants pour la Protection Internationale de la Propriété Intellectuelle* (UNIFAB); and
 - (iv) World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI).
- (b) National non-governmental organizations:
 - (i) Brazilian Intellectual Property Association (ABPI);
 - (ii) Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS);
 - (iii) Korea Intellectual Property Association (KINPA);
 - (iv) Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency (KISTA);
 - (v) *Ordre Suprême des Ancêtres* (OSA); and
 - (vi) *Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques* (ADAGP).

33. Next, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of the delegations to document A/62/4 Rev., under the same agenda item, which provided a report on the process and results of the update of the list of NGOs admitted as observers at WIPO, and which was based on the decision taken by the Assemblies at their Fifty-Eighth Series of meetings in 2018. Regarding the process, the Secretariat distributed an initial survey in May 2019, requesting all NGOs admitted as observers at WIPO that did not participate in the Assemblies of WIPO or WIPO Committees during the period between 2013 and 2017, to confirm that they remain interested in the work at WIPO and wished to retain their status as observers. This initial communication was followed by two reminders in late 2019 and 2020 addressed to NGOs that had not yet replied. An additional third reminder was sent in March 2021 to a remaining group of NGOs that had not replied to any of the three previous communications and for which the Secretariat had found new or additional contact details. Subsequently, in April 2021, the Secretariat informed the NGOs concerned that in accordance with the above-mentioned decision adopted by the Assemblies in 2018, the absence of any response to the survey and follow-up communications, had been considered as indication that the NGO did not wish to be retained as an observer at WIPO. Consequently, the NGOs concerned were removed from the list of organizations admitted as observers at WIPO. However, this process did not affect an organization's status as *ad hoc* observer if such status had been granted by a WIPO Committee in the past. In total, 104 NGOs were removed from the list of observers, not counting three NGOs that resumed their observer status under the "restoration principle", after initial removal. Together with the newly-admitted NGO observers in recent years, this resulted in a total number of 268 NGOs consisting of 189 international and 79 National NGOs currently admitted as observers at WIPO by the Assemblies. Within a period of one year after the dispatch of the communication regarding the removal from the list of observers, that is, until April 16, 2022, affected NGOs may petition to resume their observer status at WIPO, without a new observer status application. The NGOs concerned were informed accordingly.

34. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the document entitled "Update of the list of the non-governmental organizations admitted as observers at WIPO" (document A/62/4 Rev).

ITEM 7 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

35. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/80/5 Prov.)

ITEM 8 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

36. Discussions were based on documents A/62/5, A/62/10 and A/62/11.

37. Opening the agenda item, the Chair of the WIPO Conference, Mr. Shayea A. Alshayea (Saudi Arabia) thanked Member States for having elected him as Chair of the WIPO Conference and invited the Legal Counsel to introduce the item.

38. Introducing the agenda Item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/62/5. He recalled that membership of the Coordination Committee was established once every two years, at the ordinary sessions of the Assemblies of WIPO, and consisted of members of the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees; *ad hoc* members designated by

the WIPO Conference, that is, States that are parties to the WIPO Convention but not Members of the Paris or Berne Unions; and Switzerland, as the host state, as *ex officio* member. He recalled that the terms of office of the present members of the Paris and Berne Executive Committees and of the WIPO Coordination Committee would expire at the close of the present session of the Assemblies. New members were therefore to be elected during the present Assemblies to serve for two years. He pointed out that as explained in the working document, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was to consist of 89 members, an increase above the current membership of 83.

39. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG) recalled that the APG had made its position clear since the beginning of the discussion on this particular issue. In allocating the additional seats of the Coordination Committee among regional groups, the principles of fairness, equitable geographical representation, and rectifying the gaps among the regional groups should be duly regarded. The Group pointed out that those principles were also reflected in relevant WIPO legal texts. The Group recalled that the legal basis for the composition of the Coordination Committee was found in Article 8(1)(a) and Article 11(9)(a) of the WIPO Convention and that the members of the Coordination Committee were drawn from the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, one-fourth of the States party to the WIPO Convention that were not member of any of the Unions administered by WIPO, and Switzerland as an *ex officio* member. Article 14(4) of the Paris Convention and Article 23(4) of the Berne Convention also stated that “[i]n electing the members of the Executive Committee, the Assembly shall have due regard to an equitable geographical distribution and to the need for countries party to the Special Agreements established in relation with the Union to be among the countries constituting the Executive Committee”. The Delegation pointed out that despite such straightforward guidance by the relevant Conventions, its Group regretted to note that the number of allocated seats on the Coordination Committee had remained at 83 since 2011. According to its Group, the number should by now be at 89 based on the applicable legal texts. In this regard, APG had proposed, at the last two meetings of the Assemblies, to allocate the vacant seats in the Coordination Committee so as to align the number of actual seats in the Coordination Committee with the principles as stipulated in the WIPO Convention. The Delegation recalled that the APG with the African Group, had further submitted the joint proposal in document A/62/11 and reiterated that its Group had always remained engaged in discussions with the spirit of flexibility and solidarity, as well as with the aim of finding an amicable way forward. The Group was happy to see that the Facilitator, Ambassador Mr. Sabri Bachtobji (Tunisia), had come up with “a middle ground” solution. The proposal by the Facilitator was reflected in the joint proposal of the APG and the African Group. The APG therefore asked regional groups and the Member States to support the joint proposal in document A/62/11 and to join consensus in making a recommendation on the allocation of the vacant seats of the Coordination Committee in the present session.

40. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, took note of the proposal of the APG and the African Group in document A/62/11. The Group observed that there had been a series of expansions of the WIPO Coordination Committee in the past and that some Groups had benefited from those expansions more than others. It pointed out that some delegations focused on a single criterion of geographical representation. Its Group was of the view that geographic representation was only one of several elements to consider in the Coordination Committee membership, as noted in the proposal contained in document A/62/10. The Group further explained that there were multiple principles regarding the election of the membership of the Paris and Berne Executive Committees envisioned in Article 14 of the Paris Convention and Article 23 of the Berne Convention, as well as points raised in subsequent discussions among WIPO Member States over the years. The proposal to allocate the six vacant seats to each of the regional groups seemed the most sensible and fair approach. That said, the Group strongly believed that Member States could discuss the allocation of future seats and thus resolve the issue once and for all. The Group reiterated that it was ready to engage with other regional groups to find a solution acceptable to all.

41. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and the Baltic States (CEBS) Group, noted that the issue had been on the Organization's agenda for several years and had been the subject of lengthy discussions between Member States. The reasons why the CEBS Group deserved an additional seat in the WIPO Coordination Committee were well known and had been recognized by all regional groups on many occasions, including through a formal joint proposal put forward by two regional groups. Keeping in mind WIPO's specificities and the function of the WIPO Coordination Committee, which was to deal with all the administrative matters of the Organization and its unions, the CEBS Group believed that the allocation could not be based only on one criterion but on several of them, including rational and solid ones, such as the number of accessions to or ratifications of WIPO-administered treaties, in respect of which the CEBS Group was in second place with more than 360 accessions. When looking at the numbers available, as it was the nature of figures and numbers to unveil the reality, it was hard to ignore and easy to recognize the underrepresentation of its Group in the Coordination Committee. The composition of the Coordination Committee had remained the same since 2011 despite having additional seats allocated for eight years now. Believing that 2021 was the moment when an agreement could be reached and a consensual decision found on the matter, the CEBS Group together with three other regional groups submitted, in July 2021, a joint proposal. While reflecting the Groups' views with regard to the allocation of the current six available seats, the present proposal opened a new window of opportunity and took into account not only the position of its Group but at the same time considered the results of several rounds of consultations of the WIPO Member States. The Group believed and hoped that the joint proposal would lead Member States towards a consensual decision and it was of the view that its Group had provided a sound basis for future negotiations. The Group noted and thanked the African Group and the APG for their proposal, and expressed their readiness to find a solution in a timely manner, for which it was ready to engage extensively in the discussions and negotiations.

42. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), noted that colleagues from the CEBS Group had expressed their main position, which was part of the joint proposal of the four Groups. With regard to the composition of the Coordination Committee, CACEEC stated that its position had not changed, as the history of its proposal was something it had tried to express and on which it was quite clear, which began in 2001. CACEEC agreed that the geographical principle was one criterion, but there were also other criteria that were important in the allocation of seats on the Coordination Committee. In developing its proposal, CACEEC had tried to show flexibility and was ready to discuss the possibility of having three proposals if the other colleagues supported its proposal. In conclusion, CACEEC also wished to quote the Director General, who had said that today was really the time for Member States to solve the issue, as it was not an election year. Thus, there was the possibility of agreement and ensuring that everyone benefited from the Assemblies' decision so that they could come up with six seats for six groups. The Group reiterated that its position was, in its view, a step forward towards the other colleagues and added that CACEEC stood ready for constructive dialogue on the issue.

43. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, noted that it was aware that there had been differing views on the composition of WIPO Coordination Committee and as a result, no consensus had yet been reached on the allocation of the vacant seats. The Group took the opportunity to extend its gratitude to the Facilitator, Ambassador Bachtobji for his efforts and wisdom in coming up with the proposed allocation following consultations with regional groups. The African Group wished to stress the importance it attached to the Coordination Committee as a key governing body of WIPO. The Group was hopeful that Member States would overcome the differences and reach an agreement on the allocation of the vacant seats and in that regard reiterated its appreciation to the Groups that made proposals to move the issue forward. The African Group was of the view that the allocation of current vacant seats should be guided by the principle of equitable geographical representation and take into account the size of different regional groups with the

view to correct the existing imbalances among them. In that respect, as Africa was one of the most underrepresented in numerical terms, it believed that its region should be given priority in the distribution of available seats in order to catch up with other regions. While the Group acknowledged and thanked the four regional groups that had submitted a joint proposal for the vacant seats to be allocated equally among six regional groups, the African Group was unable to support the proposal as it only served to maintain the *status quo*. On the other hand, the joint proposal by the African Group and the APG, which was premised on the Facilitator's proposal, provided a pathway for Member States to partially address the imbalance that existed in the composition of the Coordination Committee. The Group therefore urged all other groups to be pragmatic and to acknowledge that the continued underrepresentation of some groups in the key governing bodies of WIPO went against the principles of fairness, inclusiveness and universality, which it believed, should guide the work of WIPO. That being said, the African Group stood ready to work constructively with all groups to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the matter.

44. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) pointed out that this agenda item was a point of great importance for its Group. GRULAC thanked the Chair and his facilitators for all the efforts and meetings that had been devoted to the subject. It was with the same spirit of consistency, flexibility and good faith always displayed by GRULAC, that it had presented together with Group B, CACEEC and the CEBS Group, a proposal in document A/62/10, which was aimed at moving forward on the basis of a proposal that contained one component of allocating current vacant seats, and a second component of allocating three vacancies in the future. GRULAC wished to thank the African Group and the APG for their proposal in document A/62/11, which raised the issue of a seat for GRULAC, which its Group appreciated. GRULAC wished to express its confidence in the Chair and its willingness to continue seeking a decision on this agenda item.

45. The Delegation of China expressed the view that the WIPO Coordination Committee was one of the most important decision-making bodies of WIPO and it should reflect, to the extent possible, Member States' representation, in particular, that of many developing countries. Furthermore, on the allocation of new seats, priority should be given to regional groups that were underrepresented. The Delegation hoped that Member States could uphold the principle of flexibility and openness so as to reach an agreement on the allocation of new seats on the WIPO Coordination Committee.

46. The Delegation of Pakistan aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the APG. The Delegation noted that there were asymmetries concerning the presentation of various regional groups in the WIPO Coordination Committee. As one of the largest regional groups in WIPO, the APG was significantly underrepresented in the WIPO Coordination Committee. Moreover, the composition of the body had remained the same since 2011 despite the availability of additional seats since 2013. It was important to note that an increase in the number of seats since 2011 had arisen mostly from accessions from the APG. Since the WIPO Coordination Committee did not meet very often, its composition should be extended, in principle, to the entire membership of WIPO. There were six additional seats available that needed to be filled and should be filled on the basis of equitable geographical representation and with a view to rectifying the glaring asymmetries among regional groups. The Delegation said that the APG had submitted a proposal for the last two years of the Assemblies and in the present year its Group had submitted a joint proposal with the African Group. The joint proposal was in alignment with the proposal of the facilitator on the matter. The Delegation was not in favour of linking currently available seats with those that would arise in the future as it would not only maintain the *status quo* and would also accentuate the existing asymmetries. The Delegation therefore urged all the regional groups and Member States to support the joint proposal of the African Group and the APG for a resolution of the issue on the available vacancies.

47. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its support for the statement delivered by the Delegation of Belarus on behalf of CACEEC and for the proposal in document A/62/10 put forward by CACEEC, the CEBS Group, Group B and GRULAC, which called for allocating the six additional seats, that is, one per regional group. The proposal contained the element of flexibility that provided for an automatic distribution of the seats and in the Delegation's view the proposal allowed for a balanced approach. Taking that into account, the Delegation hoped there could be further dialogue so as to take a decision on it as soon as possible.

48. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea wished to align itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the APG. It wished to emphasize the importance of equitable geographical representation that would reflect new accessions to the Paris and Berne Conventions. The Delegation therefore hoped that every regional group would show the utmost flexibility regarding the allocation of the vacant seats in the WIPO Coordination Committee and reach consensus during the present Assemblies.

49. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking in its national capacity, noted that the WIPO Coordination Committee was one of the most important governing bodies of WIPO and it had a substantial role in making constructive contributions to WIPO matters. For that it should have a composition that was balanced in terms of geographical distribution, which was not the case, in its view. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the APG and it wished to reiterate that membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee should be allocated based on the principle of geographical distribution, which had a solid constitutional basis as stipulated in the relevant Articles of the WIPO Convention, the Paris Convention and the Berne Convention. Unfortunately, the reality was that not all regional groups, including the APG, were well represented in the Committee. One could not ignore the fact that the highest number of accessions to the Paris and Berne Conventions since 2011 had come from the APG. These accessions were not reflected in the composition of the Coordination Committee. In view of that, the Delegation of Bangladesh extended its full support to the joint proposal submitted by the African Group and the APG as contained in document A/62/11. The proposal made by both regional groups had merit in terms of legal basis, and the Delegation also wished to point out that both regional groups had shown their utmost flexibility. The Delegation therefore asked Member States to join in consensus and agreed to the proposal in the Assemblies.

50. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly wished to give his views on the informal consultations and on the discussions concerning the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee. He recalled that when he was elected Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Member States had mandated him to carry out consultations on the subject so as to put an end to the rather lengthy discussions that had taken place, with a view to finding a solution for the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, in accordance with the relevant treaty provisions. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, those involved in the informal consultations on this matter reacted as swiftly as possible. The Chair recalled that Member States had previously decided to convene an extraordinary session with a specific agenda but, also with a view to making progress on other issues that might be raised in the framework of the extraordinary session. It was unfortunately also hard hit by the health circumstances that affected everyone. The WIPO General Assembly that was held a year ago was also handicapped, considering the large number of issues the WIPO General Assembly had to consider, as Member States commonly shared the decision not to enter into substantive issues. That never prevented him, as Chair, from engaging in consultations with all the Group Coordinators, and with all the delegations that were willing to contribute to the process. The Chair noted that in the present session, Member States had heard the statements made and the arguments put forward concerning the criteria to be applied and the need to find a solution. He observed that from the afternoon's discussion, the meeting was not in a position to take a decision immediately. He therefore reiterated his hope that before the end of the work of the Assemblies, he would shoulder his full responsibilities as Chair with a view to trying to comply

with the mandate that was given to him, that is, to find a solution. He was sure that he would fulfil his part and regarding the Member States' part, there was need for pragmatism, flexibility, and good faith. He said that he heard all the criteria and the objectives described, and wondered why a solution could not be found. He wondered if perhaps the parties involved had not been sufficiently creative or innovative. The Chair thanked Ambassador Bachtobji, Friend of the Chair, who had worked extremely arduously at all levels, engaging in consultations with experts and Ambassadors, and always drawing upon the Secretariat for wise opinions on the subject because it was the guarantor of the future of the Organization. The Chair noted that, in his view, the two proposals on the table and, what he considered to be a third category of proposals, were not mutually exclusive; he was of the view that Member States could find points of convergence. He said that this was the logic and he would be guided by it and he would push delegations, with their assistance and, of course, with everyone's agreement. He pointed out that he would not craft any kind of solution that did not meet with Member States' approval but observed that there was need to find a solution that was convincing for everyone. He also expressed agreement and welcomed what had been said by the Director General, earlier that morning, that there were a certain number of subjects of vital importance, on which the Organization was focusing its work for future generations, for all countries, for the well-being of multilateralism and for the mutual understanding of all. He was of the view that despite the importance of the present subject, which had been stressed greatly in the present session, delegations should put it in perspective; and the only way they could deal with it to come up with a solution was to see it as a relative issue. He then asked for a few additional hours to discuss the issue with the Coordinators. He recalled, as had been stated extremely eloquently earlier that morning by the Director General, that the Organization was steered by its Member States, but that the steering should be done on a consensual basis, which was the wisest way of proceeding. He pointed out that consensus should not prevent delegations from taking decisions. He said that like a good pilot, facing troubled waters and turbulence, he had to take account of the elements that had to be dealt with and take the necessary decisions. That was why he would, once again, ask delegations for flexibility, understanding, and goodwill, so that they could, hopefully, come back in the next few hours with a decision that could be accepted and supported by all.

51. The Chair of the WIPO Conference said that it was clear that the meeting could not conclude the item at that stage. He therefore proposed to suspend the item to allow Member States to continue their informal consultations and would keep the Plenary informed of any developments. He recalled that the issue had been the subject of long discussions in the two previous Assemblies and during the informal consultations conducted since then. He reassured delegations that there would be ample time to make further statements when the agenda item reopened and he would proceed that way if it were agreeable to all.

52. Reverting to the agenda item, Ms. Mercy Kainobwisho (Uganda), Vice-Chair of the WIPO Conference, recalled that the agenda item was opened on the second day of the Assemblies. At that time, delegations had agreed to engage in further informal sessions in the margins of the Assemblies and delegations had been actively consulting on the matter since then. In that respect, she wished to thank the Group Coordinators and delegations involved for their cooperation. She also wished to take the opportunity to invite the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to provide an update on the agenda item.

53. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly said that he was not in a position to announce any expansion in the composition of the Coordination Committee but wished to warmly thank the delegations and the Secretariat who supported very actively his endeavors to that end.

54. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of APG, wished to stress that the Group had expressed its positions and its principles on the important issue in the statements made under the agenda item when it was first opened on the second day of the meeting. The Group had expressed and shared the same views in various informal meetings. In addition to

that, the Group regretted that its request, which was based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution and rectification of underrepresentation and overrepresentation in the WIPO Coordination Committee, was not duly reflected in the proposed decision paragraphs during those informal sessions. However, its Group was still hopeful that members would be able to find common ground in a spirit of flexibility and solidarity to resolve the issue in the coming days. However, the Group recognized the hard efforts and the hard work by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly as well as the constructive engagement of the regional groups.

55. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) recalled that the APG was the most underrepresented Group in terms of membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee. Any proposal should take into account the issue instead of widening the huge imbalance of geographical representation in the WIPO Coordination Committee and try to fill that gap. The Group's proposal, as rightly mentioned by the Delegation of Bangladesh, was based on a solid legal argument, namely a balanced geographical representation. The Delegation was hopeful that in the remaining time Member States could find common ground to move forward in that regard.

56. The Delegation of Pakistan aligned itself with the statement delivered by the APG and wished to echo the arguments and interventions made by the Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of). The Delegation wished to state that the future formula for the expansion of the WIPO Coordination Committee, as well as other important bodies of WIPO, should be based on equitable geographical distribution and any formula or proposal should be aimed at rectifying the glaring asymmetries that currently exist with respect to the underrepresentation of the APG, although it was one of the largest Groups in WIPO.

57. Noting that there were no further requests for the floor, the Vice-Chair thanked all groups for their cooperation on the matter and all the delegations that had been involved in the consultations that had taken place during the Assemblies. Commenting on the remarks of the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, she wished to point out that, as explained in document A/62/5, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was to consist of 89 members, an increase above the current membership of 83. However, in the absence of agreement on how to best allocate the remaining six additional seats of the WIPO Coordination Committee, consensus among Member States had been that the WIPO Coordination Committee should exceptionally remain at 83 members. Further, if approved by the Paris Union and the Berne Union Assemblies as well as the WIPO Conference, the proposed composition of membership in the Paris and Berne Executive Committees and the Coordination Committee would take effect from the close of the present session of the Assemblies until the close of the 2023 sessions.

58. Following informal consultations among Member States,

(i) The Paris Union Assembly unanimously elects the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Paris Union Executive Committee*: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Canada, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador (2022-2023), France, Gambia (the), Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Paraguay (2021-2022) Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Viet Nam (41);

(ii) The Berne Union Assembly unanimously elects the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*: Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland,

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe (40);

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

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

As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period October 2021 to October 2023 is composed of the following States:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador (2022-2023), Eritrea (*ad hoc*), Finland, France, Gambia (the), Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay (2021-2022), Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe (83)

59. The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided that the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2023, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, at the same WIPO Assemblies.

ITEM 9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

60. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 10 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

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

61. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

(ii) Report by the External Auditor

62. Discussions were based on documents A/62/6 and A/62/7.

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

“On behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the findings from our audit, following our earlier presentation to the Program and Budget Committee. It continues to be important to engage you on the issues we highlight from our audit, as a means of providing you with independent and objective insight.

“In my presentation I will cover the three main areas of our work, firstly the audit of the financial statements and financial management, and then I will cover the two substantive topics which are contained in our report, namely governance and internal control and our review of the Capital Master Plan (CMP).

“Turning first to the results of our audit of the financial statements. I am again pleased to confirm that the External Auditor’s opinion was unqualified. WIPO’s financial statements and accompanying financial commentary remain of high quality, supported by sound systems of internal controls and reporting. The preparation of financial statements and their audit were completed remotely which resulted in additional effort by WIPO colleagues and the NAO team.

“On financial management, WIPO continues to enjoy a strong financial position and positive cashflows, supported by a steady future revenue stream. Considering the healthy reserve and cash position the Organization is well placed to respond to the continued global economic uncertainty. However, the differing financial performance of each Union demonstrates how reliant the Organization continues to be on the PCT and Madrid Unions which compensate for the deficits reported by the Hague and Lisbon Unions.

“Our report this year highlights the continued growth of the employee benefits liabilities. During 2020, the overall liability for these staff benefits increased to some CHF 495 million. If current assumptions remain consistent, WIPO forecasts that the liability for the After-service health insurance (ASHI) is projected to increase to CHF 580 million by 2024. These benefits will consume a growing proportion of WIPOs future revenues and we have highlighted this and the future trends in our long form report as key financial risks.

“Moving now to the first topic area of our performance reporting, which speaks to the issues of governance and internal control, which helps to provide Member States with confidence and assurance over the management of resources.

“We have continued to be impressed by the pro-active approach WIPO takes in developing its internal control framework, its second line of defense and the approach to the quality of the Statement on Internal Control. The Statement remains aligned to the

seven components of the Accountability Framework, providing a clarity and transparency over the control processes. Important highlights in the 2020 statement included details of the key risks and mitigations, with particular focus on the program delivery and financial risks faced by WIPO. The Director General also highlighted that the business continuity arrangements worked effectively, with the Organization moving to a virtual working environment during the pandemic.

“The Statement could be further enhanced by highlighting the results of the IOD’s work – including an overall opinion based on its findings and as highlighted by the positive external quality assessment undertaken in 2020.

“We considered WIPO’s organizational preparedness for the pandemic. In line with many other organizations, WIPO had a documented framework in place bringing together the main components of its preparedness and resilience planning. In its risk register, WIPO had identified the risk of significant business disruption caused by an external event with appropriate mitigations. As a consequence, WIPO was relatively well placed to respond to the pandemic. WIPO expects to complete a comprehensive review of lessons learned from WIPO’s business continuity response in 2021.

“Turning now to our observations on the projects financed from reserves, we examined WIPO’s approach to its Capital Master Plan (CMP) and its links to wider strategy and decision-making. We concluded that the CMP had not historically been integrated with strategic planning.

“Over time, the funds dedicated to the CMP have been increasing and the project portfolio has become increasingly ambitious. Unlike many other international organizations, WIPO does not have the same incentives or pressures to demonstrate the need for prioritization or cost efficiency. This makes it more important that the CMP and the individual project business cases are transparent and robust, subject to effective challenge processes and to ensure that outcomes will be evaluated to feedback into the CMP and project management processes.

“We could not clearly determine how projects had been prioritized against other opportunities, or the relativity between individual projects within the CMP. Investment decisions should be driven by need, and a clear identification of opportunities linked to WIPO’s objectives. WIPO should consider the level of funds dedicated to projects alongside other investment options, such as enhancing its technical co-operation, minimizing the financial risk to the organization by reducing its employee benefit liabilities or reviewing its fee structure.

“In an earlier definition, special projects had to be “extra-ordinary” which stressed the importance of the uniqueness of the investment. Member States broadened this out to a wider more encompassing definition. This has meant that projects could be funded for more general purposes, such as estate maintenance. We found that in some cases there was a strong rationale for a proposed project to be funded as part of the CMP, but less so in others; especially projects to maintain facilities and systems which would normally be part of a regular budget strategy. Such a mix risks losing strategic focus and challenges the concept of the CMP being based upon a coherent portfolio of special and significant projects. Similarly, we observed that there was little differentiation between very large investments and those of a much smaller scale.

“The preparation of a business case is an important step in any project: to confirm alignment with organizational priorities and objectives; to quantify the amount and timing

of resources; and to set expected outcomes. Good business plans enable decision makers to make informed judgements on whether projects should progress.

“From our review we felt that the consideration of options should have been more detailed and that alternative ways to deliver the outcomes should have been more fully considered. We also identified the need for more detailed articulation of targets and measurement criteria without which it is difficult for WIPO to demonstrate that the overall project objectives have been achieved and value for money obtained.

“We found that project budgets were high level with little granularity and limited information on the full lifecycle costs. We found that many risks were generic in nature and not necessarily tailored to the individual project.

“The 2018/19 Performance Report set out the progress of CMP project activities during 2019, including the key milestones reached and resource utilization rates for 20 ongoing projects. These projects had total budgets of CHF84 million and associated expenses to that date of CHF44 million. We noted some significant changes in risk and budgets from the initial proposals and that the status reports lacked real impact measurement. In our view, while the Status report clearly highlights project attributes, it could provide Member States with a greater measure of added value.

“Management have responded well to the recommendation we made and have sought to begin to address these issues in new proposals to Member States. We consider this will enable WIPO to better demonstrate the impact of the use of reserves and how they meet the objectives of the Organization, increasing transparency and accountability over the use of the funds. We look forward to reviewing the outcome of the changes made to the process and oversight of the CMP during the course of our next audit cycle.

“To conclude, I can confirm that progress was made in closing and implementing six recommendations from previous years, with 13 recommendations remaining in progress. These mostly relate to our 2018 recommendations on Human Resources Management and our recommendations made last year on External Offices which have future implementation dates. Given the importance of HR management to the Organization it is our intention to perform a substantive follow-up of HR developments during our 2021 audit.

“Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the Director-General and the staff of WIPO for their support and co-operation in facilitating our audit in the challenging circumstances of the pandemic, enabled us to ensure we met the timetable for our report to you. Thank you for your kind attention and I would be happy to take any questions or to provide further background to our audit. Thank you.”

64. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the External Auditor for the report contained in document WO/PBC/33/5 (A/62/6) and Mr. Damian Brewitt, Director, NAO, United Kingdom for his presentation of the document. The Group stated that it was aware that the External Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion regarding the audit on WIPO's financial statements and congratulated the Secretariat and the Financial Division for the result. The Group noted the challenges in providing access to appropriate information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding financial management, the Group was pleased that the External Auditor had assessed the financial health of WIPO and concluded that the Organization was well-placed to respond to continued global uncertainty. The Group was particularly pleased to see that the overall budget surplus each year was considerably higher than the original expectations, and welcomed the External Auditor's review of governance and internal control mechanisms. The Group noted the positive assessment of

many of those mechanisms, and expressed its pleasure with the External Auditor's assessment of WIPO's level of preparedness for a pandemic as strong. The Group then stated that it was ready to support the review of lessons learned from WIPO's business continuity response to the pandemic in 2021. With regard to pending recommendations of previous years, the Group noted with satisfaction that six recommendations had been implemented and considered closed. The Group was aware that the External Auditor had advised that many of the 13 outstanding recommendations could not be implemented within the previous year. Nonetheless, the Group echoed the importance of Human Resources management and supported the External Auditor's intention to perform a substantial follow-up on those recommendations and the review of the status of WIPO's people strategy during the 2021 audit. The Group also thanked the External Auditor for its in-depth review and assessment of projects financed from reserves and recalled Group B's statement for that file at the 33rd PBC session. The Group closed by stating that it was ready to work with the Secretariat to understand the needs and costs and to plan those projects with care.

65. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed its appreciation to the External Auditor for the comprehensive audit report. The Group welcomed the sound financial standing of WIPO and noted with appreciation that the financial statements of WIPO presented fairly in all material aspects the financial position of the Organization. The Group recognized that the audit process and results provided assurance to the Member States of WIPO's financial management and governance. The Group was pleased that the Organization was found to be well placed to respond to the continued global economic uncertainty. The Group further noted that the External Auditor had found WIPO's level of preparedness in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic to be strong compared to other bodies. The Group also agreed with the External Auditor's observation that options should be explored to increase its efficiency for mitigating the potential future growth in the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) Liabilities. The Group noted that the External Auditor's had observed that there remained more scope for WIPO to further complement existing communications to provide relevant insight, in a more holistic view of what had been delivered with resources, such as including more Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on the outcomes from its operational activities and to amplify commentary on key financial risks. The Group noted the various recommendations made by the External Auditor on different aspects of the Organization's operations, including the recommendation on the Capital Master Plan (CMP). For the CMP, the Organization should consider mapping individual projects under the CMP against WIPO's core objectives and ranking them to enable Member States to better understand the priority areas for investment. The Group believed that all the recommendations were useful and could contribute to improvements in the governance and management systems of WIPO. The Group concluded by reiterating its thanks to the External Auditor for the audit report and stated that it looked forward to updates by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor.

66. The Delegation of Spain thanked the External Auditor for the report and the presentation. The Delegation congratulated WIPO for the unqualified opinion of the financial results of the Organization at December 31, 2020. The Delegation was pleased to see that the financial statements of the Organization continued to be of a high quality and that they were based on sound internal control and systems. However, the Delegation recommended that if possible to improve the performance of the Organization it supported what the External Auditors had indicated in its report about considering the importance of studying the best way to promote the Organization and Member States objectives, and to manage risks provided they remained within a financially prudent framework.

67. The External Auditor thanked the delegations for their kind comments on the audit process for that year. The External Auditor reassured Member States that he would pay close attention to the follow-up of recommendations made in previous years, and observe progress on the CMP over the following year's cycle. The External Auditor noted that the report recognized

that the previous year was a challenging one, with Human Resources busy managing the inevitable significant challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, there had already been some constructive conversations progress being made in those areas. Additionally, as per the presentation, there were some productive conversations with WIPO Finance colleagues regarding progress around the CMP. In response to comments by the Delegation of Spain, the External Auditor, stated that they were looking more closely in the following year's audit cycle around budget processes and budget reporting. The External Auditor hoped that he would be able to provide confidence and assurance with the following year's review.

68. The Chair thanked the External Auditor for his clarifications.

69. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the "Report by the External Auditor" (document A/62/6).

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

70. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 11 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

71. Discussions were based on document A/62/7.

72. The Chair noted that the item covered all Program and Budget Committee (PBC) matters. One document was considered under the item, as stated in the List of Documents, namely document A/62/7, "List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee" which contained all decisions taken at the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions.

73. The Secretariat stated that 2021 was a budget year and the two PBC sessions were held in July and September, respectively. The PBC agenda covered a number of items as listed in document A/62/7. The items included: WIPO Performance Report 2020; Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026; Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO; Proposed Revision of the Selection Procedure for the Members of the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC); Proposed Revisions to the WIPO Internal Oversight Charter; Progress Report on the Implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit's (JIU) Recommendations; Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23; Capital Master Plan for 2022-23; United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership; and Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2020 and the Status of the Payment of Contributions as at June 30, 2021. In this connection, document A/62/INF/4 provided an update to the Status of the Payment of Contributions as at August 31, 2021. Furthermore, since September 1 and as of October 5, the following contributions had been received: Bangladesh, 1,424; Trinidad and Tobago, 5,697; Malaysia 22,789; Côte d'Ivoire 231; Gabon, 105; Mali, 63; Niger, 63; Greece, 51,277; Peru, 11,395; Brazil, 87,661; Seychelles, 5,698; and Uruguay 5,697. The arrears, as a result of those payments, stood at approximately 7.5 million Swiss francs. Finally, there were two PBC 33 agenda items, which were a follow up of decisions of the 31st and 32nd sessions of the PBC, and the 2020 Assemblies. These include the Update on the status and progress of submissions by Member States on views on the preparations of the ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices; and the Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union. On the ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices item, the PBC took note of the Member States views and requested the Secretariat to develop a preliminary draft of the ToR and submit it to the Member States at least six months before the 34th PBC session. On

the Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union item, the PBC decided to continue discussion on this matter at the 34th PBC session.

74. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the item. The Chair recalled that delegations had already engaged very constructively and had ample opportunity to express their views on all PBC matters at the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions. Their statements at the PBC sessions had been duly recorded and would be reproduced in their entirety in the report.

75. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership during the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions, and for conducting and concluding the sessions successfully with a number of key decisions taken. The Group congratulated the PBC for agreeing to recommend to the Assemblies the approval of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group was pleased that the PBC continued its work during the pandemic set out in WIPO's response to COVID-19, which was discussed in the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions. The Group was also pleased to see that the PBC recommended that the WIPO General Assembly accept the invitation to become a member of the UNSDG. The Group looked forward to annual reporting of the Secretariat of the implementation, achievements, challenges, and policy development impacts of WIPO's UNSDG membership. Progress by the PBC on the ToR on the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices was a welcome development. The Group looked forward to seeing a preliminary draft on the ToR to be prepared by the Secretariat, taking into account all relevant documents as noted in the 33rd PBC decision.

76. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, noted that 2021 had been extraordinary and challenging in many ways and the Group particularly thanked the Chair of the PBC for leading the PBC through the 32nd and 33rd sessions. The PBC had achieved significant progress through the sessions and adopted the vast majority of decisions. The Group commended the work done and believed the PBC would maintain a constructive spirit in the future. The Group noted the projected surplus for the 2022/23 biennium and a significant increase in income compared to the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium. The Group also believed that the prudent increase of the proposed expenditure for the 2022/23 biennium reflected good governance. The Group welcomed the sound performance of WIPO and appreciated the fact that the Organization enjoyed such positive financial results. The Group looked forward to the continuation of this strength. The Group was pleased to recall the decision on the WIPO UNSDG membership and the approval of the decision on the preparation of the ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Evaluation of WIPO External Offices must be done in a highly transparent, independent and objective manner. The Group was glad that the PBC was in a position to adopt the decision. The Group reiterated that the support and engagement of the Secretariat were vital in this process. In line with the PBC 33rd decision on the Capital Master Plan 2022-23, the Group was in a position to approve from the WIPO reserves the funding of the projects presented in that document.

77. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership. The Group welcomed the results reflected in the Report of the PBC session, and in spite of the circumstances, the PBC had managed to adopt the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, UNSDG Membership, and the provisions on the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices and other Items. The Group was convinced of the usefulness of WIPO External Offices to move forward the agenda of the Organization in the different regions and extend its services and strengthen cooperation. The Group wished to go back to the process initiated in 2016 for opening an External Office in Colombia. The Group trusted that with the adoption of those PBC decisions, WIPO would have the tools to achieve its vision, "A world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by Intellectual Property, for the good of everyone," and mission, "WIPO leads the development of a balanced and effective global intellectual property ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity for a better and more sustainable future."

78. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, thanked the PBC Chair, Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for their excellent work done to support the PBC and for the preparation of the documents under that agenda item as contained in document A/62/7. The Group thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the item. The Group noted and appreciated that the PBC made a number of important recommendations to the 2021 Assemblies which included, but were not limited to, taking note of the MTSP 2022-2026, the adoption of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, the approval of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which included WIPO's response to COVID-19, and to accept the invitation to become a UNSDG member. The Group appreciated the Director General and the Secretariat's efforts in providing the PBC with a simple framework of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group believed that the new format would help ensure more accountability and transparency in the overall activities of the Organization. The Group recalled its statements at the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions that since the new format had taken a sector-wide approach, the cross-sectoral collaboration should not be compromised in any way. The Group hoped that Member States would duly consider all recommendations made by the PBC.

79. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and the efficient preparation and publication of the PBC documents. Despite the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fact that the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions were held in a hybrid format, the meetings had resulted in many positive outcomes, including the adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the Capital Master Plan for 2022-23. On the Capital Master Plan for 2022-23, the Delegation wished to express its congratulations. The Delegation appreciated the efficient and effective Chairmanship of the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair, the constructive participation and flexibility shown by all participants and the wealth of information, presentations, and clarifications provided to Member States by the Director General, the Secretariat, the IAOC and the External Auditor before and during those PBC sessions. The Delegation was of the view that the MTSP 2022-2026 served as important guidance to the implementation of WIPO's work for the following five years. The Program of Work and Budget, which had undergone major adjustments in terms of structure and length, had incorporated a large number of proposals for Member States, particularly in relation to WIPO's response to COVID-19. The Delegation hoped that WIPO, in the preparation of future Program of Work and Budgets, would continue to seek and strike a balance between efficiency and transparency. With regard to the Capital Master Plan for 2022-23, the Delegation appreciated the pragmatic approach of the Secretariat to the PCT Resilient and Secure Platform project and its commitment to ensuring user's data security. The Delegation reiterated that in implementing the cloud first strategy, important interests such as user's data security of WIPO's global IP services system should be considered first before other factors such as cost and lead-time are taken into account. The Delegation thanked the Delegations of the Russian Federation and Spain for their valuable and constructive comments on this issue at the 33rd PBC session. The Delegation stood ready to continue discussions with the Secretariat and interested delegations to explore an appropriate solution. In terms of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, the Delegation hoped that WIPO would give favorable consideration to the Delegation's proposal put forward at the 32nd PBC session, which was to translate, as far as possible, the relevant official legal and procedural documents, relating to the Global Intellectual Property services system into all six official UN languages.

80. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/62/7 and for introducing the item. The Group thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair for the efficient and skillful manner with which they guided the PBC, which led to the recommendation of the adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 to the Assemblies. The Group was excited about the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 as it would continue to guide the work of WIPO towards the implementation of development activities which sought to help developing countries and a wide-ranging stakeholders to be key players in a more inclusive IP ecosystem. The

Group thanked the Director General for the MTSP 2022-2026, particularly its mission and vision. The Group noted with appreciation that a strong culture of cross-sectoral collaboration had been strongly encouraged in the new administration, and this had resulted in the MTSP 2022-2026 and Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 being a truly collective effort from all areas in WIPO. The Group believed that all WIPO Sectors had a crucial role to play to advance the mandate of WIPO and contribute to the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda (DA) and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Group thanked the Member States for contributing to shaping the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 which were discussed during the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions, held in July and September 2021. Those two sessions were held in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which had affected all facets of life and it was imperative that the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 had specific measures that the Organization would put in place to respond to the pandemic. Those measures would be supplemented by the proposals and inputs of Member States. The PBC was able to agree to post COVID-19 response measures and the Group looked forward to the implementation of WIPO's response to the COVID-19 response, as well as other important programs and initiatives contained in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group welcomed the positions taken by the PBC and the recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly which was invited to note or approve those items. The Group was pleased to see the recommendation of the adoption of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO as well as the recommendation for WIPO to join the UNSDG. The Group noted and appreciated the progress made towards the Evaluation of the WIPO External Offices, and looked forward to the next steps in the process as outlined in the decision of the 33rd PBC session. The Group reiterated the need for a ToR for the Evaluation of the WIPO External Offices to be balanced, fair and transparent and for the evaluation to take into account amongst others the context and different circumstances of each External Office.

81. The Delegation of Pakistan welcomed the report and thanked the Secretariat for their efforts, hard work and dedication towards the successful outcome of the PBC. The 33rd PBC session had made some important progress, including on the draft ToR for the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Delegation attached great importance to this evaluation and as requested by the 32nd PBC, the Delegation submitted its views on the draft ToR. There were convergences on a number of aspects, and different views had been expressed concerning the objectives and scope of the evaluation. There were also differences as to which entity would conduct the evaluation. The Delegation asked the Secretariat to reflect the different views in the preliminary draft. In addition to measuring the performance of the External Offices, the evaluation would also prove to be extremely valuable in guiding the future of PBC and the WIPO General Assembly. The External Auditor Report submitted to the PBC in 2020 highlighted some very serious issues on the existing network of the WIPO External Offices and made useful comments and recommendations for the process of opening new External Offices such as the absence of a standard template and the subsequent inability of the Secretariat to present a factual and technical report against each new application. The Guiding Principles of 2015 mandated the Secretariat to present a technical and factual report on each of the new applications. Without prejudging the outcome of the evaluation, it was important to have a standard template for new applications. It would not only allow the Secretariat to compare the required report but would facilitate the Member States to make an objective comparison of different applications. Therefore, the Delegation urged the Member States to commence discussions on the issue of standard templates in the 34th PBC session and mandate the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary draft of the template. The Delegation welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat and its partners for the publication of the 2021 Global Innovation Index (GII). While the Index is useful as it provided a comprehensive outlook of several sub-indicators, there was an underlying subjectivity with regard to the selection of sub-indicators. Some sub-indicators, particularly the input sub-indicators, had no direct relevance to the output and especially for innovation. Many countries had been performing well with regard to innovation but this growth was not truly reflected in the GII as the input indicators

weighed down the performance of many developing countries as more weight was given to the input indicators rather than the actual output that was innovation. Therefore, the GII in principle should only measure, in line with its name and objective, only output sub-indicators. The Delegation reiterated its proposal for an enhanced collaboration with concerned Member States before the data collection phase to ensure timely transmission of data sets to relevant international organizations.

82. The Delegation of Brazil indicated its support for the proposals in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the MTSP 2022-2026 to the Assemblies. As pointed out by the WIPO Financial Report for 2020, the Organization continued to enjoy a sound financial position with good performance and encouraging results from the main registration systems. The financial situation put it in a good position to invest resources for the DA. The Delegation congratulated the Director General for using the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 for this purpose for individual members, and for the IP ecosystems in developing countries. All this was without prejudice, to investments in the digital transformation of the Organization and it continued for the improvement of services infrastructure guaranteeing that WIPO continued to provide a strategic service for the GII to the benefit of all. The Delegation supported WIPO joining the UNSDG and hoped that this mechanism could continue to improve coordination with UN agencies in order to ensure that the UN System as a whole works effectively to pursue the SDGs. The Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO noted the new strategies for the use of languages and interpretation services for the following years. The Delegation welcomed the growing use of technological resources which is an important tool to improve and, in particular, related to a non-official UN language. The Delegation was convinced that efforts to promote multilingualism improved the overall relevance of the services and programs of the Organization. With regard to the network of WIPO External Offices, the Delegation supported the solution negotiated by the PBC which gave the Secretariat the role of drawing up a preliminary draft of the ToR for the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Delegation believed that a successful evaluation of the WIPO External Offices could bring added value to the functioning of those offices and continued to improve the services that they provided. In these evaluations, it was very important that existing WIPO External Offices had a voice and an opportunity for contributing analysis and offering suggestions on how to improve their function, and to possibly extend the scope of activities with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of WIPO's Program of Work and Budget in a coordinated way, which complemented operations going on at the Geneva headquarters.

83. The Delegation of Algeria thanked the Secretariat, particularly the Assistant Director General of the Administration, Finance and Management Sector and his team for the hard work done in preparing the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation welcomed the innovative direction that had been proposed within the MTSP 2022-2026. This reflected WIPO's wish to extend the scope and impact its activities to a greater number of stakeholders with an innovative and creative ecosystem. The Delegation was happy to note the new methodology adopted for the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and how it is divided into sectors, strategic pillars and expected results. The Delegation was convinced this would improve governance in WIPO and strengthen the ability to meet the aspirations of Member States by offering tailor-made services. The Delegation recognized the robust financial situation that exists within WIPO and were delighted to see the development of expenditure within the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 amounted to 18.5 per cent of total expenditure which was a slight increase over the previous biennium. The Delegation noted WIPO's tireless commitment to integrate the DA within all programs and activities undertaken by the Organization. The Delegation emphasized that the WIPO External Offices could make a substantial contribution to the overall results obtained by WIPO in the framework of the four strategic pillars. The intention being to connect everyone and create pathways, which allowed the Organization to reach out to key players in the global IP ecosystem. The Delegation believed it was important to strengthen the human and financial resources of the WIPO External Office in Algiers, Algeria. The Delegation believed it was important because this External Office

continued to provide valuable services to local IP players and others in the region. The Delegation believed that strengthening international cooperation within the UN System would be the best possible thing that WIPO could do which would take forward the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Participation of WIPO within the UNSDG would be very much to WIPO's advantage and would allow for the enhanced role and profile of WIPO in the attainment of the SDGs.

84. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked WIPO for having prepared and conducted the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions in 2021. Those sessions were particularly important ones where the PBC had agreed to the MTSP 2022-2026 and the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. There were new areas of work for WIPO that were of interest to its Delegation and other delegations. The MTSP 2022-2026 outlined building an ecosystem and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), youth and the developing the competences and practical skills on economic aspects of IP. The Delegation was happy to note that one key issue is that of continuing to promote multilingualism and thanked the delegations for expressing their support for that approach which allowed for the achievement of the goal set. The Delegation considered it particularly important that support for multilingualism be reflected within the five-year plan and that support be given to dialogue for expanding the language regime within the Madrid and Hague Systems. The Delegation welcomed the Revised Language Policy of WIPO. The Delegation noted that there could be an extended amount of translation using automated translation resources such as AI. Within the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 some key indicators on the translation of WIPO publications into all six official UN languages were included. The Delegation was grateful to the Director General and the Secretariat for their commitment to multilingualism as a fundamental UN value and hoped to continue this commitment in the future as it is exceptionally important. The Delegation noted the adoption of important decisions on oversight issues and noted the importance to continue monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by the internal and external audits, and recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The Delegation noted that the amendments adopted to the ToR of the IAOC strengthened the key principles that applied to establishing the membership of the IAOC which should focus attention on Regional Group representation. The Delegation noted that WIPO would be joining the UNSDG and the way in which WIPO participates in that body would be closely monitored. The Delegation stated that it counted on future productive work on the mandate and the ToR for the WIPO External Offices. The Delegation concluded by thanking the PBC Chair for his leadership and for his active work in leading consultations as part of the operations of the PBC.

85. The Delegation of Spain supported the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation thanked the delegations for their constructive engagement in participating in discussions to reach agreements, which made it possible for the Assemblies to adopt the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. There were many decisions taken in the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions in which the Delegation fully participated. The Delegation welcomed the efforts of the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair. The Delegation welcomed the positive results of the budget of the Organization, which was a testament to the valuable efforts to maintain prudent and diligent management to WIPO's resources. The Delegation fully supported the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, because it believed it responded to the intellectual and industrial needs. The Delegation believed it helped improve accountability on the part of the Organization as well as clarifying and streamlining its structure. The Delegation emphasized that gender equality and multilingualism should continue to play a central role within the Organization. The Organization should continue to disseminate the advantages of the international protection systems and make better efforts to improve coordination between WIPO and Member States to ensure that systems achieved their expected outcomes. In addition, to ensure that IP could contribute to social economic development which needed to go hand-in-hand with effective management based on financial prudence and sustainability.

86. The Delegation of Ghana noted and appreciated the increased attention to COVID-19 assistance to Member States. The Delegation welcomed the Trilateral Cooperation between the World Health Organization (WHO), WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as it relates to decisions taken by the three Directors General. The Delegation welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which guided the work of WIPO towards the implementation of development activities to assist developing countries and diverse stakeholders. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation was pleased with the MTSP 2022-2026, with its theme of an inclusive IP ecosystem that benefits everyone. The Delegation also welcomed the decision for WIPO to join the UNSDG.

87. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair in expertly steering the work of the PBC. The Delegation welcomed the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. In particular, the Delegation noted that the programs aligned with the spirit and tone of the Director General's MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation looked forward to supporting the Secretariat in any way it could to ensure the fruitful actualization of the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation was pleased that WIPO would be joining the UNSDG. It was welcomed, as there is a 10-year period for the decade of action and delivering of the SDGs. The Delegation would be looking keenly into how WIPO engages with the UNSDG, particularly the activities WIPO will be engaging in, and seeing clear footprints of WIPO as a member of that Group. On the Evaluation of the WIPO External Offices, the Delegation stated that like many delegations that have spoken earlier on that matter, the Delegation thanked the other delegations for their submission of views and looked forward to the preliminary draft that would be put forward by the Secretariat. The Delegation stated that the preliminary draft should reflect the ideas in a balanced way, because the previous selection of WIPO External Offices showed that a number of those Offices had different needs to meet and to ensure they were working and adding to the Program of Work and Budget of the Organization. It was important to take that into account when developing the initial draft which should be a balanced document that pointed out the mandates of different profiles, and the additional activities that needed to be engaged in by WIPO to ensure that all WIPO External Offices would be able to be profitable for the Organization in terms of supporting growth of IP on the ground. This was especially important with respect to the WIPO External Office in Nigeria, because when the Nigeria and Algeria External Offices were selected, it was mainly to facilitate the use of IP for development. The Delegation hoped that the ToR would reflect this mandate for the different WIPO External Offices.

88. The Secretariat thanked the delegations for their comments on the item.

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

- (i) took note of the "List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee" (document A/62/7); and
- (ii) approved the recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee as contained in the same document.

ITEM 12 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

RECORDS OF WIPO MEETINGS

90. Discussions were based on document A/62/9.

91. The Secretariat stated that document A/59/9 was presented and approved during the 59th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies in 2019. It was a proposal designed to leverage advances in digital technologies in order to improve the speed and quality of services in relation to the production of WIPO meeting records, while aiming to achieve significant cost efficiencies. In addition, the document proposed to pilot a new approach to provide enriched digitally indexed and searchable conference video recordings, complemented by automatically generated text records in the six UN languages, using WIPO's AI tools. The Secretariat recalled that Member States had approved the proposed document for an initial trial phase for two sessions of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP/31 and SCP/32), and for two sessions of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP/24 and CDIP/25). Information and feedback received on the trial phase were available in document A/62/9, and Member States were invited to consider proceeding to Phase Two, namely the phased discontinuation of the resource-intensive human production of verbatim meeting reports.

92. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document under consideration, stating that it gave a useful overview of the circumstances, which had led to the approval of the proposal to improve the speed, quality and cost efficiency of producing WIPO meeting records. The Group thanked WIPO for implementing the proposal in a trial phase, which the outcomes were clearly identified in the document, such as the enriched video-on-demand (VoD) recordings with digital indexing and the creation of speech-to-text transcripts. The Group noted the cost savings and the use of new technology platforms during CDIP/25 and SCP/32. Furthermore, the Group noted that meetings had been more widely accessible with increasingly more people having insight into the global IP system, which was one of the key deliverables of the Organization and part of the Director General's new vision. The Group also took note of the features designed to overcome problems in localities where Internet connection was slow or unreliable. It welcomed the oversight of those technologies in terms of quality and means to verify the original record in case of doubt. Bearing in mind the increased accessibility in the cost savings and the other efficiencies identified, the Group supported the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations.

93. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting document A/62/9. The CEBS Group recalled that at the 59th Series of Meetings, WIPO Member States had decided to start a pilot system to replace the production of the verbatim report with the automated speech-to-text transcription and translation. The first phase results showcased that the new system enabled access to meeting recourse in all six interpretation channels, and the estimated cost savings for the four pilot meetings held in hybrid format amounted to approximately 355'000.00 Swiss francs. The CEBS Group took note and supported the proposal to proceed to the second phase and extend the system for all WIPO meetings, standing committees, permanent committees and working groups, with the exception of the Assemblies and other WIPO Governing Bodies, and of diplomatic conferences.

94. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, thanked the Secretariat for the brief introduction of document A/62/9. The Group wished to express its sincere and deepest appreciation to the Secretariat for its timely and comprehensive records of WIPO meetings, which were invaluable to the work of the Organization and its Member States. The Group also appreciated the Secretariat's commitment to reduce technology and digital gaps in accessing and sharing records of WIPO meetings while maintaining security and integrity of data. The

Group took note of document A/62/9 which details the outcome of the trial phase of the technological platforms of the enhanced webcasting, VoD and the automated speech-to-text system. The Group stated that since the first phase had proven a cost-effective service, Member States might decide to proceed to the second phase, as proposed by the Secretariat. However, the Group looked forward to hearing the views and comments from Member States, as well as the response from the Secretariat regarding the practicality of the implementation.

95. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation and introduction of document A/62/9. It noted that the topic of the Records of WIPO Meetings had been discussed in the 2019 Assemblies, resulting in the decision to agree to pilot a new approach, namely to provide enriched recordings of WIPO conferences, using commercially available audiovisual technologies complemented by automatically generated text records in all six UN languages using WIPO's AI tools. The Group was pleased with the results of the said pilot phase that covered CDIP/24, SCP/31, CDIP/25 and SCP/32. The Group was cognizant of the significant cost savings associated with the replacement of verbatim reports, with the fully automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations. The Group also took positive note of the enhanced audiovisual recordings of meetings enabling access to meetings recordings in all six interpretation channels, which exceeded the original target of that phase. The Group welcomed the very useful features as indicated in paragraphs 3 and 10 of the document, the ability to access specific agenda items or interventions and the integrated link to the documents under discussion. In its opinion, further improvements had to be made to better facilitate navigation and connectivity. The Group appreciated that the Secretariat recognized that challenges caused by the digital divide could impact the sharing of records of WIPO meetings by those on the negative side of the digital divide. It was therefore pleased that the platform enabled the downloading of full or precise parts of a given meeting after it had taken place. Overall, the Group applauded WIPO for this innovative technological solution that ensured efficiency while still guaranteeing transparency in the work of WIPO. The Group supported the extension of the pilot phase to other meetings.

96. The Delegation of Brazil expressed its interest in the idea of registration, which it considered very important for multilateral meetings and Member States. The Delegation supported the extension of the pilot project to a larger number of committees in the Organization, but wished to put on record the need to improve the functioning of the system, namely the accuracy of the recordings. Noting the importance of integrating the webcasting and speech-to-text platforms, in particular, the transcription function, the Delegation stressed the importance to improve the presentation. The Delegation reiterated its interest in developing a project for Portuguese language users. Finally, the Delegation believed that training aspects and other issues should be explored.

97. The Delegation of China stated that, while holding an open attitude and based on the results of the four trial meetings, it was not satisfied with the accuracy and quality of the Chinese speech-to-text records. The Delegation believed that accurate text to records of meetings could help Member States and other stakeholders to follow the proceedings in a faster and more convenient manner, and would facilitate future reviews. However, it was not appropriate to significantly sacrifice the accuracy and quality of meeting records for the sake of efficiency and cost-saving. The Delegation urged the Secretariat to adopt the necessary measures to improve the accuracy and quality of speech-to-text transcripts and automated translations. Meanwhile, the Secretariat should provide Member States with the possibilities to correct or supplement statements delivered orally. The Delegation said that cost-saving gained from the new system should be allocated mainly to the implementation of WIPO's multilanguage policy and to the improvement of the quality and coverage of WIPO's language services. Considering that the PBC discussions touches upon important matters such as WIPO's Program and Budget and the use of financial resources, the Delegation believed that the verbatim reports should be maintained for the PBC meetings.

98. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/62/9. The Delegation supported the Secretariat's proposal on the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations with some exceptions, as this would improve the speed and quality of the services in relation to the production of WIPO meeting records.

99. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia, while supporting the efforts made by the Organization, believed that it was vital for the Organization to adopt glossaries and dictionaries in all six official languages in order to improve the quality of translations. The Delegation informed that it had developed its first glossary for industrial property in Arabic, which could be used as a basis for other lexical projects.

100. The Delegation of the Russian Federation valued the new systems for preparing reports for WIPO meetings from the viewpoint of economies of time and effort. The Delegation nevertheless wished to stress the importance of producing reports in all six official languages of the UN system. In its opinion, the PBC should be excluded from the report production of using automated translation. The Delegation said that the PBC played a key role in the work of WIPO, therefore it was important to ensure that delegations and interested persons had access to high-quality reports prepared manually.

101. The Secretariat thanked all delegations for their interventions. It stated that it had taken due note of all the comments made and would be working on improving navigation, access and overall functionalities, as well as the quality which had come out as a major issue. It was looking forward to receiving feedback from all delegates and delegations on the quality and functionality of the system proposed in order to continue on improving it. With particular reference to the demand made by the Delegation of Brazil, the Secretariat stated that it would look internally into the possibility of adding the Portuguese language. The Secretariat also stressed that it would ensure that the accuracy was improved. The Secretariat took note that the PBC would be added to the exception list of WIPO meetings which would still use verbatim reports. Finally, it looked forward to the possibility of collaborating with Member States to add language references to the indexing or search functionality.

102. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, decided on the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations, except for WIPO meetings taking place in the framework of the Assemblies, meetings of WIPO Governing Bodies, the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) and of Diplomatic Conferences, as of October 2021.

ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

103. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 14 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

104. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

105. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

106. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

107. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 18 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

108. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 19 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS) AND RELATED ISSUES

109. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)

110. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 21 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PCT SYSTEM

111. See the report of the session of the PCT Union Assembly (document PCT/A/53/4 Prov.).

ITEM 22 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

112. See the report of the session of the Madrid Union Assembly (document MM/A/55/2 Prov.).

ITEM 23 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

HAGUE SYSTEM

113. See the report of the session of the Hague Union Assembly (document H/A/41/2 Prov.).

ITEM 24 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

LISBON SYSTEM

114. See the report of the session of the Lisbon Union Assembly (document LI/A/38/3 Prov.).

ITEM 25 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

115. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 26 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

116. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15 Prov.).

ITEM 27 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)

117. See the report of the session of the Singapore Treaty Assembly (document STLT/A/14/2 Prov.).

ITEM 28 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

118. See the report of the session of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (document MVT/A/6/2 Prov.).

ITEM 29 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

BEIJING TREATY ON AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCES (BTAP)

119. See the report of the session of the Beijing Treaty Assembly (document BTAP/A/2/2 Prov.).

ITEM 30 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

120. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/80/5 Prov.).

ITEM 31 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

121. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/80/5 Prov.).

ITEM 32 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

122. Discussions were based on document A/62/12.

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

(i) adopted the Summary Report (document A/62/12); and

(ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by November 5, 2021. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by December 3, 2021, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 17, 2021.

ITEM 33 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

124. The Chair recalled that the WIPO General Assembly had taken decisions in previous sessions that still required action by Member States, in particular, the decision for a review of the Contract of the Director General, which would take effect on the next occasion that his contract was renewed. The Chair had drawn the attention of Ambassador Molcean, his successor, as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, to this matter. Ambassador Molcean would be in touch with Member States in the coming months.

125. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, congratulated and thanked the Chair for his leadership, thanked the Director General as well as the staff of the Secretariat for their constant support and efforts despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group expressed satisfaction of the results of the items of the different Committees discussed at the Assemblies as well as the approved decisions. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to the multilateral system, the work of the Organization and all of its dimensions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Noting the importance of the role of innovation, creativity, development and research for societies, the Delegation welcomed the new focus of the Director General for the Organization, which was reflected in the documents that were approved in the current Assemblies, such as the new MTSP which focuses on development. Furthermore, the Group welcomed the 45 recommendations of the DA, which was included in the work of the Organization as well as the contributions to achieving the SDG's. The Group concluded by thanking all the Secretariats of the different Committees, the interpretation services, the services for audiovisual and all staff.

126. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, expressed its appreciation for the Chair's able leadership over the past years in steering the WIPO General Assembly, and thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for facilitating and their contribution to the preparations of the Assemblies. The Group recognized that the facilitators and the friends of Chairs, appointed by the Chair had spared no effort in resolving the various long-standing issues since the Chair's assumption of this important role. Although the discussions and engagements among the Member States and Regional Groups were constructive, the Group regretted that the Assemblies could not make any progress on the pending issues including the expansion of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. However, the Group looked forward to further constructive discussions in the spirit of solidarity and unity in the next days regarding those two important issues, on the basis of the long-standing principles of equitable geographical distribution and the ratification of gaps between the under representation and the over representation. The Group reiterated its thanks to the Chair and expressed sincere gratitude to all Member States, in particular, the Regional Coordinators for their cooperation and collaboration which had enabled the smooth conduct of work during these sessions.

127. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of CACEEC, thanked the Chair for his able leadership of the sessions, thanked the Regional Coordinators as well as all delegations for their constructive spirit and cooperation, and expressed its gratitude to the Director General and the whole management team of the Organization. In addition, the Group expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts taken to organize the session in a hybrid format, in particular, Mr. Andrew Staines, Assistant Director General for the management of the Assemblies, and thanked the Secretariat for its support and cooperation with the delegations. The Group was pleased that Member States were able to adopt several important documents, in particular, the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium, which outlined the next development of the global ecosystem of IP and focused on the economic aspect of the field of IP. The Group was grateful to the Director General for preparing the new strategic areas of the work of WIPO that particularly reflected the principles of support of multilingualism. The Group hoped that with joint efforts Member States would be able to launch new projects to

introduce innovation for the good of all. The Group stated that an important item of the Assemblies was the fact that the Eurasian Patent Organization was integrated into the International Searching and Preliminary Examining system. This step had great significance for the Eurasian region. The Group noted that after the challenges caused by the pandemic, the WIPO General Assembly for the first time adopted the reports of all the WIPO Committees. The Group hoped that the health situation would improve in the world and enable the return to normal conditions of work at WIPO. Concerning the agenda items that had been postponed, the Group hoped that Member States would be able to make progress. Noting the outstanding questions where Member States did not achieve consensus, the Delegation reassured that its Regional Group stood ready to engage in constructive cooperation with WIPO Member States. The Group thanked the conference service team and the interpreters for their tireless endeavors which had enabled the holding of these meetings. Finally, the Group wished all delegations success and health.

128. The Delegation of China expressed its appreciation to the Chair as well as the Chairs of the various treaties bodies for their strong leadership. The Delegation thanked the Director General, the Senior Management Team as well as the Secretariat for their efforts in ensuring the smooth finish of the various agenda items of the current Assemblies. In particular, the Delegation was highly appreciative of the work of the Chair over the past two years. Under the Chair's outstanding leadership, Member States had overcome the problems brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and work had been promoted in a big way. Furthermore, the Delegation congratulated the current Assemblies for having achieved the expected result, such as the approval of the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium, the 2022-2023 IGC mandate as well as the work program, reviewed the HR Strategy as well as the report on the oversight work and the reports of various Committees. The Delegation regretted that the Assemblies was yet to reach consensus on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, as well as the convening of a diplomatic conference on the Design Law Treaty. The Delegation hoped that the parties would maintain their flexible and open approach and to strive for substantive progress on the above-mentioned items at an early date. The Delegation noted that the Covid-19 situation had necessitated the hybrid model for the current session. In spite of that, all Member States participated and exchanged actively, for which China expressed its appreciation. The Delegation believed that this positive approach and the enabling environment would continue to promote further exchanges and cooperation among Member States to enable to set up together an effective IP ecosystem that took into account the interests of all parties. Finally, the Delegation wished to express gratitude to the interpreters for the quality service and wished all delegates present a safe trip, and wished all colleagues very good health.

129. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Chair for the efficient manner he had chaired not only the WIPO General Assembly but also the previous ones he presided over during his term as Chair. The Group acknowledged with appreciation the Chair's efforts in trying to find consensus on a number of long-standing issues. The Group thanked the Director General for setting the scene for this 62nd Series of the Assemblies of WIPO with his detailed report. The Group thanked the Senior Management Team and WIPO staff present who provided reports, responded to questions, and interacted with Member States. The Group's gratitude also goes to the Secretariat, including the conference services, interpreters, technical team, security, and all who played a big part in facilitating their work and thus contributing to the success of these Assemblies. The Group was pleased that capital based delegates were able to participate physically and virtually in the current Assemblies, and said it was good to see the conference hall almost full due to their participation. Regrettably, the pandemic had prevented even more delegates from joining the Assemblies physically. The Delegation stated that the African Group had always participated constructively in the Assemblies with the view of advancing the work and making progress on all issues. Although there were some issues on which consensus could not be reached, the Group was encouraged by the positive approach and flexibility of all Groups, and it believed that

consensus on those outstanding issues was within reach. The Group was pleased that the Assemblies approved the Program of Work and Budget for the 2022-2023 biennium, which would enable WIPO to forge ahead with the important work of making IP work for everyone everywhere, as well as effectively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Group was pleased that the WIPO General Assembly endorsed the renewal of the IGC mandate, and it was optimistic that the IGC would make meaningful progress in the new biennium. The Group thanked all regional groups and delegations for their cooperation throughout the week as well as the outgoing Regional Coordinators with whom it had worked very well and welcomed the incoming Regional Coordinators. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to work towards advancing the work of WIPO. The Group wished everyone continued good health.

130. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf the CEBS Group, applauded the skilful guidance of the Chair during these sessions of the Assemblies that had enabled Member States to achieve tangible progress and thanked the Chair for his efforts. The Group also extended its appreciation to Mr. Staines, Assistant Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work and efforts invested in the preparation and advancement of the work of the current Assemblies. Likewise, thanked the interpreters, the conference services, and special thanks goes to the IT team and all who supported delegations during the week. Furthermore, the Group thanked the Member States, colleagues, Regional Coordinators and all stakeholders who contributed to the successful work of the Assemblies. The Group stated that the 2021 Assemblies left everyone optimistic that they would be back to normal soon. The Group used every means available to contribute to the positive spirit and efficient work of the Assemblies. The Group reiterated the great importance it attached to the Design Law Treaty and expressed its commitment in finding a solution which would lead to the convening of the long-awaited diplomatic conference. Recalling the good financial performance of the Organization, the Group looked forward to the strengthening of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Unions. At the same time, the Group was pleased to see positive trends and the expansion of the Lisbon System. The Group thanked all Member States for supporting the nomination of Her Excellency, Ambassador Ms. Tatiana Molcean (Republic of Moldova) for the position of Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. The Group wished her all the success in this crucial role. Finally, the Group expressed appreciation to the Director General, and looked forward to continued cooperation with the new Senior Management Team. The Delegation stated that the Chair could count on the full support of the member states of the CEBS Group to develop an efficient and effective IP ecosystem for the good of all and especially for future generations.

131. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf Group B, thanked the Chair for his dedicated guidance ahead, and throughout the WIPO General Assembly and for facilitating the discussions. Group B also extended its appreciation to the Secretariat for its support ahead and during the Assemblies. Group B said that it would be remiss not to thank the conference staff, the skilled interpreters and the technicians without whom these sessions in hybrid format would not have been possible. Group B wished to thank wholeheartedly the Director General for his guidance, the documents, and for the work ahead and during the week. Group B, the Delegation of the United Kingdom and the Delegation speaking in his own capacity, would like to thank Mr. Staines, Assistant Director General and Mr. Katbi, Director, Diplomatic Engagement and Assemblies Affairs Division. Their honest, open and transparent engagement with Member States had been a testament to and instrumental to this WIPO General Assembly being particularly efficient, focused on impact in line with its wider approach. Group B thanked all the Regional Coordinators, Member States and Chairs for their tireless efforts. The Group considered the session a success, in particular, it was pleased to have the Program of Work and Budget for 2022-23 biennium as well as the MTSP. It considered those two documents as guidebooks for the Organization going forward. Without wanting to get into technical details, Group B was also pleased with the many decisions taken that week, such as, agreeing the key date of Standard ST26 going live or adopting the updates to the global IP systems. Those were important decisions that kept the WIPO services fit for purpose and forward-looking. Group B

also thanked the Chair for his comments concerning future informal consultations to deliver the WIPO General Assembly's decision contained in paragraph 12 of document A/60/3. Group B regretted that Member States were not able to find consensus on some of the issues. However, Group B honestly believed that by engagements that week, under the Chair's leadership Member States laid the ground for successful future outcomes. It noted that the first years of meetings under the new administration confirmed the strength of the Organization and its forward-looking nature. The Delegation informed that he was just finishing his 13th WIPO General Assembly as a Geneva-based delegate, and the fourth WIPO General Assembly as a Regional Coordinator, and it would be his last as a Regional Coordinator. So many people had guided, advised and showed him the right outcomes, the right avenues and the dead ends. The Delegation said he could spend a good couple of hours naming them all. The Delegation sincerely thanked all and made a special mention to his fellow Regional Coordinators whose ranks he was now leaving at least for some time.

132. The Delegation of Spain associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation saluted the Chair for his wise manner in conducting the debates and congratulated the Secretariat on its work. The Delegation noted that these Assemblies held in hybrid format had been a wonderful example of the way things could work and had helped to reconcile in-person participation in the Plenary with remote delegations, which was not an easy task. In the 62nd Series of meetings of the Assemblies, a variety of documents had been approved which had been of great relevance for the operations of the Organization, in which the Delegation had participated actively, such as the Program of Work and Budget for 2022-23 biennium and which the Delegation supported. It believed that this would allow WIPO to flourish in the current context and it hoped that there would be appropriate, smooth and ambitious implementation of the mandates contained in that document. In addition, the Delegation welcomed the fact that the WIPO General Assembly had approved the requisite steps to ensure that WIPO could join the UNSDG. This was an essential matter if Member States wished to link internationally speaking public policies for the promotion and protection of intellectual and industrial property with the SDGs, which guide the actions of the Member States. The Delegation was pleased with the improvements in the modernization of the international registration systems, and requested the Secretariat and Member States to pay particular attention to the development and proper operation of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Furthermore, the Delegation took note of the progress made in the different Committees. It hoped that once Member States moved towards a certain degree of normalcy, while continuing combating the COVID-19 pandemic, these forums would continue to be convened and would act as a forum for fruitful debate on the different aspects of intellectual and industrial property. Take decisions for the future in which Spain would continue to participate actively, taking into account the cross cutting dimensions which govern all of the activities of the Organization, a true example of dialogue and effective multilateralism.

133. The Delegation of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member states, reiterated its thanks to the Chair for his able and skilful guidance and leadership in facilitating discussions during the session of the WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation also thanked the Chairs, Vice-Chairs, the facilitators as well as the Director General, Deputy Directors, General, Assistant Directors General and the whole Secretariat for their hard work, and excellent performance during the current Assemblies and throughout the challenging year. Last but not the least, the Delegation thanked the WIPO staff that diligently supported delegations during the week. In spite of the hybrid mode, the Delegation was pleased that the WIPO General Assembly was able to discuss and adopt some vital documents for WIPO's continuous work, such as the Program of Work and Budget for 2022-23 biennium and the MTSP. With great interest and hopes, the Delegation looked forward to concrete results of the vision and new strategic approach. The Delegation was encouraged by WIPO's promise to aspire and make IP work for all. The Delegation supported WIPO in its efforts towards efficient and effective response to the COVID-19, and the willingness to assist Member States and business, including individual creators, innovators and SME's in their efforts towards economic

recovery. The Delegation hoped that in building back better, IP would play its role for all stakeholders on the road to a resilient post-pandemic world. The Delegation was pleased to see the commitment to continued work in the different WIPO bodies and committees. The European Union and its member states welcomed the renewal for the IGC mandate for 2022/23, and looked forward to engaging constructively in negotiations as soon as they could restart in the new biennium. On the matter of the Design Law Treaty, the Delegation stood ready to further explore constructive proposals once the normative negotiations could resume, hopefully at the next WIPO General Assembly. In closing, the European Union and its member states wished to reassure and reiterate their continued commitment to WIPO's goals and work. The Delegation hoped that the demonstrative cooperative spirit would prevail in all WIPO bodies and committees, and continue to help delegations find pragmatic solutions during the upcoming year when improved circumstances would hopefully allow delegations to meet again without any restrictions.

134. The closing remarks of the Director General is recorded as follows:

“Thank you Chair, for giving me the floor at the closing of the Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

“It has been a pleasure to see this hall and our lobby come alive again with people and participants, and to reconnect with old friends, as well as to meet many new ones, in person.

“My deep thanks goes as well to all those delegates who have joined us remotely.

- “For many of you, and I know this as someone whose home country is 6 hours ahead of Geneva, this has involved early morning or late night hours.
- “Thank you for your commitment, which has enriched our discussions and allowed us to feel connected with the WIPO family worldwide throughout the week.

“To Your Excellency, Ambassador Zniber, thank you for your unstinting commitment, steadfast support and wise guidance not only during this week, but throughout your tenure as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

- “You have played a key role in facilitating the positive outcomes we have reached this week, and you oversaw the transition at WIPO between two Administrations and the Organization's transition through the pandemic.
- “During these exceptional times, the Organization has been fortunate to have you as our Chair.
- “It has been a pleasure and honor to work with you.

“To our Dear Colleague Ambassador Molcean, congratulations once again on your election as the incoming Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. My team and I look forward to working closely together as we begin our preparations for next year's Assemblies.

“Thank you also to the Regional Coordinators for your contributions and support behind the scenes. And to Member States for your engagement. We look forward to our continued work together.

“Excellencies, Colleagues, Friends

“As I said during my opening remarks, even as we must work to overcome the current crisis and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, we must also envision the opportunities before us and seize them together.

“I am therefore very grateful for the positive and encouraging statements many delegations made about the Medium Term Strategic Plan and our new Vision, Mission and Strategy for WIPO.

“We are also grateful that the Assemblies have approved the PBC’s recommendations for the 2022/23 biennium. This Program of Work and Budget, including covid-19 related support, Capital Master Plan and other initiatives approved by you will lay the foundation for our future work. But these foundations will only translate into actual impact with your continued partnership and support. So please continue to be in close contact with us, and work with us to bring these plans to life.

“We are also pleased to have your approval for the revised policy on languages. We believe that greater inclusivity is not only key to WIPO’s future Mission, but also aligns us even more strongly with multilingualism as a core value of the UN family. We are also pleased that a decision to join the UNSDG has been reached and we look forward to progressing the 2030 Agenda as one team.

“Members have also conveyed their enthusiasm for progressing the work of WIPO’s Committees, agreed to the consensual renewal of key mandates and spoken favorably of resuming a more regular program of work in those areas where this has been impacted by the pandemic.

“And we have been able to achieve consensus on a range of provisions which will strengthen the functioning of this Organization and the operation of our services.

“Many Members have also indicated their desire to progress the normative agenda. The Secretariat is encouraged by these statements and will continue facilitate, to our utmost, these discussions.

“Excellencies, colleagues, friends

“If I may, I would like to say a brief word of thanks to my many colleagues here at WIPO.

“To my Sector Leads, my Deputy DGs and Assistant DGs, thank you to you and your teams for your work during the Assemblies and since we came together as the collective senior executive leadership of WIPO in January this year.

- “A special mention must go to ADG Andy Staines for skillfully facilitating the work of the various Chairs and Office-holders of the Committees and WIPO Bodies as Secretary of the WIPO Assemblies.

“Delivering a multiday, multilingual hybrid event involves a huge amount of energy and skill behind the scenes.

- “I want to thank our remarkable Secretariat for ensuring the smooth running of the Assemblies. And I want to thank our Interpreters for their professionalism and adjusting to the hybrid format with aplomb.

“I am sure Members will also want to join me in acknowledging the work of WIPO’s technical teams who have done a tremendous job in facilitating our discussions, as well

as our security, sanitary and catering staff for keeping delegates safe and suitably refreshed. Thank you all. It is deeply appreciated.

“Excellencies, colleagues, friends,

“The issues debated, raised and agreed to over the course of this week’s Assemblies are a testament to what can be achieved through international cooperation and partnership, through multilateralism.

“While these remain uncertain times, it is only by working together that we can build consensus, confront shared challenges and ensure that WIPO’s work advances the common good, supports the delivery of Agenda 2030 and delivers real impact for you, for your communities and your economy.

“It is in this spirit that I look forward to continuing our work together over the year ahead.

“And it is in this spirit that we can advance our shared vision of a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by IP for the good of everyone.

“Thank you all very much, and keep safe until we next meet again.”

135. The closing remarks of the Chair is recorded as follows:

“Excellences Ambassadors,
“Mister Director General,
“Delegates and representatives from all capitals,
“Dear Staff of WIPO,
“Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“We have reached the end of the 62nd series of meetings of the Assemblies of the member states of WIPO.

“It is with great pleasure that I chaired all of our work, not only this week, but also throughout these two last years.

“My involvement during the several dozen meetings that I have chaired all through my mandate allowed me, once again, to appreciate the importance of multilateralism. It is crucial for us – for all Member States – to come together to discuss, negotiate and overcome any blockages, always in a spirit of cooperation and partnership. **We must bring together interests and minds for a better tomorrow.**

“**Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

“There are still several unsettled points that need to be taken forward if we are to reach the full potential of this august assembly that brings us together.

“Beyond what we want to achieve together, let us not forget that WIPO’s first mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

“WIPO has an essential role for artistic, creative and intellectual ties. WIPO is the guardian of culture; and culture, Ladies and Gentlemen, is certainly an essential pillar in the rapprochement between societies and all living consciences.

“It is this same goal that Morocco has been willing to promote throughout these two years of presidency. Therefore, I hope we have succeeded in adding one more stone to the edifice that we are building here together.

“In a world without COVID, we were prepared to celebrate our presidency with several cultural events that could show you the richness and diversity of Moroccan culture. We will program an event as soon as we can and we hope to see many of you at a cultural meeting connected to one of WIPO’s activities.

“In any case, you can always count on the Moroccan delegation, which remains committed to progress in our discussions in all the necessary themes in an active and constructive manner.

“Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“I would like to make a special mention of the regional coordinators who facilitated the task of the presidency thanks to their flexibility, their spirit of communion and dialogue. I know that their task is not always easy but they succeed in it with excellence even when our meetings have been intense.

“I would like to thank all member states for their engagement, their constructive contributions and their flexibility.

“I would also like to thank the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, as well as all the members of the Secretariat who have been of invaluable and unwavering help. Mister Director General and all the SMTs have always been present and active for the ins and outs and for every detail of our work.

“And, of course, I would like to salute the tireless work of the translators without whom we could not exchange our ideas and our words.

“I would like finally to express my best wishes for our incoming Chair, Her Excellency Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Moldova, Madam Tatiana Molcean.

“If I may, I would like to end my remarks recalling an essential point: To know how to sublimate talents and to protect them is to believe in the future of humanity; that is why WIPO is an organization mainly focused on the future.

“Thank you for your attention”

136. The Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

[Annex follows]

ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 111 States, two intergovernmental organizations and 10 non-governmental organizations provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (the), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA), Health and Environment Program (HEP), IP Justice, Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), Latin American School of Intellectual Property (ELAPI), League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and South Centre (SC).

2. Delegations and Representatives congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the WIPO General Assembly on their election to office, wished them every success in leading the Assemblies and assured them of their full cooperation in that respect. They commended the Director General and the Secretariat for their work over the previous year, including with regard to the preparation of documentation and arrangements for the Assemblies. Delegations speaking in their national capacity generally associated themselves with the statements made on behalf of their respective groups.

3. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt lives and livelihoods around the world, WIPO must play a key role in the response to the pandemic by enhancing capacity building, technology transfers and development partnerships, working towards mainstreaming the global response to current and future pandemics across all of its activities, programs and committees. WIPO should help its Member States to use intellectual property (IP) to stimulate growth potential and build sustainable economies, while paying particular attention to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women, young people and local and indigenous communities. To optimize the WIPO contribution to economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the WIPO Development Agenda (DA) recommendations must be interpreted in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The African Group welcomed the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium, in particular its focus on development activities and its support for creativity and innovation for a better and more sustainable world. The commitment to assisting Member States in their efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure vaccine equity was particularly welcome, and should be accompanied by measures to facilitate partnerships for enhancing global vaccination production capacity and providing an enabling environment of innovation and technology transfer, including by encouraging the use of flexibilities provided for in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement). The ongoing trilateral cooperation

between WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) was commended. The African Group attached great importance to the work of WIPO, in particular its committees and working groups, and welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). The Group wished to see the conclusion of the Design Law Treaty (DLT). The principles of equitable geographic representation and proportionality should be upheld in the enlargement and composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Program and Budget Committee (PBC). The African Group had faith in the potential of the IP ecosystem to transform societies and assist developing countries in the attainment of their development goals. Such potential could only be fulfilled through an effective and inclusive IP system that responded to the specific needs of all stakeholders, and which helped to address challenges in areas including health, education, climate change and food security, taking full advantage of innovation and technological development.

4. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), said that the Asia-Pacific region attached great importance to IP and that a fair and balanced IP system was an important tool for economic development. Given the pace at which IP filings and innovation activities were taking place in the region, the APG was greatly underrepresented on the WIPO Coordination Committee. The joint proposal on membership that had been submitted by the Group and the African Group was the most appropriate way to resolve the standstill on the matter. Membership of the PBC should be open to all. Research and development (R&D) on new health technologies, in particular vaccines, was attracting enhanced public spending in many countries. In that light, a balanced IP rights system was needed to ensure equitable access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines to combat the coronavirus. There was a need to work together to finalize an international legal instrument or instruments to protect genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and folklore, and to convene diplomatic conferences to adopt a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations and the DLT. The Group welcomed progress made on the issue of establishing new WIPO External Offices, the increase in the Organization's net assets for 2020 and its overall healthy financial situation.

5. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), congratulated the Director General on the anniversary of his taking office, and expressed support for his work to strengthen the key role of WIPO as the global IP system regulator. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the contribution of WIPO, under the leadership of the new Director General, to the development of the innovation environment, and acknowledged the support provided to SMEs, and to talented and enterprising young people, thereby enabling them to commercialize the fruits of their intellectual labor. Despite the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, the Organization remained financially stable, which showed the global demand for the services provided by WIPO, the effectiveness of ongoing advocacy work to raise public awareness of IP and how effectively the Organization was being managed in difficult circumstances. The Group noted with satisfaction that, even during times of restricted activity, WIPO maintained a busy agenda, and the productivity of its experts had in fact increased, which underscored the importance of digital reform to the work of WIPO. The Organization had maintained its role as a significant forum for inclusive and transparent dialogue, with the participation of all stakeholders, facilitating the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). CACEEC hoped for a renewal of the normative aspect of the work of WIPO in the near future. Countries in the Group were active users of the global services provided by WIPO and parties to its multilateral conventions and agreements. The amount of international and national IP registrations was growing. Over the previous 10 years, countries in the region had submitted 30 instruments of ratification and accession to the international agreements of WIPO. At the national level, the constant focus was on supporting innovation and developing an innovative environment. Policy documents had been adopted at the national level, the implementation of which would enable countries to improve their position on the Global Innovation Index (GII). Technology and Innovation Support

Centers (TISCs), which currently numbered 250 in the region, were in high demand, and their network was growing continuously. Countries in the region were actively developing their IP infrastructure and strengthening their provision of IP services. The Group noted with satisfaction the revision of the WIPO policy on languages. CACEEC was cooperating closely with China and several Arab States, and was looking forward to making progress on the issue of broadening the language regime of the Madrid and Hague Systems for international registration. The Group was interested in seeking a solution to the matter of including Russian in the official languages of those systems, with a view to increasing access for applicants from CACEEC countries to WIPO services, as well as ensuring the accession of new parties to WIPO agreements. CACEEC was looking forward to further fruitful cooperation with WIPO and the development of traditional and new areas for cooperation. An additional stimulus in that regard would be to increase CACEEC countries' representation in the WIPO Secretariat, particularly at the management level. The current Series of Meetings of the WIPO Assemblies was in hybrid format, and the duration of the events had been reduced significantly. In that regard, the Group looked forward to prompt decision-making on issues where consensus could be found, and hoped for productive work in the key WIPO committees and working groups that were due to meet before the end of the year. In the context of the current Series of Meetings of the Assemblies, the Group was keen to solve the matter of appointing the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO) as an international searching authority and international preliminary examining authority. CACEEC was convinced that that would allow for a broadening of the use of the international patenting system and the development of innovative processes in the Eurasian subregion. The Group stood ready to cooperate constructively on all items on the agenda.

6. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group, said that it was pleased that WIPO had ensured stability, positive financial results and the delivery of IP services despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Technology, innovation and creativity had always been crucial to overcoming challenges and they would play an essential role in the post-pandemic recovery. Despite the pandemic, there were opportunities for IP and the CEBS Group was confident that they would be seized. The CEBS Group supported the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which reflected the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022–2026. Plans to develop initiatives to help communities, enterprises and individuals were welcomed. Commercialization and IP management could result in economic growth and development. In line with the statement made at the PBC, diversity and inclusivity at WIPO would foster an active global IP ecosystem. Given the Organization's financial performance, the CEBS Group wished to strengthen the main Unions. Member States had been productive, despite the pandemic, which would help to reach a consensus on core issues. Over the years, the allocation of resources had been effective. The financial stability of the individual Unions and efforts to launch promotional activities and support stakeholders were appreciated. The allocation of seats in the WIPO Coordination Committee was a long-standing issue that had dominated discussions in 2021. The CEBS Group had demonstrated flexibility and it remained optimistic that a satisfactory decision could be reached.

7. The Delegation of China said that the current crisis also presented opportunities. Confronted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges, innovation and IP were more important than ever. There was a need to leverage the IP system to further stimulate innovation and allow IP to play an active role in tackling the pandemic and leading the world towards economic recovery, while striking a balance between IP protection and the public interest. Against that backdrop, the Government of China, based on the new development stage, had completed a new round of amendments to the Patent Law, the Trademark Law, the Copyright Law and other IP laws and regulations, and accelerated the drafting of the IP protection and utilization plan for the 14th Five-Year Period. Those moves would provide boost economic growth and sustainable development by promoting high-quality IP, strengthening IP protection and optimizing the innovation and business environment. WIPO had started to implement its new MTSP in 2021. The plan optimized the Organization's mission, the strategic pillars and internal structure, with the aim of developing a balanced IP ecosystem while

strengthening ties with Member States. The Delegation wished to make five points: (i) WIPO should play a more active role in addressing global challenges; (ii) WIPO should pursue norm-setting for global IP rules and had an important role to play in drafting IP rules in new domains and sectors; China looked forward to a consensus on the early convening of a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the DLT; (iii) WIPO should strive to improve its global IP services, including through the use of Chinese and other relevant United Nations (UN) official languages in the Madrid and Hague Systems, more effectively maintained user data security and better services delivered to global innovation actors; (iv) developing countries' concerns should be taken properly into account, their representation in WIPO's decision-making bodies should be increased and they should be provided with more technical assistance to facilitate IP capacity-building; (v) the programs, budget and other work of WIPO should be rendered more transparent. Supported by the 14th Five-Year-Plan, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong SAR) of China was forging ahead to become an international innovation and technology hub and a regional IP trading center. To enhance its IP system, the original grant patent (OGP) system had been launched in December 2019. By the end of July 2021, 455 OGP applications had been received. In June 2021, the Patents Registry granted the first patent under the OGP system, marking a milestone in the development of the patent system of the Hong Kong SAR, and reinforced its support for the robust development of the innovation and technology ecosystem. The Hong Kong SAR would also capitalize on its advantages in professional services, make the most of its role as a trading hub and strengthen the connection between mainland and overseas enterprises in a bid to drive high-quality economic development through IP trading and commercialization.

8. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, said that it wanted the Assemblies to look to the future, steer the work of its subsidiary bodies and resolve stalemates. Evidence showed that IP continued to drive global, economic, social and cultural development. The GII 2021 demonstrated the importance of IP in supporting solutions. Group B was pleased to be part of an organization that supported a well-functioning, balanced global IP framework, helped grassroots innovators and encouraged collaboration between the public sector, industry and academia by enabling voluntary IP licensing and technology transfer initiatives on mutually agreed terms. IP systems should remain fit for purpose and provide incentives for human ingenuity. Group B supported the COVID-19 package that would improve the Organization's pandemic response and it was grateful for how WIPO had continued to provide IP services during the pandemic. Group B supported updates to the PCT as well as the Madrid and Hague Systems to facilitate the electronic filing of intellectual property rights (IPRs). It expected that building user-friendly tools would remain a priority and that the pandemic would provide useful lessons in that regard. Group B praised the Program for Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium and continued to support the Director General in delivering the MTSP. WIPO played a role in solving global challenges such as climate change, food security and artificial intelligence (AI). Group B recognized the role of WIPO services, such as WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search, in connecting innovators with innovation users for the benefit of all. Group B hoped that the WIPO Assemblies in 2022 would be a forum for the debate on innovation and creativity, which would make IP more relevant to the public at large and cement the role of the international IP framework in driving innovative and creative economies.

9. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), said that it was committed to working with the Chair and Member States to ensure the success of the 62nd session of the WIPO Assemblies. As everyone was aware, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on everyday life, with the Assemblies again taking place in a hybrid format and many issues yet to be addressed; however, progress had been made and Member States had learned to work under the circumstances and overcome them, demonstrating their resilience and commitment to WIPO and its areas of work. In that regard, GRULAC wished to thank the secretariats of the various Committees, the interpreting services, the audiovisual services and all staff members for their commitment and dedication. It was grateful to the Director General for his comprehensive

report on the Organization's activities in all areas, and particularly appreciated the actions and leadership of WIPO in helping and cooperating with Member States to combat the COVID-19 pandemic through legislative assistance, technical assistance and capacity building, support for innovation and technology transfer, and steps taken in cooperation with other multilateral organizations, including WHO and WTO, under the leadership of the Director General. It welcomed the Director General's vision of a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere was supported by IP for the good of everyone, as well as his strong focus on development under the WIPODA. GRULAC would like to thank the various departments of WIPO, in particular the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Traditional Knowledge Division, for all their efforts and support, which had enabled Member States to continue to pursue their IP-related activities in spite of the pandemic. GRULAC remained committed to the multilateral system and, in particular, the normative agenda of the Organization, and supported the topics to be discussed under the agenda items "WIPO Committees and International Normative Framework" and "Program, Budget and Oversight Matters".

10. The Delegation of Qatar, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that the welcome ongoing development of the global IP system should reflect the recommendations contained in the WIPO DA and thereby take into account the priorities and needs of developing and least developed countries (LDCs). Achievements in that regard, as set forth in the report of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), were welcome. Efforts should be intensified to complete the process of implementation of those recommendations, which had suffered delays owing, in particular, to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and resulting in non-compliance with the established deadlines. The Group supported the completion of work of the WIPO Assemblies that had been held over from the previous session because of the pandemic and welcomed the MTSP 2022–2026, as well as the decisions taken by the PBC with regard to the Organization's revised language policies. WIPO played a key role in enhancing the capacity of Member States to benefit from the IP system so as to achieve their development and socio-economic goals. The Group stood ready to engage in constructive and positive discussions in that respect. It also invited Member States to give favorable consideration to the continued calls regarding use of the Arabic language in WIPO systems, in particular the Madrid System and the Hague System. The Group had worked tirelessly in recent times to achieve its SDGs and to build a knowledge-based economy. It supported the ongoing negotiations in the Organization on implementing global protection laws, in particular those being conducted by the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) and the IGC. The Group looked forward to pursuing that approach and achieving the greatest possible consensus among Member States.

11. The Delegation of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), welcomed the launch of the MTSP 2022–2026, which coincided with the publication of the 2016-2025 ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan Version 2.0. ASEAN welcomed the expression of interest by WIPO in supporting that plan, the support extended by the WIPO Division for Asia and the Pacific to the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC), the success of the eHIPOC meeting, which had been held in April 2021, the successful completion of the ASEAN regional plan and the ongoing consultations ASEAN member States country plans. The WIPO Singapore Office continued to provide valuable support to the region. Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam had performed well in the 2021 GII. Over the previous year, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, Viet Nam had acceded to the Budapest Treaty and the Philippines had acceded to the Beijing Treaty. Technical support and assistance from WIPO had facilitated the achievement of those milestones. AWGIPC would continue to prioritize the strengthening of IP systems through digital transformation. ASEAN IP offices were working closely together to modernize, increase efficiency and improve the delivery of services to their stakeholders, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

12. The Delegation of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the value of IP rights had been underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was to be hoped that the new vision and strategic approach adopted by WIPO would foster global innovation and creativity, supported by a balanced and effective IP rights system. Proposals to empower all members of society and to focus on concrete results through horizontal and targeted measures and programs aimed, in particular, at individuals and SMEs were encouraging, as were the efforts made by WIPO to tackle the pandemic. Strong and balanced IP systems could and should contribute to overcoming health crises and ensuring global economic recovery. In reaching out to business, the focus should be on green and digital transitions. Sustainability and continued discussions on IP and AI were priorities for the European Union. Progress needed to be made in negotiations on a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations that would take into account technological developments. The European Union was open to constructive proposals on the DLT. It also supported renewal of the IGCs "mandate.

13. The Delegation of Albania, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Georgia on behalf of the CEBS Group, said that the General Directorate of Intellectual Property had met its objectives for 2020-2021. From 2016-2020, the Directorate had collected data from line ministries and central institutions implementing the national IP strategy. In May 2020, it had started to draft the new national strategy for 2021-2025 with the support of WIPO. Through virtual interviews with state institutions and stakeholders, gaps and challenges had been identified. The draft strategy had passed through the public consultation phase and the Council of Ministers was expected to approve it in October 2021. A national workshop would be organized with WIPO to launch the new third strategy, which would unite IP institutions in reaching strategic goals. Albania had approved Law 9947, which was in line with the European Trade Secrets Directive (EC Directive 2016/943). The recommendation of the European Commission had been included in the National Plan for European Integration 2020-2022. There had been other amendments regarding the inspection body, which adopted legal provisions and procedures to provide administrative protection against the infringement of industrial property rights. Albania had continued to promote IP rights and registration to businesses and universities. In the framework of World IP Day (April 26), an IP training center had been set up to organize activities, courses, training sessions and seminars. The WIPO Academy was supporting the center in preparing IP modules for different stakeholders. During April, activities to raise awareness had been organized across Albania. Albania had participated in a series of international copyright education roundtables that had been organized by WIPO in collaboration with the United States Copyright Office, among others, to learn about drafting policies to increase IP knowledge-sharing. Albania had signed memoranda of understanding with national and international partners and wanted to cooperate more with WIPO to build capacity and receive technical assistance. WIPO had helped Albania to receive German expertise regarding supplementary protection certificates (SPC) and a webinar had been held on September 28, 2021. More attention would be paid to IP outreach campaigns in the upcoming months.

14. The Delegation of Algeria said that an efficient and balanced IP system must respond to the needs and interests of all countries and ensure that the benefits of technical and technological progress were accessible to all, while contributing to stimulating, disseminating and utilizing innovation and creativity for the common good. In that regard, as the leading UN agency in the field of knowledge, WIPO was called on to play a more active role in overcoming major contemporary challenges, in particular by developing mechanisms to promote innovation and technology transfers, as well as by better integrating a development dimension into the policies, programs and activities of the Organization. In that regard, Algeria supported the vision set out by WIPO, which aimed to help States to make the most of the IP system to promote economic growth and sustainable development, paying particular attention to young creatives and SMEs. In addition, the significant support provided to Algeria by WIPO was vital to implementing IP-related projects and activities to the benefit of a broad range of national

stakeholders. Algeria, which had initiated local production of the CoronaVac vaccine the previous week, attached great importance to equitable access to medical technologies and innovation to tackle COVID-19. The Delegation welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Organization to contribute to the global response to COVID-19 and encouraged WIPO to set up the necessary partnerships and collaboration to increase vaccine production and bolster economic recovery at the global level.

15. The Delegation of Argentina, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC, said that the Assemblies were taking place in unique circumstances and that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to claim lives and hamper the development of many countries. Despite ongoing global efforts to find sustainable, fair and long-term solutions to end the pandemic and promote economic recovery, Argentina was conscious of the need for greater international cooperation and public-private interaction, as well as more robust, results-oriented diplomacy. As a result of COVID-19, over the previous 18 months, the relationship between IP and health care had become a key issue and the subject of intense debate and numerous academic papers and news articles. IP contributed to innovation as well as to the economic, social and cultural development of countries. In the post-pandemic world, it would be necessary to create a resilient and balanced IP system in which IP rights went hand-in-hand with access to health care, food, knowledge and technology transfer, in line with domestic policies aimed at promoting public interest in sectors of vital national importance. Concessions could be made at the multilateral level without threatening the protection and observance of IP rights, which benefitted everyone. Argentina appreciated WIPO initiatives launched in that spirit, particularly its services and support related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including technical assistance, capacity-building and the strengthening of trilateral cooperation (WIPO, WHO, WTO). Argentina was pleased to note the continued robust financial health of the Organization and held the view that its resource allocation policy should integrate the development dimension and align with the SDGs and the 45 recommendations of the DA, which legitimized the Organization's work and its status as a UN specialized agency. For that reason, Argentina supported the Director General's vision and mission to leverage the benefits of innovation and creativity for everyone. When the circumstances allowed, Argentina hoped to resume substantive negotiations within WIPO committees as quickly as possible and to make further progress in the areas of TK, GRs and folklore and the protection of broadcasting organizations. Argentina attributed more importance than ever to the cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building activities of WIPO, as well as to educational and training activities in developing countries. The Delegation was particularly grateful for the support of the WIPO divisions, especially the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic, Argentina had maintained an active agenda with WIPO and the headquarters-based Regional Bureau by resorting to innovative methods and using the WIPO tools made available to members. From September 6 to 9, 2021, WIPO and the National Foreign Service Institute of Argentina (ISEN) had organized the first virtual training course for diplomats on negotiations and multilateralism in relation to IP. It was hoped that the activity would become part of the regular syllabus of the Diplomatic Institute and would encourage other Member States to implement similar activities. Argentina had also welcomed students from across Latin America and the Caribbean to its Master's Degree Program on Intellectual Property and Innovation. It would continue its work with WIPO GREEN, which sought to mobilize new innovative technologies in response to climate challenges by connecting users to technology providers to make agriculture more sustainable and foster cooperation between regional partners. In addition, Argentina had presented yerba mate tea, Patagonian lamb and Uco Valley wine at the WIPO Virtual Exhibition on Geographical Indications. Such initiatives provided a space to promote national products and raise awareness of the importance of using IP tools to protect products that were part of cultural traditions. Argentina noted the Director General's strong commitment to meeting the needs of developing countries, particularly regarding cooperation and assistance activities and projects that had a real impact and were in line with the Organization's initiatives. It encouraged the Director General to continue demonstrating that commitment with a view to the promotion and democratization of innovation.

Regarding WIPO staff, Argentina welcomed the measures adopted so far and supported the redoubling of efforts to achieve more balanced geographical and gender representation among WIPO senior and professional staff. It encouraged international awareness-raising of the contribution that women made to IP rights and innovation and the use of IP by SMEs.

16. The Delegation of Armenia said that it had worked on projects and IP events with WIPO and the Department for Transition and Developed Countries during 2021, the result of which was the strong IP legal system in Armenia. The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia had initiated legal reforms in the IP field, which included three draft laws on patents, industrial designs, and copyright and related rights. The draft laws on patents and industrial designs had entered into force on July 2, 2021, and the draft law on copyright and related rights had been submitted to the Government. It included provisions from the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties, which the National Assembly for Armenia had recently ratified, and provisions regulating the activities of collective management organizations. The development of a new long-term IP strategy, which would meet modern requirements and benefit Armenian IP development and rights enforcement, was included in the program of the Government of Armenia. Over the years, Armenia had organized joint events with WIPO to identify needs and challenges through discussions with stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic had prevented the organization of some events but Armenia hoped that they would take place in future. Armenia remained committed to working with WIPO to further IP development.

17. The Delegation of Australia said that it shared the desire of the Director General of WIPO to simplify the international IP system and make it more accessible to innovators, creators and businesses, particularly SMEs, around the world. Australia would support that vision and the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to devastate communities globally. WIPO and the broader international IP system must continue to play an active role in that response. The development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in record time was a testament to the IP system, which must continue to support timely, widespread and affordable access to those vaccines. WIPO, together with WTO and WHO, had done crucial work in that regard. Global immunization was the only path out of the pandemic. The Delegation welcomed the holding of hybrid meetings in the current circumstances, improvements to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and to the Madrid Protocol and efforts to work towards a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. Member States should accede to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Marrakesh Treaty) in order to spread its clear humanitarian benefits.

18. The Delegation of Austria aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states. IP rights and protecting them offered incentives and solutions in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Austria welcomed the healthy state of the Organization's finances, the way in which WIPO had continued to provide first-class services to the IP community in spite of the pandemic and the proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2022/23 biennium. The focus on outreach to individuals and SMEs was especially welcome, as was the recommendation by the PBC that WIPO become a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). The Delegation of Austria supported approval of the memoranda of understanding regulating cooperation between WIPO and the European Patent Office (EPO) and the International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA) and the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules with regard to maternity and paternity leave. It was keen to have diplomatic conferences convened in order to conclude a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations and adopt the DLT on design application. The Delegation of Austria supported renewal of the mandate of the IGC and welcomed the appointment of the EAPO as an international search and preliminary examination authority under the PCT. The International Bureau of WIPO should continue to monitor the system and a second review should take place no later than 2027. Austria welcomed the proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations and the recommendation to postpone the implementation

date of WIPO Standard ST.26 from January 1 to July 1, 2022. It supported the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol and to the Schedule of Fees thereunder.

19. The Delegation of Azerbaijan supported the MTSP 2022–2026 of WIPO and had closely cooperated with the Organization on the priority areas of its IP agenda. The country's aim was to mainstream IP in, *inter alia*, economic reform, while changes to the IP infrastructure had led to the ongoing digitization of rights protection and applications for transparency, improved access to expert databases and support for local IP offices, and the launch of the Center for Commercialization and Technology Transfer. Moreover, amended industrial property laws had been enacted to take into account new IP objects and changes to the legislation on copyright and related rights. As a result, according to the GII, processing times had become shorter and there had been increases in inventive and patenting activity, application figures and the contribution of creative industries to gross domestic product. Particular importance was being paid to promoting innovative changes in the Karabakh region, which had been heavily affected by occupation, and to the “smart village” development project.

20. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the APG. Given the increasing importance of IP in the knowledge and innovation-based global economy, Bangladesh hoped that WIPO would continue to mainstream development in its activities while laying a particular emphasis on developing countries and LDCs. The adverse impact of COVID-19 on economic growth was evident around the world. IP had a vital role to play in facilitating the recovery of national economies and ensuring affordable and equitable access to vaccines for all. Since Bangladesh was expecting to graduate from the LDC category by 2026, integrating innovation and appropriate technology into its development efforts was more crucial than ever. Bangladesh required the Organization's assistance to help it to identify its challenges and needs and prepare for the post-LDCs era.

21. The Delegation of Belarus said that, in the present context, the WIPO Assemblies were of great importance to formulating coordinated approaches to strengthen IP systems. It appreciated WIPO efforts to advance the innovation agenda, support SMEs, and develop and enhance the activities of national patent offices. Belarus was a party to 19 international instruments administered by WIPO and, in 2020-2021, it had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty and the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. With the support of WIPO, a draft national IP strategy for the period to 2030 had been developed and was awaiting adoption by the Government. Belarus was a technologically advanced country making great strides in the field of information technology (IT), which was underlined by the country's rating in the GII where it had been ranked in first place under the “Mobile app creation” indicator. In 2020, Belarus had exported computer services worth more than 2.5 billion United States dollars. The country paid particular attention to building human capacities: globally, it was ranked seventh and eleventh respectively under the “Tertiary education” and “Graduates in science and engineering” GII indicators. According to the GII, Belarus was also a leader in providing employment opportunities for women with advanced degrees. In the context of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Belarus and WIPO, Belarus was working to expand the network of TISCs, of which there were 14 at present, and to participate actively in WIPO research in relation to developing a local innovation ecosystem, for example in the field of autonomous and electric transport. Belarus hoped to broaden its cooperation with WIPO through joint projects intended to build human capacities in IP, raise public awareness of tools to protect the outcomes of intellectual activity and implement the digital technologies of WIPO. With the development of innovative and intellectual potential having been identified as a priority in Government policy, Belarus shared the focus of WIPO on increasing opportunities to integrate IP tools into the activities of high-tech sectors of the economy. In view of the rapid development of digital technology and its widespread application in all fields of activity, including in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, it was essential to consolidate the efforts of the

international community to create a stable and balanced IP system that responded to current challenges and societal needs. Belarus was ready to play its part in implementing and testing the outcomes of WIPO pilot projects intended to encourage innovation and creative activity at the national and international levels.

22. The Delegation of Botswana aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group, and commended WIPO for its efforts to adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite setbacks related to the pandemic, the implementation of the IP model office for Africa project was on course and its conclusion was anticipated for August 2022. Botswana welcomed support from WIPO for the development of its national IP policy, which was due to be adopted by Parliament in November 2021. The policy would ensure that Botswana's IP governance framework fostered and harnessed IP potential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

23. The Delegation of Brazil said that innovation was key to overcoming the current global health and economic crises. In Brazil, measures to boost incentives for research and the participation of Brazilian companies in global innovation chains had borne fruit: the country's ranking in that regard had improved in the most recent GII. Brazil had sought to open up its economy because innovation was not a zero-sum game. The success of neighbors also benefited competitors. The importance of collaboration had been underscored by the global vaccination campaign, to the success of which dozens of countries had contributed with innovations developed by them. The multidisciplinary nature of IP was implicitly recognized under the national IP strategy that had been launched in Brazil in 2020. The strategy had been conceived as a modern management tool. The National Institute of Intellectual Property had in recent years been overhauled and made more service-oriented. Accelerating efforts to clear the backlog of patent applications in Brazil had been greatly facilitated by reliance on the steps on their examination already taken by internationally recognized offices. Examinations of other types of asset, such as trademarks and industrial designs, were increasingly aligned with international standards. Accession by Brazil to the Madrid Protocol in 2019 had proven to be a positive step and the National Congress was considering accession to the Budapest Treaty. Consideration was also being given to possible accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty, the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. Aside from involvement in WIPO Lex-Judgments, WIPO Green and WIPO Alert, Brazil was playing an important role in cooperation projects in the context of IP and development. The aim of its pilot project on copyright in the digital environment was to support SMEs when they were granted a geographic indication or collective mark. Brazil was leading the way in the region in terms of encouraging the application of innovation to the market. Unicorn start-ups in the country were valued at more than \$1 billion. In all, start-ups in Brazil had raised more than \$3.5 billion in investments in 2020 – a figure that would be surpassed in 2021. New investors in start-ups benefitted from a recently introduced legal framework that provided them with legal security and cut down on administrative procedures. Representation in WIPO needed to better reflect the diversity and engagement of its Member States and regions in the Organization's work.

24. The Delegation of Brunei Darussalam said that IP protection was key to the country's efforts to achieve its Vision 2035 strategy of social and economic sustainability and to play a bigger role in the global market. To that end, Brunei Darussalam had acceded to a number of international treaties and there had been significant growth in domestic and international IP registration applications by individuals, SMEs and companies from various sectors. The Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BrUIPO) needed to ensure its ability to respond to demand and growth in the sector by reviewing its procedures and domestic laws, taking into account the latest developments and international best practices. After a decade of disruption, the transfer of BrUIPO back to the administrative control of the Attorney-General's Chambers should enable it to promote the IP agenda at the national level. Human resources at the Office had been bolstered and training and educational plans for staff had been put in place, with a view to

enabling it to meet growing demand and the increasing volume of IP applications. Ultimately, the intention was to make BrulPO an independent body in the near future. The Office was working to raise awareness of IP by working with government ministries and agencies, as well as other stakeholders, such as higher education institutions, creative industries and relevant private sector actors.

25. The Delegation of Burkina Faso said that IP was essential to the socio-economic and cultural development of States and Burkina Faso had undertaken significant initiatives to create an ecosystem conducive to the strategic use of IP by different economic actors. To that end, with a view to promoting and raising the profile of local products and tackling counterfeiting, the institutional and legal frameworks had been strengthened through the creation of the National Committee for Geographical Indications and Collective Marks, and of the Mobile Economic Monitoring and Fraud Control Force. Given the importance of IP to raising the profile of local products, a pilot project, focusing on four products, had been launched. The project had enabled the creation and promotion of labels under collective marks for “Faso Dan Fani” woven fabric, Burkina shea butter and “Koko Dunda” dyed fabric, as well as the registration of the country’s first protected geographical indication for Saponé hats. With the support of WIPO, Burkina Faso had also adopted a national strategy for the development of IP. Regarding the promotion of copyright, the first training program for the collective management of copyright, organized by the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) in partnership with Thomas Sankara University of Burkina Faso, had been launched. While significant efforts had been made by the Burkina Faso authorities, with the support of various IP partners, a number of challenges remained to be overcome. Burkina Faso therefore sought support from WIPO in implementing the newly adopted national IP development strategy, promoting and raising the profile of local products, and continuing to establish TISCs in the country’s universities and research facilities.

26. The Delegation of Cambodia aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG, and by the Delegation of Philippines, on behalf of ASEAN. WIPO had provided continuous support for the national IP system, including through capacity-building activities and technical assistance in the deployment of the Industrial Property Automation System and the certification of marks. The Delegation welcomed the assistance of the Division for Asia and the Pacific with regard to: country plans for Cambodia; the country’s TISC; the registration and commercialization of products protected by geographical indications and collective marks; the Enabling Innovation Environment Project for IP and Technology; a draft law on trade secrets and undisclosed information; a draft sub-decree on the administrative enforcement of IP; projects on competency-based and individualized training for trademark examiners and a learning management system; and the deployment of the cloud-based IP Office Business Solutions platform for the IP Department. Cambodia looked forward to receiving further training assistance for IP officials and the general public, in particular MSMEs. Cambodia would deposit its instrument of accession to the Berne Convention in late 2021 and accede to other treaties later with a view to benefitting fully from the IP system. Cambodia attached great importance to the development of a sound IP policy for economic development and poverty reduction. The country would welcome continued assistance from development partners and international organizations, especially WIPO, to support the branding of local products, and to strengthen and improve IP administration, innovation and enforcement to respond to global IP-related developments.

27. The Delegation of Canada said that it had recently collaborated with WIPO on a number of initiatives despite the continued constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) and the WIPO Academy had jointly hosted the Annual CIPO–WIPO Executive Workshop in a virtual format. In addition, Canada had partnered with WIPO to co-host a series of interactive webinars on WIPO services and initiatives. Regarding the work of the committees, Canada welcomed the recent progress in discussions on the draft proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and on important

issues related to the functioning of WIPO. In May 2021, Canada had been honored to co-sponsor the proposal on the protection of graphical user interface designs. It had also been pleased to participate in constructive cross-regional engagement with the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and looked forward to continuing such discussions. Domestically, CIPO was constantly improving its ability to deliver quality and timely IP rights and, in the spring of 2021, had hosted its fourth annual IP Data and Research Conference focused on the integral relationship between IP and economic growth. Furthermore, it had launched an e-grant system and a new online applicant filing service for Canadian patents through the international process under the PCT. Canada continued to support innovation and contribute to a more inclusive IP system. Notably, it had taken steps to better understand and support small and medium-sized businesses and underrepresented innovators and entrepreneurs such as women and indigenous peoples. Lastly, Canada was proud to announce the establishment in 2021 of the College of Patent Agents and Trademark Agents, which had assumed full responsibility for regulating the activities of such agents in Canada and protecting privileged communications between them and their clients. Canada was committed to working with Member States and the Secretariat to find solutions that best served the interests of the Organization, IP rights holders and other stakeholders.

28. The Delegation of Chile said that it appreciated the work of the Director General and his team, which had swiftly positioned WIPO as a key player in the fight against COVID-19. Chile was grateful for the package of support measures that the Organization had provided to Member States to complement their economic recovery efforts. The pandemic had highlighted the fundamental role that creativity and innovation played in finding solutions to global problems, such as producing vaccines in record time and developing virtual platforms for remote communication. WIPO must continue its mission to develop a balanced and effective international IP system that harnessed innovation and creativity for the benefit of everyone. That meant implementing the DA recommendations and aligning the Organization's work with the SDGs. Chile supported the Director General's vision, as reflected in the MTSP 2022–2026, to extend IP benefits to SMEs and women, both of which were target audiences of national initiatives in Chile. Examples of such initiatives included the establishment of an SME support center within the National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI); the launch of the second version of the INAPI running competition for national projects that helped to combat the effects of the pandemic; the planned launch of the INAPI Más Origen competition for promoting seal-of-origin products; IP skills and management programs for creative industries and national museums; the official launch of the Latin American Network of Intellectual Property and Gender, led by the IP offices of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru; and the publication of gender data on trademark and patent applicants. In 2021, significant improvements had been made to the protection of IP rights and the functioning of INAPI for the benefit of users. In addition, Chile had recently acceded to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement, which was shortly due to enter into force in the country. Such advancements demonstrated the importance that Chile attached to the IP system and how an appropriately balanced system could promote innovation and technology transfer in a developing country such as Chile. None of those advancements would have been possible without the Organization's assistance and Chile hoped that it could continue to count on the support of the Director General and his team. During the darkest moments of the pandemic, humanity's best qualities had shone through, demonstrating both our ability to solve the great problems of our time together and the role of multilateralism, through WIPO, in coordinating the response to such problems.

29. The Delegation of Colombia said that, with the entire international community continuing to confront and recover from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the efforts made by the Chair, the Director General and the Organization to ensure that the present WIPO Assemblies could be held were much appreciated. As noted by the country's President Iván Duque Márquez at the launch event for the 2021 GII, the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the country's economy and underscored the need for further investment in science, technology and innovation. Countries with well-structured innovation ecosystems and more robust institutional

capacity had responded better to the crisis. The “orange economy” – one of the pillars of public policy under the Government of President Duque – dovetailed with the goals of WIPO. It promoted better protection for copyright and related rights, which incentivized creators to continue their activities and ensured their economic remuneration and material well-being through the appropriate use of their works. To date, 66,067 individuals had received technical assistance in matters of copyright and related rights and, as at August 31, 2021, 281,379 works had been registered. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the progress made by the National Council for Economic and Social Policy in updating the national IP policy, which would harness IP to boost productivity and competitiveness by promoting innovation, creativity and technology transfer. The Organization’s continued support was crucial to the advancement and implementation of actions enabling the development of the national IP and innovation ecosystem so as to stimulate the country’s economic growth under that policy. In April 2021, under the pro tempore Presidency of Colombia, the Andean Community Commission had approved Decision No. 876 establishing the Common Regime for Country Marks, the main aim of which was to provide regional protection for distinctive signs used by countries in the implementation of national policies to promote their image and identity in commercial sectors, such as importation, investment, gastronomy and tourism. That important instrument would hopefully contribute to ongoing discussions within the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT). Colombia supported the prompt convening of a diplomatic conference on the negotiation of a DLT. It was also keen to accede to the Hague Agreement, which was a vital tool for simplifying and internationalizing the registration of industrial designs in the region. Colombia was making progress in that regard and the Organization’s valuable technical and legal assistance would help it to achieve tangible results. The Delegation acknowledged the considerable advancements made in recent years within the SCP. It attached particular importance to discussions on AI, the role of patents with respect to health technologies and the strengthening of initiatives related to publicly accessible databases containing information on the patent status of medicines and vaccines. It also welcomed all actions that the Organization had been taking to increase and improve the inclusion of women in the IP system. The Government’s international agenda prioritized gender equality through the economic empowerment of women, the reduction of educational gaps, the participation of women in sectors typically dominated by men, such as industry, construction and areas related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the promotion of enterprises led by women. Mr. Tang was to be commended for his hard work in his first year as Director General, as evidenced by the Organization’s continued dynamism in spite of the exceptional circumstances. His leadership would doubtless help to establish consensus, strengthen the multilateral IP system and maintain the Organization’s high standards. Lastly, Colombia welcomed the creation of the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector under the leadership of Assistant Director General Marco Alemán and was convinced that it would play a crucial role in the economic recovery of Member States and the strengthening of IP as a tool for competitiveness and productivity in the business sector.

30. The Delegation of the Congo said that the Assemblies provided a multilateral setting for Member States to pool their efforts in pursuit of inclusive solutions. As reflected in the MTSP 2022–2026, promoting IP through innovation and creativity helped nations to prosper. In that vein, the Congo intended to develop a fund to promote invention and technological innovation and support creators. In October 2020, in partnership with OAPI, the Congo had organized the eighth edition of the African Invention and Technological Innovation Fair. At the global level, it had contributed to the joint proposal on the resale right of visual artists within the SCCR. The Delegation underscored the importance of the WIPO Re:Search platform for conducting research on neglected tropical diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. The Congo was pleased to note the contribution made to initiatives on that platform by the Congolese Foundation for Medical Research.

31. The Delegation of Costa Rica said that it was to be celebrated that, despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the WIPO Assemblies had continued to be held regularly

and successfully, with the aims of evaluating the Organization's progress and considering the future directions that should be taken for the benefit of all Member States. In that regard, Costa Rica would support the various initiatives being developed within WIPO committees. The Delegation welcomed the significant efforts that had been made within the SCP with information exchange sessions on the different provisions for granting patent licenses for health-care technologies, as well as discussions on access to medical products and health technologies; such efforts were of great importance to the concrete actions being taken to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Delegation reaffirmed its support for discussions within the SCT on the concept of country brands; the discussions were intended to work towards determining substantive measures that would ensure the adequate regulation and treatment of country brands, the protection and use of which offered an effective opportunity to promote countries and create economies of scale. The Delegation also supported the efforts made to convene a diplomatic conference on the DLT, which would provide an important opportunity to improve international regulation. Regarding the SCCR, Costa Rica remained committed to discussions and continued to support the exchange of information on copyright limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, museums and educational and research institutions, which was of considerable national importance as the copyright legislation of Costa Rica did not contain limitations or exceptions for those institutions. In addition, it was hoped that a constructive discussion could be had on the copyright-related challenges of the digital environment. IP was a vital instrument for the economic, social and cultural development of countries and Costa Rica would therefore continue to work with WIPO on the projects needed to promote innovation and creativity, with the aim of continuously strengthening a balanced and effective IP system for the benefit of everyone. The Delegation was grateful for the support the country had received from WIPO in implementing systems and technological tools that had brought IP closer to users and facilitated its internal work.

32. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire said that it had noted with satisfaction the report of the Director General, as well as the healthy financial situation of WIPO, as reflected in its positive financial statements. The Organization was to be congratulated on its resilience, and encouraged to continue to strive for a global IP system that was increasingly efficient, consensus-based and fair. Côte d'Ivoire remained convinced that the IP system constituted an important vehicle for socio-economic progress and development for all countries. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire had therefore, over several years, been undertaking a range of institutional reforms to better benefit from the opportunities that the system afforded. Of particular importance was the reform of the statutes of the Ivorian Copyright Office, which was aimed at establishing instruments and tools for good governance with a view to broadening the collection base for royalties and improving the standard of living of members. It should be emphasized that those actions would not have been possible without the various types of support provided by WIPO, in particular technical assistance and capacity-building. That support had led to the establishment and development of a network of TISCs. A webinar on the development of the network, organized on July 20, 2021, had provided a context for the presentation of new WIPO tools. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for its assistance during awareness-raising and training activities for universities and higher education institutions, with a view to encouraging them to adopt the IP system for the benefit of research and development, in line with the guidance adopted by WIPO, OAPI and ARIPO in Harare, Zimbabwe, in November 2019.

33. The Delegation of Croatia said that it was pleased that WIPO had maintained its financial stability in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation supported the financial planning of the upcoming biennium and welcomed the enhancements made to programs and to the financial planning methodology and presentation. The pandemic had demonstrated that modern communications technology allowed work and communication to continue, regardless of physical limits or borders. That technology would, it was to be hoped, facilitate the preparatory work for evaluating the WIPO external offices. The Copyright and Related Rights Act, which had been passed the previous year as part of a broader process of European Union legal

reform, adapted the country's legal framework to technological developments that had changed how copyright protected works were created, produced, distributed and exploited. The new legal framework also aimed to incentivize creativity by sharing revenue more fairly among stakeholders and providing legal certainty when copyright protected works were legitimately used in digital environments. Despite the swift recovery of the economy, the pandemic had contributed to a decrease in the number of IP filings.

34. The Delegation of Cuba said that knowledge, science, technology and innovation played an important role in implementing national policies and the 2030 National Plan for Economic and Social Development. Accordingly, Cuba was encouraging the establishment of science and technology parks and companies and SMEs, whose development was intrinsically linked with IP management. While the COVID-19 pandemic had tested the mettle of the global scientific community, undeniable progress had been made, particularly in the development of vaccines. Although Cuba faced enormous obstacles due to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, it had managed to develop three vaccines and two candidate vaccines that were in the clinical development phase. Currently, 44.1 per cent of the population had been fully vaccinated and 80.8 per cent had received their first dose. Initial steps were being taken towards the prequalification of the vaccines with a view to their inclusion in the WHO emergency use list. It was vitally important to renew the mandate of the IGC for 2022–2023 – notwithstanding the progress made in that arena – in order to reach an agreement on international legal instruments for the effective and balanced protection of GRs, TK and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). The DA was fundamentally important to the Organization and Member States, whose socio-economic development objectives included integrating development into WIPO activities, furthering discussions on IP and development under the third pillar of the mandate of the CDIP and fully implementing the 45 Agenda recommendations. Regarding the future work of the SCP, further research should be conducted on IPR limitations and exceptions, paying particular attention to the challenges that patents posed for technology transfer. In that regard, ongoing research on patents and access to medical products and health technologies was vital for the sharing of criteria and conclusions. Regarding negotiations on a DLT, it was important for the text to accommodate the interests of all Member States, particularly regarding technical assistance and the requirement to disclose the origin of the TK associated with a design. Cuba acknowledged the support provided by WIPO and in particular the Cooperation Bureau for Development of Latin America and the Caribbean in building national capacity with different actors from the national IP system. It also appreciated the support of the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector in implementing the Industrial Property Automation System, including recent developments in the system and its new management support function, which had contributed to improving institutional management and the national IP system. Cuba was grateful for the technical assistance and capacity-building support received from the PCT Services Department and the Madrid Registry and wished to thank the WIPO Academy for its work in the area of IP training and promotion, particularly its activities at the national level.

35. The Delegation of the Czech Republic aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and the CEBS Group. Measures to strengthen global IP protection systems were welcome, in particular efforts to eliminate the Lisbon Union's budget deficit and ensure the Union's financial sustainability through the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. In that regard, the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications had afforded an important opportunity to raise awareness of the geographical indications system. On normative issues, the Delegation hoped that a decision to convene a conference of the adoption of the DLT would be forthcoming; the IGC remained the most appropriate forum to discuss the disclosure requirement. The Delegation remained involved in the work of the SCCR and hoped that a consensus would be reached on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations. The artists' resale right should become a permanent item on the Standing Committee's agenda. The Delegation also welcomed the work of the SCP, and hoped for further technical debate on substantive patent law harmonization.

The proposed renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2022–2023 biennium was welcome. The Delegation commended the work done by WIPO on development and IP, through the provision of technical assistance, as well as its work on enforcement, on AI from an IP perspective, and on teaching and education. With regard to raising awareness of IP rights protection and commercialization, WIPO provided invaluable assistance and services, in particular through its Division for Transition and Developed Countries. Lastly, the Czech Republic had taken measures to support alternative dispute resolution; a WIPO webinar on mediation of IP disputes had been particularly helpful for raising awareness in that regard.

36. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the increase over the previous year in the number of parties to a number of international IP instruments and the agreement between WIPO, WHO and WTO to cooperate in helping countries to obtain access to the medical technology needed to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. Science and technology played a decisive part in tackling such challenges as the pandemic, climate change and pollution. The leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Jong Un, had placed the development of science and technology at the heart of the country's public policy. Access to advanced science and technology, in particular through the Sci-Tech Complex, was open to all. Inventions and innovation were generated not only in research institutes but also by ordinary people, and were applied in sectors across the national economy. The Government had consolidated the legal framework for the protection of IP and apps had been developed to help raise public awareness of IP. Online workshops held by the WIPO Academy during the pandemic had been welcome. WIPO should focus on fostering IP rights in developing countries. The adoption of the DLT had been held up for two decades by the issues of technology transfer to and capacity-building for the developing countries. Resolving those issues was in the best interests of all. The aim of IP protection should not only be to stimulate scientific and technological progress but also to foster economic development and build a civilized culture. WIPO should strive to ensure that scientific, technological and cultural achievements contributed to meeting the SDGs and to facilitating the socio-economic and cultural development of all Member States.

37. The Delegation of Denmark said that innovation was a key driver of economic growth and that R&D were vital in ensuring sustainable growth and addressing the various global challenges facing society at all levels of development. The COVID-19 pandemic had underscored the need for a strong and balanced IP system. Indeed, public and private parties that relied heavily on IP rights had been able to collaborate and create effective vaccines at an unprecedented pace. In such difficult circumstances, it was particularly important that businesses could count on robust support from IP institutions. WIPO served not only as the global champion of IP rights, but also as a forum for cooperation among States. Continued efforts must be made to ensure that the Organization could deliver cost-efficient IP services that were fit for purpose. The Delegation appreciated the efforts made by WIPO to improve global IP systems such as the PCT and the Madrid and Hague Systems and supported the continuing development of IT services for the benefit of users and IP offices alike. Turning to domestic developments, in 2021, the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business, and Financial Affairs had launched the country's first national IP Action Plan. The objectives of the plan included encouraging more investment in R&D and inciting more companies to leverage IP rights to protect their innovations against infringement, with the overarching aim of strengthening Danish companies' competitiveness in increasingly competitive global markets. The plan comprised four focus areas and 16 initiatives that strengthened the framework for the use of IP rights to create value, growth and jobs. In 2021, The Danish Patent and Trademark Office had conducted a successful awareness-raising campaign on counterfeiting. The campaign, which had been targeted primarily at young people and launched both in the press and on social media in collaboration with seven influencers, had reached a large share of the Danish population. In addition, the Nordic Patent Institute had continued to deliver high-quality products to its applicants. The Delegation was committed to contributing positively,

constructively and pragmatically to the work of WIPO and its various bodies. The efficient functioning of the global services provided by WIPO was vitally important for Danish users.

38. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC. It was grateful to WIPO and in particular the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean for the support that they had provided to its IP office with training, including its IP training program, from September 2020 to May 2021, the second training module on patent rights for the National Judicial College, with judges in the Dominican Republic, and the first training module on trademarks for judges, which was under way. It particularly appreciated the readiness with which WIPO provided its support. The Delegation was committed to making the Assemblies a success.

39. The Delegation of Ecuador said that recognition of global warming had led to discussions of the collective responsibility to protect the environment. Similarly, the discovery that plastic waste was affecting marine life in the oceans and its ecosystems had led people to take responsibility and act; the first step was to stop using plastic straws, and then change ways of life. In a conversation between a little girl and her parents, she could tell them that she would like to dedicate her life to music, to which her parents would respond by asking what she would live on. That was the question presently confronting many creators around the world. Societies must ask themselves how many works had failed to come to fruition not for a lack of talent, but for the absence of industry encouragement and support; action must be taken to change that situation to honor the creators who were unable to dedicate their lives to their ingenuity and had to find other work to survive. It was necessary to take responsibility for those that had fallen by the wayside because of a lack of opportunities; they were part of the creative and cultural wealth of societies and could not be lost. Creators were to be admired for their ability to keep going after every setback and call it a learning experience, in the manner of children who, after falling over and briefly crying, would get up, brush down their scraped knees and carry on playing. They were people who created out of love, listening to their instincts, when they followed a project from an initial idea to a completed creation, reaching out to the world to change it and, in many cases, irreversibly altering the course of history. Creative labor should receive recognition in the same way as any other kind, and the efforts and investments that went into a creating a work or invention should be appreciated. It was essential to turn the intangible, that which could not be seen, into something tangible and concrete. For that reason, and in view of the need to highlight personal responsibility for the actions or omissions affecting the development of the creative and cultural wealth of societies, Ecuador was implementing a public policy of creative and cultural responsibility. WIPO Member States worked to allow IP to change lives and enable individuals, communities, societies and entire regions to make a living from their creations, which could only be achieved through the involvement of all. That was a priority area for Ecuador as IP was an essential tool for the creative and cultural industries, allowing the work of writers, artists, musicians and other Ecuadorian talent to reach the world. At present, it was creators who were generating global solutions, paradigm shifts and technological advances, and traditions, local markets and ancestral heritage were being rediscovered and saved thanks to those who valued them. They were the spark that kindled the flame that set IP alight. The singer Nina Simone defined freedom as the absence of fear. As a society, Member States must guarantee a world that valued creations because every creation had the potential to transform existing realities. A safe space, free from fear and open to all, must be created so that the next time parents asked their daughter, passionate about music, what she would live on, the response, delivered in full confidence, would be: "I am going to live on my creations, I am going to live on my talent, I am going to live on my creativity."

40. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of the regional groups to which it belonged. WIPO had a vital role to play in strengthening the international IP system and supporting Member States in their efforts to encourage innovation and creativity by providing technical assistance, capacity-building and distance learning programs. All of that helped to enable countries, in particular the developing countries, to implement their ambitious

development plans and achieve the SDGs. The WIPO Division for Arab Countries was to be commended for its activities in that regard. Progress on pending ambitious international instruments, which would enrich the IP system, was desirable in the near term. The focus of WIPO on new technology was laudable; it should reinforce support to Member States in that rapidly developing area so as to narrow the digital and technological divide between developing and advanced countries. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of the Program of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 and that of the MTSP 2022–2026. It was gratifying to see that spending by the Organization on development activities was rising, which in turn was boosting its developmental role and was consistent with its DA. Moreover, it served the Director General's ambitious vision of reaching out to stakeholders that had hitherto attracted little attention, such as SMEs, young people and women, so as to increase their awareness of IP and its role in bettering their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic had driven home the importance of international cooperation based on the principles of unity, solidarity and shared responsibility to ensure a balanced and effective response. The aim must be to alleviate its worst aspects and to work to remove any obstacles to the just and equitable provision of vaccines to countries and peoples all over the world. The pandemic has also underlined the vital role of IP and the importance of mobilizing resources to support research, development and innovation across various fields, in particular public health. The Delegation commended the Director General on his efforts to forge trilateral cooperation between WIPO, WTO and WHO, which had culminated in the recent agreement by the three organizations to roll out a technical support package to help Member States to deal with the pandemic and its repercussions, and welcomed the appointment of Sherif Saadallah as the Organization's focal point on implementation and results monitoring in that regard. Egypt was relying increasingly on IP and scientific research to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development as part of the country's Vision 2030 and was keen to foster research in order to address urgent challenges such as COVID-19. Egypt had made a quantitative and qualitative leap forward in scientific research, ranking 30th globally (first in Africa and second among the Arab countries) in an international scientific publishing classification. It had also moved up in the latest GII, ranking 94th globally. Egypt had adopted measures and launched several initiatives to boost its system of scientific research and to support and encourage innovators and creators. The budget for higher education and research had been doubled to 65 billion Egyptian pounds. Legislation had been passed to stimulate science, technology and innovation (STI), providing a new springboard for research. The aim was to reap the benefits of research and innovative ideas and transform them into tangible products made in Egypt. The Egyptian Knowledge Bank, which had been launched in partnership with more than 30 international institutions, was the largest digital library in the world. A fund had been set up to finance and back researchers and innovators. The aim of the consolidated national STI strategy for 2030 was to foster and localize technology and thereby contribute to socio-economic development in various fields. Egypt had launched a reference genome project for Egyptians and the establishment of the Egyptian Genome Center was the greatest scientific project in the country's modern history. Those developments would allow the country to enter an era of personalized medicine, in which gene therapy would be used in disease diagnostics and to determine the appropriate treatments. Egypt intended to leverage digital transformation and new technology to facilitate its development plans. It had launched a national AI strategy and set up a national AI council to supervise and monitor its implementation and update it in the light of developments around the world in that area. The strategy comprised four pillars: AI for governance (to improve government performance); AI for development (to achieve development goals in vital sectors through the use of apps); capacity-building (through training for national officials); and the enhancement of international cooperation on AI.

41. The Delegation of El Salvador aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC. El Salvador considered innovation a key factor of sustainable development. Accordingly, it was promoting innovation as a fundamental pillar for economic and productive transformation through inter-institutional initiatives aimed at establishing an innovation ecosystem. All such activities fell within the framework of the 2020-2030 Digital Agenda, of which IP promotion was a central component. With the support of WIPO,

El Salvador was updating its national IP strategy, which would contribute to achieving objectives in the area of innovation while complementing the Cuscatlán Plan drawn up by the Government, the Digital Agenda, the Trade and Investment Policy and related internal guidelines. Achieving such objectives would doubtless promote sustainable development, which was all the more relevant in the context of the ongoing post-pandemic social and economic recovery. Despite the health crisis, the negative impact of which had been felt around the world, there had been positive developments in IP rights protection in El Salvador over the previous eight months, including an increase in the activity of trademark and copyright renewal and registration services. There had also been a rise in the number of applications for the establishment of companies, registration renewals and registrations of security rights. Such developments were a result of the economic regeneration plan of the Ministry of the Economy, which was geared to boosting domestic and foreign investors' confidence in the country and, by extension, job creation and preservation and economic growth. WIPO had a key role to play in helping Member States to continue to promote a sustainable economic recovery. El Salvador was grateful to the Organization for collaborating with developing countries and helping them to build their capacities and extend the benefits of IP to SMEs, women and young entrepreneurs. It acknowledged the vital role that WIPO had played in global forums in the quest for a timely and effective solution to the production of vaccines and medical supplies for combating COVID-19, including its tireless work with other institutions, such as WHO and WTO. The Delegation urged WIPO to continue that work and to redouble its efforts in all areas, including the normative agenda. El Salvador was committed to continuing its active participation in the Organization's work with a view to achieving tangible results in the different areas of its agenda. The Delegation was convinced that the productive dialogue between Member States in the coming days would make the Assemblies a success.

42. The Delegation of Eswatini aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked WIPO for its continued technical support, in particular in reviewing the national IP regulatory framework, which had been a priority for ensuring robust IP support for innovation and creativity. Eswatini had refined and advanced its IP protection policy to include measures relating to exploitation and commercialization. In that regard, the broadening of the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector's mandate was particularly welcome. SMEs in Eswatini would be encouraged to utilize the IP system and its commercial benefits. Eswatini was making efforts to establish institutions to foster efficient copyright administration. WIPO's technical assistance had also helped with training to enhance understanding of the impacts and contributions of copyright. Support had also been received for automating the administration of Eswatini's IP system to improve efficiencies and eliminate bottlenecks that had tended to discourage creativity and innovation. Eswatini had ambitious plans to explore, with the support of WIPO, how IP could be leveraged to bolster innovation and industrialization.

43. The Delegation of Ethiopia aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and underscored the importance of fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The Delegation supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2022–2023 biennium. The Committee's work should culminate in the adoption of an international legal instrument. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ethiopia had continued to implement administrative, economic, and institutional reforms in a variety of areas. A 10-year development plan had been adopted, which included enabling areas in which innovation and technology were pivotal. The Plan aimed to enhance growth in all sectors; IP would be an important aspect of its implementation. With a view to strengthening the IP system, legislation had been amended and new laws promulgated. Efforts were being made to improve service quality and build human capital in IP to respond to development needs. The broad and varied support received from WIPO had been crucial and was greatly appreciated. Ethiopia had ratified the Marrakesh Treaty and efforts were being made to incorporate its provisions into national law. The ratification of the Paris Convention and the Madrid Protocol remained under active consideration.

44. The Delegation of Finland aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its member States. It considered innovation crucial to sustainable economic growth and was concerned about the considerable challenges facing the IP rights system in the new digital environment and data economy. In that regard, it believed that WIPO could and should play a leading role in discussions on AI and IP. The Frontier Technologies event organized by the IP and Frontier Technologies Division in September 2021 was greatly appreciated and aligned with Finland's national AI strategy, which aimed to create the conditions for the advancement of digitalization for the benefit of SMEs and digital investment in particular. The Delegation appreciated the efforts made by WIPO to improve global IP services under the PCT and the Madrid and Hague Systems. It held the view that the IP system should be gradually digitalized so that rights holders and society as a whole continued to benefit from the efficient operation of the IP framework. Digitalization of the IP system was also central to the creation of a new national IP rights strategy in Finland. Among other initiatives, the country was developing digital copyright infrastructure, the first stage of which was to help stakeholders to better understand the benefits of identifying IP assets and rights holders and interoperable standards for data exchange in the digital environment. Finland was taking steps to draw more attention to indigenous peoples' rights. For instance, during its presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers, it had stressed the need for an exchange of views on the rights of the Sámi people with a view to protecting their TK and TCEs. A conference on the protection of Nordic indigenous TK and IP was due to be held in cooperation with the Sámi Parliament in November 2021. Finland was looking forward to participating in a WIPO practical workshop for the Nordic countries in 2022.

45. The Delegation of France said that it would like to thank the WIPO Director General, Secretariat and staff for their unwavering commitment and investment during the pandemic. The Delegation welcomed the resumption of the Organization's trilateral cooperation with WHO and WTO and hoped that further workshops would be held to enable the achievement of tangible results in the area of technology transfer for the benefit of developing countries. It was vital that vaccines and treatments could be produced and administered as locally as possible to patients throughout the world. The Delegation fully supported the Director General's mandate to put innovation and creativity at the heart of IP. Maintaining an effective and balanced relationship between the four Unions that underpinned the IP system was central to the success of that mandate. Each Union contributed in its own way and within its own parameters to protecting and recognizing the work of investors and creators, which was the driving force behind cultural, scientific and technological progress. Since the Unions were specialized, they should be considered both complementary and integral to one another. IP relied on a range of different tools, such as patents, marks, designs, models, copyright and geographical indications. France attached great importance to each, as it had recently demonstrated by acceding the Geneva Act. The accession benefited both consumers, by providing them with assurances about the quality of the goods that they consumed, and producers, by protecting the goods that they produced. In so doing, it helped to boost the reputation of the territories concerned and contributed to economic growth. The Delegation looked forward to resuming discussions on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. In the age of the Internet and social media, it was high time that writers, artists and creators were afforded adequate protection. It should be borne in mind that nobody had a monopoly over the IP system: it was and should continue to be regarded as a tool for the development of all countries, regardless of their level of development, in the spirit of universal progress.

46. The Delegation of Gabon said that the unprecedented health situation, while constituting a challenge for health systems and national economies, also presented a unique opportunity to question the multilateral system and correct errors that had allowed inequalities to emerge on many levels, going against the objectives set in 2015 that were reflected in the SDGs, which were intended to leave no-one behind. Gabon considered that the way out of the crisis called for increased solidarity and cooperation. In that regard, the Delegation welcomed the

discussions that had culminated in the adoption of initiatives set out in the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 under “WIPO’s response to COVID-19”. The collaboration between WIPO, WHO and WTO, and the establishment of a joint technical assistance platform had brought a glimmer of hope in that regard as they provided an opportunity to make available to Member States the medical technologies needed to combat COVID-19. Beyond that particular aim, it should be recalled that the Organization’s discussions had a direct impact on improving living conditions in countries, and thereby on the attainment of the SDGs. It was therefore imperative that the discussions were broadened, for example through a conference on IP and the response to COVID-19. Discussions on patents and health had found real meaning, as had the justification of a suspension of the TRIPS Agreement with a view to facilitating technology transfers and technical assistance. Only by doing so could states’ resilience to such threats be strengthened. Furthermore, the Delegation expressed its satisfaction regarding the convening of the 41st session of the IGC and the Assembly’s recommendation to renew the Committee’s mandate. Regarding the standard-setting program, the Delegation hoped that outstanding issues could be resolved with a view to convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT. At the national level, the new headquarters of the Gabon Industrial Property Office, which had been built with the assistance of OAPI, had been opened and collaboration with OAPI had continued. In that regard, a regional seminar was being organized in Libreville on operationalizing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

47. The Delegation of the Gambia said that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO had continued to provide invaluable support and assistance, in particular for the review of the Gambia Intellectual Property Act 2021. Investment in ICT was fundamental to the administration of IP rights. The Industrial Property Automation System was being upgraded to version 4.0, which would be completed early in 2022. Implementation of the Gambia IP Policy and Strategy for 2018–2021 was well under way, in particular thanks to the concerted efforts of Masters in Intellectual Property alumni, who had been sponsored by WIPO and ARIPO. The Gambia had benefitted from numerous webinars organized by the WIPO Academy, Madrid Division and Hague Division, and looked forward to further virtual and in-person training opportunities. The guidance and support of the WIPO Division for Africa was particularly welcome.

48. The Delegation of Georgia, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation on behalf of the CEBS Group, said that it appreciated the efforts of WIPO to ensure the stability of the Organization and its activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was grateful to the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for its cooperation and to the WIPO Academy for its training and capacity-building activities. The Delegation welcomed initiatives aimed at supporting SMEs in commercialization and IP management with the aim of encouraging national economic growth and development. It was hoped that WIPO would continue to respond to the needs of Member States efficiently and to provide them with the services and resources they needed.

49. The Delegation of Germany said that it fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, and the Delegation of the European Union and its member States. It shared the Director General’s vision, as recently reflected in the MTSP 2022–2026, that IP should promote innovation and creativity anywhere for the good of everyone. Germany remained committed to helping WIPO to develop a balanced and effective global IP ecosystem to advance innovation and creativity for a brighter and more sustainable future. A strong IP ecosystem was all the more important as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on health and the global economy. IP systems could only drive innovation, competitiveness and economic development if they were continuously monitored and, where necessary, adapted to meet new challenges. Having previously encouraged WIPO to engage more closely with WHO and WTO to ensure that IP issues were included in discussions on how to overcome the pandemic, the Delegation welcomed the formal strengthening of trilateral cooperation among those organizations on

matters of public health, IP and trade and considered the joint workshop on technology transfer and licensing held in September 2021 as a positive first step towards continuing that cooperation. It also welcomed the rollout of a WIPO package of services and measures to assist Member States in addressing the pandemic and laying the foundations for the post-pandemic economic recovery. However, Germany considered that WIPO could play a more active role in the development of IP-based solutions, such as patent pools, pledges and licensing structures, to help to ensure fair global access to vaccines and medicine. For example, the Organization could extend the use of its multistakeholder collaborative platforms to help to forge meaningful partnerships for addressing urgent international needs on the basis of the IP system. It could also provide its knowledge and expertise to help to develop existing licensing platforms. With regard to AI, WIPO should continue to act both as an international observatory for identifying and monitoring trends and developments and as a global forum for exchanging ideas coordinating efforts. The Delegation shared the view that AI was just one of a number of new frontier technologies and looked forward to discussing topics such as big data, blockchain and genetic engineering within the framework of the newly named WIPO Conversation on IP and Frontier Technologies with a view to exploiting the full economic potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Germany considered IP rights an integral part of the legal, economic and cultural framework within which enterprises and society as a whole functioned. WIPO, as the central institution for developing global IP policy and managing global IP infrastructure, should highlight the role of IP in addressing the global challenges of our time, including health crises, economic recovery, climate change and sustainable development. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to contribute actively, within its mandate, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in close cooperation with other Geneva-based institutions. In that context, joining the UNSDG would enable WIPO to improve its multilateral cooperation with other UN entities and partners and to determine how best to include IP in the implementation of the SDGs. Germany supported further international normative development aimed at simplifying and harmonizing the existing international IP framework for the benefit of stakeholders, including IP offices. The Delegation regretted that no progress had been made on the normative agenda at the 2020 Assembly meetings and stood ready to engage constructively in discussions on normative issues. It also looked forward to resuming substantive discussions within the SCCR – within an appropriate framework and as conditions allowed, given the sensitive nature of such discussions. The traditional consensus on the allocation of time between agenda items within that Committee should be respected. Provided Member States worked together to strike a fair balance between the interests of all stakeholders, positive results could be achieved. Germany remained committed to improving the protection of broadcasting organizations by reaching a consensus on an international treaty to that end. For the treaty to be successful in the long term, its scope of application should reflect the technical developments that had taken place. The Delegation therefore welcomed discussions on further technologies, in particular on deferred transmissions. Once such discussions could be resumed, Germany would continue to actively support the efforts of the SCCR to advance text-based work on an international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. Germany was interested in sharing national experiences of copyright limitations and exceptions for certain organizations and purposes, as well as for people with disabilities other than print disabilities. Although it saw no need for a legally binding international instrument in that area, it wished to learn more about other Member States' related legal concepts. It was also interested in sharing views on such issues as resale rights and copyright challenges in the digital environment. With regard to patent law, WIPO and in particular the SCP must heed the calls of users around the world for the further development, harmonization and improvement of the patent system. Germany recognized the ongoing work of the SCP in that area and welcomed the holding of sharing sessions during the thirty-second session, in particular on patentability issues relating to AI. It looked forward to a further sharing session during the thirty-third session on the use of AI in examination procedures. Since AI technology presented a number of opportunities and challenges for patent system administration, the sharing of experiences and information on such topics within the SCP was highly beneficial for

all Member States. Germany was particularly eager to continue work on issues of patent quality, including opposition systems, and the confidentiality of communications between patent advisors and their clients. Further work in that area was beneficial to countries of all levels of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. The Delegation would continue to actively contribute to work on patents and health and acknowledged the efforts and activities of WIPO committees and other international organizations in that regard. Since WIPO was the appropriate forum for addressing patent law issues, Germany was pleased to see patents and health on the agenda of the SCP. The latest trends in the number of applications under the PCT underscored the importance of the PCT System for users worldwide. Germany was delighted to note that the number of PCT applications filed worldwide in 2020 had increased by 4 per cent to 275,882, despite the global impact of the pandemic, and by 67 per cent between 2010 and 2020. As a patent-intensive country, both nationally and internationally, Germany was pleased to see the PCT System working so well. In 2020, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) had processed 7,525 international applications in the national phase, of which approximately 85 per cent had been filed by applicants from outside Germany. The Delegation highly appreciated the numerous improvements made to the PCT System over recent years, particularly to its technical and legal framework, and hoped that the PCT working group's deliberations would continue in a constructive spirit in the next sessions. It encouraged all WIPO Member States to use the system. The DLT was a pending issue. The Delegation regretted that, at the 2019 Assembly meetings, the facilitator's proposed resolution to the problem of the disclosure requirement had been rejected and Member States had once again failed to reach consensus on the convening of a diplomatic conference. Although Germany, like other European Union member States, remained convinced that such a requirement was not relevant to industrial designs and that its inclusion in the Treaty would contradict the aim of simplifying and harmonizing design registration procedures, it was open to considering any reasonable and constructive proposals during the 2021 Assembly meetings or in the future. Turning to the Geneva Act, the accession of the European Union in 2019 marked the entry into force of the Act for all contracting parties to the Lisbon System. Geographical indications were an important instrument for protecting regional TK relating to both agricultural and non-agricultural products. Germany noted the broad consensus reached by Member States to continue work within the IGC and recognized the importance of that work. Since no progress could be made during the current biennium owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Germany supported the proposal to transfer the 2019 mandate to the 2022–2023 biennium. A great deal of work had still to be done before a consensus could be reached on a *sui generis* instrument that accommodated the interests of holders of TK, GRs and folklore but did not harm the functioning of the international IP system. Germany was willing to continue its constructive participation in that process and remained fully committed to achieving further progress in the field of development, particularly in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also supported the continued implementation of the 45 DA recommendations in a balanced and consensus-driven manner. The Delegation was pleased to note that the CDIP had been able to resume its work in 2020, albeit with a truncated agenda. Despite the challenging conditions, significant progress had been made in the last two sessions (CDIP 25 and 26) on core issues such as technical assistance and the advancement of DA projects. Germany was convinced that the Committee's constructive and forward-looking approach would enable it to overcome whatever challenges it faced in the future. The DPMA had continued its successful cooperation with WIPO and other IP organizations and national IP offices. In February 2021, the DPMA and WIPO had successfully staged further roving seminars aimed at informing the public about WIPO services, with a particular emphasis on the PCT procedure. For the first time, the seminars had been supported by colleagues from the IP offices of Austria and Switzerland. In late 2021, the DPMA was due to assist WIPO in the training of examiners from the Albanian office.

50. The Delegation of Ghana aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group and said that remarkable progress had been made in the development, production and roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, with over 6.3 billion doses

administered across 184 countries. Disparities in vaccine access persisted, however, raising questions about certain countries' commitment to leaving no one behind. Ghana commended the Organization's advocacy of equity in that regard and welcomed the tripartite cooperation with WHO and WTO to deliver new strategies for vaccine production and distribution. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Ghana Industrial Property Office of the Registrar General's Department, Ministry of Justice, was processing Madrid System applications for trademarks and Hague System applications for industrial designs in line with its treaty obligations. The Office had also mapped institutions and was ready to host the TISC Program and sign the respective Service Level Agreement with WIPO. The Organization's support was invaluable in building the capacity of universities and research institutions to implement institutional IP policies in line with the national IP strategy to promote innovative activities, and its efforts to engage with young people, women and other underrepresented stakeholders were welcome. Ghana thanked Member States that had extended technical cooperation activities for IP, in particular that received from the Government of Switzerland under the Swiss-Ghana IP Project, which was due to close by the end of 2021.

51. The Delegation of Greece, aligning itself with the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, as well as by the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, said that WIPO resources had been managed prudently and net assets had increased. Facilitating access to the IP system and responding to users' needs should remain a priority. Delivering high-quality services and digital transformation would increase trust in the IP ecosystem. Working towards a balanced system would create socio-economic growth. The domestic IP system had continued to support innovation and creativity, which led to development and growth. Trademark filings before the Greek Trademark Office had continued to increase. E-filings had increased by 40 per cent over two and a half years and by September 2021, 5,276 national applications and 767 international applications had been filed. The trademarks registry had become an electronic database. Trademark registrations were transferred to the Hellenic Industrial Property Organization (OBI), which would manage industrial property titles, and a ministerial decree would specify the start date of the new system. Despite the pandemic, patent filings before the OBI had increased by 30 per cent due to a 33 per cent decrease in the search fee. Electronic filing and IT improvements facilitated access to the IP system and improved IP title management. A series of activities had been organized to raise awareness of the importance of buying authentic products. Mykonos had become the second city to join the "Authenticities" network that the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) had launched. During the fourth award ceremony, two Greek universities, two SMEs and two individual inventors received awards. The Interagency for Market Control (DIMEA) had worked with Greek IP enforcement authorities to carry out 23,952 checks from August 2020 to August 2021, seize 82,835 counterfeit items and impose fines worth 1,537,200 euros. A legislative amendment from July 2021 had given the Committee for the Notification of Copyright and Related Rights Infringements on the Internet the power to block access to copyright-infringing material in the case of large-scale infringements, which was particularly important for live television events. EU Directives 2019/790 and 2019/789 were expected to enter into force. The Hellenic Copyright Organization provided legal access to music, films, television series, videogames, images and books through Agorateka.

52. The Delegation of Guatemala aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC. It appreciated the Director General's report highlighting the broad range of initiatives that were leveraging IP for economic, cultural and human development and in particular the focus on young people, who were central to the Government's own agenda. It set great store by the Organization's normative work and the holding of multilateral negotiations for the creation and implementation of legal instruments that met States' needs and it urged Member States to continue their positive work on the various topics under discussion. Guatemala was grateful to WIPO, under the leadership of Director General Daren Tang, for supporting its IP office with technical capacity building, project formulation and continuous training and wished to thank the Sectors for their work in the different areas of IP.

Particular thanks were owed to the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, led by Ms. Beatriz Amorim-Borher and Ms. Lorena Bolaños, Senior Program Officer within the Copyright Development Division. Guatemala remained committed to working constructively towards achieving the Organization's objectives.

53. The Delegation of Hungary said that it shared the Director General's vision in which WIPO supported innovation and creativity through IP. The Delegation congratulated the global research and medical communities for producing a vaccine in approximately 12 months. Vaccines were the only solution to the pandemic and it was vital to ensure that there were enough. Hungary was building its own vaccine production center and it hoped that other countries would have the opportunity to do so. Ideological and political issues must not influence vaccine authorization procedures. The Delegation believed that vaccine patents should be respected to encourage researchers to continue their work. Over the previous year, the global economy had suffered, with 114 million people losing their jobs, so it was time to incentivize investments to save and create jobs. The Delegation was in favor of helping SMEs enter foreign markets and deal with IP issues. Hungary had the twelfth most open economy in the world and Hungarian companies could profit from broader geographical coverage of global IP protection services. The Delegation hoped that its ratification of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement would encourage more countries to do business with it and that geographical indications would benefit from its protection abroad. Hungary was pleased to note that it had increased its rank in the GII 2021 and hoped that it would continue to improve its ranking. It would improve research, development and innovation. The Government of Hungary had started to improve horizontal cooperation within the innovation ecosystem, build institutional R&D capacities, support SMEs in improving their innovation output, increase financial support to the sector, support young scientists and create a better network for researchers and scientists. In addition to meeting climate targets, Hungary was aiming to increase its R&D spending by two to three per cent of GDP by 2030.

54. The Delegation of Iceland said that it appreciated the continuation of WIPO services despite difficult circumstances over the past year. The Icelandic Intellectual Property Office (ISIPO) had actively participated in WIPO events, including working group meetings and seminars relating to the Madrid and Hague Systems and the PCT. It had also followed the sharing sessions on women and IP. In 2020, the number of trademarks and patents filed domestically in Iceland had increased slightly, while international trademark filings had remained relatively stable and PCT filings had increased by 33 per cent compared with the previous year. The situation was less positive for design filings and the Delegation wished to see further progress in discussions on a future DLT. In October 2020, Iceland had become the first Nordic country to introduce [Madrid e-Filing](#), which had helped to reduce application processing times and iron out irregularities. ISIPO was constantly looking for ways to introduce digital and more user-friendly solutions and services. Accordingly, it had updated its strategic policy in May 2021, placing an emphasis on digital transformation for the benefit of both users and ISIPO case handlers. Recent WIPO initiatives on digital services, such as WIPO IP Diagnostics, made it possible to create comprehensive online service platforms for small businesses seeking to identify and protect their IP. In addition, the past year had seen the entry into force of substantive changes to the Icelandic Trademark Act, enabling users to file for all types of trademark, and to the Patent Act, providing for exemption from supplementary protection certificates in line with European Union legislation. The Act on Trade Secrets and the Act on the .is Domain Name had also recently entered into force. Recent ecological developments and the latest assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had underlined that innovation and sustainable solutions were more important now than ever. IP rights were vital in incentivizing the innovations required to overcome the major challenges of our time. Against that backdrop, the theme chosen by WIPO for World IP Day 2022, IP and youth – innovating for a better future, was particularly apt. Iceland was convinced that the focus on IP and young people would help to raise public awareness of the relationships between innovation,

IP and sustainability. ISIPO stood ready to cooperate in that regard and had organized a hybrid conference on IP and sustainability, to be held on 4 November 2021.

55. The Delegation of India said that WIPO, as the principal global norm-setting body for IP, had a key role to play in ensuring the effective, balanced and development-oriented implementation of the global IP system. The COVID-19 pandemic had underscored the importance of international institutions' support to Member States in tackling global challenges. India therefore welcomed the efforts made by WIPO to strike an appropriate balance between IP rights and development. It held the view that the global IP regime should help, rather than hinder, efforts to address health emergencies. In that regard, it wished to have an early decision on its joint proposal to WTO for the waiving of Member States' obligations under the TRIPS Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19. The legislative, administrative and judicial framework of India for safeguarding IP rights was well established and enabled the country's international obligations to be met while addressing its development priorities. The steps taken by India to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, including the amendment of its IP regime, had seen its ranking in the GII rise by 35 places over the past six years. The country was now home to 66 privately held startups valued at over 1 billion US dollars, three of which were valued at over 10 billion US dollars. With flagship programs such as Make in India and Startup India, the country was poised to become a thriving global hub for manufacturing and innovation. The Delegation regretted that progress on normative issues at WIPO had been limited owing to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It hoped that further progress would be made on substantive issues, including within the IGC and the SCCR. In addition, it urged Member States to work constructively and creatively towards resolving the impasse over the opening of WIPO External Offices, which helped to strengthen the global IP ecosystem. While evaluating the functioning of External Offices was useful, it should not be used as a pretext to prevent or delay the opening of new Offices.

56. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG. The MTSP 2022–2026 and the Program and Budget for the next biennium focused on the real impacts of IP on the ground and showcased its benefits for everyone, everywhere. The Delegation supported the Organization's commitment, as reflected in the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, to undertake an effective global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It looked forward to continuing its collaboration with WIPO and the Member States in conjunction with various projects in Indonesia, including the Country Plan for technical cooperation between WIPO and Indonesia and other initiatives related to the creative economy, brands and designs, SMEs and start-ups. It also looked forward to cooperating with ARIPO *via* the WIPO Match program. Cognizant of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to constructively engaging in all WIPO committees and norm-setting activities. It continued to support all normative work, in particular that of the IGC, and welcomed the extension of that body's mandate. The Delegation hoped that consensus could be reached soon on the convening of a diplomatic conference for a DLT and stood ready to host such a conference.

57. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) said that a fair, balanced and effective IP system was essential to coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular for equitable and affordable access to the COVID-19 vaccine, including through WIPO cooperation and coordination with other international organizations. It was vital to make development an integral part of WIPO work, in particular through the provision of technical assistance to developing countries in order to accelerate economic, social and cultural development. Despite economic and financial sanctions imposed on the country, it had improved its ranking in the GII 2021 and its performance in WIPO statistics, indicating its resolve to overcome the restrictions by diversifying the economy and expanding the innovative and knowledge-based economy. The Delegation welcomed the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC and finalize an agreement on an international legal instrument for the effective testing of GRs, TK and folklore.

Regarding the 2021 evaluation of WIPO External Offices, the Delegation welcomed the work of the PBC on a preliminary draft of the Terms of Reference, which should be developed in a state-driven process and in full conformity with the relevant guiding principle.

58. The Delegation of Iraq aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG, and the Delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the Arab Group. It commended the Director General on the positive initiatives outlined in his report and the standing committees for the progress made in their work, and trusted that all the committees would achieve positive, balanced results in their respective areas. The increased number of members of some of the Organization's regional groups necessitated the proportionate and geographically equitable allocation of seats in the WIPO Coordination Committee to each group. The Delegation therefore supported the proposal made by the APG, and the African Group on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, the aim of which was to address the current imbalance in that regard. The Delegation looked forward to working with WIPO to strengthen the IP legal framework. The Secretariat had provided welcome legal advice to Iraq on bringing its laws and procedures into line with relevant national standards in order to stimulate industry, the sciences, literature and the arts.

59. The Delegation of Israel aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B. In view of the key role of IP in combating and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delegation welcomed the trilateral cooperation of WIPO with WTO and WHO and the package for COVID-19 Related Services and Support. It also supported the new initiatives to develop tailored assistance for Member States and to assist IP offices in providing broader support for national innovation and promoting the use of IP assets as economic tools. As the Israeli economy was largely based on innovation, notably in the high-tech industry, the Delegation recognized the importance of IP to a well-functioning innovation ecosystem that supported creators and stakeholders in turning ideas into assets. Israel had one of the world's highest rates of PCT applications per capita, with one of the highest numbers of applications made by women. In 2020, the Israel IP Office had received over 8,000 patent applications, over 85 per cent of which were national phase applications from the PCT System. The commitment of WIPO to constantly improving registry systems, including through the use of advanced technologies, was invaluable in that regard. As an important international player in emerging technologies, Israel expected WIPO to play a leading role in adapting the legal framework to encourage creativity and innovative solutions in that field.

60. The Delegation of Italy aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B. Italy remained committed to developing global IP systems and implementing the WIPO agenda. It attached particular importance to the international registration and protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications through the Lisbon System. Geographical indications in particular had grown in global economic importance and served as a powerful tool for differentiating genuine local products, promoting economic development, protecting the environment and upholding food safety and quality standards while benefiting micro companies and local and rural communities. The Delegation noted with appreciation that the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector helped Member States to leverage the role of IP in economic growth for the benefit of SMEs in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Director General was to be commended for adopting a market-oriented approach to global IP issues and opening up the Organization to a wider audience, including academia. The Delegation supported the continuation of dialogue on frontier technologies, including AI and blockchain. It also appreciated the intensification of collaboration among WIPO, WHO and WTO with a view to promoting access to medical technologies worldwide and tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

61. The Delegation of Jamaica said that collaboration among WIPO, WHO and WTO had and would continue to enable the provision of necessary technical assistance to developing

countries in particular. The Delegation welcomed the restructuring of WIPO, including the creation of new sectors and divisions such as the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. The desire of the Director General to open up IP to a wider audience would doubtless raise public awareness of the critical role of IP in developing solutions to some of the world's most pressing economic and social problems. Jamaica valued its longstanding relationship with WIPO, which continued to contribute to its national development. The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office continued to receive technical assistance, including legislative support in the areas of patents, industrial designs, trademarks and copyright. Particular thanks were owed to the Madrid Legal Division for assisting Jamaica in the review of its legislation, the Hague Registry for supporting the country's work towards acceding to the Geneva Act and the Hague Agreement and the IP Office Business Solutions Division. Jamaica appreciated the work of the various WIPO committees and was pleased to have recently been elected as Vice Chair of the IGC. The country took great pride in its rich cultural heritage and was delighted to have participated in a recent WIPO regional seminar on copyright and TCEs. It also valued the work of the SCT and would continue to engage constructively with members on its revised proposal concerning the protection of country names. The Delegation considered that enabling MSMEs to leverage their IP was vital to the success of the post-pandemic recovery. It welcomed the Organization's focus on young people, including placing them at the heart of IP Day 2022 and taking steps to ensure that their innovative ideas and inventions were harnessed for sustainable economic development. WIPO should continue its outreach and support to developing countries to boost their innovative ecosystems. Jamaica was grateful to the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the Caribbean Section, for helping it to advance its IP architecture and environment and build capacities. It remained committed to advancing the work of the Organization.

62. The Delegation of Japan supported the MTSP 2022–2026, which shared the same views as Japan's recently updated mission, vision and values, as released by the Japan Patent Office (JPO), being designed to promote innovation based on cooperation between all stakeholders involved in the IP ecosystem. Japan attached great importance to WIPO's activities for developing IP infrastructure and would therefore continue to provide voluntary contributions as it had done for the past 30 years. The Delegation hoped that the promotion of innovation based on technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and AI, would help build a prosperous future for all. WIPO must lead international initiatives to ensure that IP systems were appropriately responsive to technological advances, and create a landscape to ensure the appropriate protection and use of IP, so that everyone in all Member States could enjoy the benefits of innovations. User convenience must be enhanced to develop the IP ecosystem. Communication with those using WIPO services should be deepened to ensure that their opinions were reflected in WIPO initiatives. Since the world's leading IP applicants were in Japan, they could provide their input to WIPO initiatives through the WIPO Japan office. To develop the IP ecosystem, the user base should be broadened by supporting SMEs and startups. Japan was ready to share its experiences in that regard. Innovation also had a key role in responding to the transformations in economy and lifestyle brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. WIPO must be actively engaged in global discussions to promote innovation for new businesses, and, together with WTO and WHO, support IP system users through the pandemic. IP had a role in meeting other contemporary challenges, such as climate change; Japan had high expectations for WIPO GREEN, uptake of which should be encouraged. As a WIPO GREEN partner, the JPO had broadened the WIPO GREEN network in Japan. The JPO had implemented accelerated and super-accelerated examination systems to achieve the world's fastest examinations, and had continued to promote quality assurance in examinations and high-quality rights. It had responded to changes required by the pandemic by setting up online interviews and teleworking for examiners and administrative judges. Information about IP would be disseminated at Expo 2025 in Osaka.

63. The Delegation of Jordan said that the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic had shown how important it was to maximize the role of IP in the international multilateral system

and further underlined how important it was for WIPO to support research in areas of development, especially health care, that would be of benefit to all countries. The growing importance of the role of WIPO had become crystal clear recently with regard to the issue of access to medicines and the attendant constraints, which required international organizations, especially WIPO, to work with one another, as well as with national governments, in order to surmount technical difficulties and overcome the current crisis. The extent of the economic damage inflicted by the pandemic on societies was not lost on anyone. More than ever, there was a need to foster the innovation sector in order to ensure sustainable economic growth through a range of initiatives and projects. Jordan, in cooperation with WIPO, was showing the way in that respect. It had become one of the first countries to benefit from the IPAS 4.0 industrial property management system, spurred on by the country's keen interest in applying new technology and (AI in the areas of patents, trademarks and designs. WIPO had provided much valued technical support in the education sector as Jordan implemented its IP policies project for national universities. Eleven universities had therefore been able to introduce or update their IP policies. The Delegation shared the astute view held by the Director General and his team that, in order to meet the Organization's objectives and the challenges facing the world in a timely and agile fashion, its message must reach a wide and diverse audience directly, with the broad participation of all partners. In that way, not only would their voices be heard, they would also be an integral part of our common planning to advance and grow.

64. The Delegation of Kenya, aligning itself with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the African Group, said that it appreciated WIPO support for capacity-building and information infrastructure and systems, and collaboration on IP policies and innovations. It looked forward to advancing the country's partnership with WIPO to enhance the economic contribution of innovation and IP. IP remained essential to socio-economic development, the advancement of MSMEs and youth entrepreneurs and their integration into regional and global value chains. Kenya would welcome efforts to raise the awareness of the importance of IP protection among young people in developing countries, and to simplify IP registration procedures to inspire young people and MSMEs to embrace IP as a commercial asset. It would continue to work with WIPO to provide support to national IP offices and other stakeholders, and called for the streamlining of the WIPO DA to increase the relevance of IP to developing countries and create a more inclusive IP system. It was hoped that work on TK, TCEs and GRs would continue in order to create balanced and effective protection. The Delegation also supported the advancement and conclusion of deliberations on the DLT.

65. The Delegation of Kazakhstan said that the COVID-19 pandemic had shown that an effective public health-care system was essential for society, the economy and the well-being of every individual. Kazakhstan was therefore taking measures to ensure social protection, access to medical services and health system strengthening. Steps were being taken to register the locally produced COVID-19 vaccine, QazVac, and a meeting had been held with the Director-General of WHO to discuss the inclusion of the vaccine on the WHO list of authorized vaccines. IP was a priority area for Kazakhstan; legislation to protect IP rights was being strengthened. Support from WIPO was greatly appreciated, in particular with regard to raising awareness of IP-related issues among entrepreneurs, users and copyright holders. Legislation was being amended to provide for automating registration and the issue of protection documents. A system for verifying IP registration was in place, and steps had been taken to regulate unregistered industrial designs protection in line with the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Kazakhstan and the European Union. Kazakhstan participated in five international IP registration systems, and most recently had signed the Protocol on the Protection of Industrial Designs to the Eurasian Patent Convention and the Agreement on trademarks, service marks and appellations of origin of goods of the Eurasian Economic Union. In the context of international cooperation, Kazakhstan intended to accede to the Hague Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. Recommendations and guidance provided by WIPO in that regard were appreciated.

66. The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan said that the aim of the current meeting was to comprehensively and thoroughly discuss global issues to do with the development and strengthening of the IP system in general, and some aspects in particular. In that regard, delegations should exercise flexibility, tolerance and solidarity to ensure considered, measured and balanced decisions for the benefit of all WIPO Member States. It was unfortunate that not all delegations were present in the conference room, since it was necessary to conduct the Assemblies in hybrid format owing to the current epidemiological situation. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of its regional group. Since the national office of Kyrgyzstan was responsible not only for IP but also for innovation, the Delegation welcomed the fact that WIPO was broadening its activities with regard to invention, innovation and creativity. The Delegation hoped that under Daren Tang's able leadership, new projects would be initiated to further develop IP systems, innovation and digital services and build the capacity of Member States. With regard to the Assemblies, Kyrgyzstan continued to believe that the aim should remain to develop and strengthen a balanced, effective and mutually beneficial global IP architecture, giving due consideration to the specificities and composition of Member States' national IP and innovation systems. The following year, the work of the national office would focus on boosting and supporting creativity, invention and innovation, across the various regions of the country. The Delegation commended WIPO for its continued support in the development of national IP system and innovation ecosystem of Kyrgyzstan. The Division for Transition and Developed Countries continued to do exceptional work. Its activities had contributed to the implementation of WIPO projects and programs in the region, as well as to raising awareness of IP in Kyrgyzstan. In conclusion, the Delegation underscored the importance of ensuring that WIPO activities balanced respect for the principles of equitable geographic representation and gender equality, with achievements in the development of the IP and innovation ecosystems.

67. The Delegation of Lebanon aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of those regional groups to which it belonged. The Assemblies were being held against the backdrop of a serious global health crisis, which had ceased to be merely a public health matter and had come to affect all areas of life – socio-economic, professional and educational. The crisis in all its complexity had seriously curtailed development efforts, especially given that, in addition to its direct adverse consequences, it had aggravated pre-existing structural problems. The crisis had, for example, exacerbated the digital divide, preventing many countries from grasping the promise held out by the digital economy and commerce. The IT revolution played an increasingly dominant role in the economy. It also presented countries that wished to stay abreast of it with myriad challenges in terms of fully comprehending it and updating the legal, regulatory and education frameworks that were supposed to foster it. Given the challenges at such a critical juncture in human history, WIPO had a clear role to play in ensuring a balanced and effective international IP system. Equally clear was the need to help developing countries to benefit from that system in a way that served development goals and enhanced equality among countries. Lebanon was currently caught up in a stifling crisis, marked above all by appalling economic and financial indicators that reflected an unprecedented decline in the living standards of the bulk of the Lebanese people. The situation had been made worse by the impact of COVID-19, the explosion of the port of Beirut and the general state of crisis in the region around Lebanon. A new reformist Government had been formed and it counted on international cooperation to help it to tackle the country's critical problems. Recovery would depend on its capacity to reignite the economy and development, and that could happen only through innovation and progress in the area of IP and by weaving the concepts of the latter into a broad range of fields in line with the transformations of the global economy. The Delegation fervently wished to strengthen the bonds of cooperation between WIPO and the new Government of Lebanon with a view to enacting reforms and pursuing its development goals, all the while taking into account the unique situation in which the country found itself.

68. The Delegation of Lesotho aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation welcomed the extension of the mandate of the IGC, and looked forward

to the adoption of the DLT. Several technical assistance programs for developing countries had not been implemented owing to the COVID-19 pandemic; WIPO should take that into consideration when making future work plans and increase the resources allocated to activities in developing countries. Developing countries should be supported in their efforts to use IP as a key tool for growth and sustainable economic recovery following the pandemic, paying particular attention to the needs of SMEs, women, young people and local and indigenous communities. Lesotho was pleased that WIPO planned to extend its activities to a wider audience, including women, universities and research institutions, young people and SMEs, which could contribute to job creation. Lesotho benefitted from assistance provided by WIPO for the modernization of the IP system and upgrading the industrial property automation system, addressing the data capture backlog, processing applications filed under the Madrid System, establishing TISCs, and developing a modern legislative framework that took account of the treaty obligations of Lesotho. Assistance from WIPO would be appreciated in the development and adoption of a national IP strategy and policy, and in strengthening the newly established collective management organization.

69. The Delegation of Liberia associated itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. While the COVID-19 pandemic had adversely affected all Member States' economies, regardless of development status, trade volume or economic ranking, African countries in particular were struggling to adjust to the post-pandemic reality. Liberia currently lacked the infrastructure to reach its true potential. Its IP development plan, drafted with the Organization's valuable technical assistance, aimed to bolster the knowledge-based economy and foster sustainable, socio-economic development for the benefit of all Liberians. However, the implementation of that plan was contingent on the support of other Member States, groups and organizations. Over the previous two years, Liberia had chaired both the Administrative Council and the Council of Ministers of ARIPO. The country's IP legislation provided a comprehensive framework for the protection of trademarks, designs, patents, copyright and related works. Moreover, the Government had provided support for the establishment of the country's first ever collective management organization (CMO) to enable the collection and distribution of royalties for rights holders. Liberia would appreciate the Organization's support in strengthening its CMO and conducting its first economic impact study on creativity to measure the true potential and value of its creative industry. The Delegation wished to thank ARIPO for organizing the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Draft Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights, held in August 2021. Liberia had adopted the draft protocol and looked forward to its ratification by the Legislature.

70. The Delegation of Lithuania, aligning itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its member states and the CEBS Group, said that IP was a driver of economic development, competitiveness and innovation as well as a tool to tackle global challenges. Given the strong leadership of WIPO and its willingness to cooperate with Member States and other stakeholders, Lithuania was confident in the guidance WIPO had provided on post-pandemic recovery. Innovation, development and promotion were essential to the new direction of the Lithuanian economy, as demonstrated in the new national development strategy for the upcoming decade. Following the recommendations of WIPO experts, Lithuania had introduced measures to create, use, commercialize and protect IP as well as encourage knowledge sharing and collaborations between academic institutions and businesses. The Delegation commended WIPO for its strategic vision, which focused on IP commercialization, as well as the Organization's support for SMEs, start-ups, innovators, creators, enterprises, research institutions and communities. The Delegation appreciated the work WIPO had carried out with regard to knowledge transfers between academic institutions and industry, as well as the contributions WIPO had made to pilot projects to establish a network for regional technology transfers between Baltic States. Lithuania remained committed to cooperating with WIPO to promote creativity, innovation and economic growth.

71. The Delegation of Madagascar said that the continuity of industrial property administration relied heavily on the automation of procedures through Industrial Property Administration System software and the digitization of the archives of the Malagasy Industrial Property Office (OMAPI). That had been confirmed by the imposition of health measures in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had included remote working and the closure of OMAPI premises. The remote management of the national registry and the processing of applications using digitized documents had benefitted OMAPI, which had made stakeholder satisfaction central to its policy on quality. The digitization of the OMAPI archive had been successfully carried out over 24 months. The project, which had been split into two parts, had been completed in March 2021, despite the various disruptions caused by the health emergency declared in Madagascar in March 2020. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO, and its Regional Bureau for Africa in particular, for that significant achievement, as well as for having provided the funding needed to enact the second phase of the project despite the challenging circumstances. Moreover, the Delegation supported and encouraged the work done by WIPO on IP and AI, largely related to sharing of good practices and technology transfer. Activities related to industrial property administration and the promotion of inventive activity had been adapted to the national and international contexts, and OMAPI had updated its contingency plan, enabling it to overcome numerous obstacles and ensure the continuity of its services, including collaboration with other public and private entities in the field of industrial property. Lastly, the Delegation appreciated the binational seminar for judges on the application of IP law, an event from which Madagascar had benefited.

72. The Delegation of Malawi aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group and commended WIPO for the COVID-19 response measures taken and the efforts to support Member States in their post-pandemic recovery. The Delegation was particularly grateful for the support received for its efforts to promote TK and TCEs, and for the digitization of IP files and for setting up the industrial property automatization system, which would facilitate the effective management of author's rights. Malawi had been in constant contact with the TISC team at WIPO to ensure that training for TISCs continued throughout the pandemic. The Delegation supported the MTSP 2022–2026, which sought to inspire innovation and creativity for inclusive and sustainable development, and looked forward to the proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Government of Malawi had launched a strategic vision, one of the pillars of which was industrialization; given the importance of industrialization and innovation for development, an effective and robust IP system was being developed. WIPO had before it a very busy agenda to build an IP ecosystem that inspired creativity and innovation for the development of all Member States. The extension of the mandate of the IGC was welcome. Its work would contribute to making the global IP system balanced and inclusive.

73. The Delegation of Malaysia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG, and by the Delegation of the Philippines, on behalf of ASEAN. Malaysia appreciated the Director General's detailed report on the performance of the Organization and was encouraged to see that WIPO continued to perform exceptionally well under his leadership, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also noted the Organization's strong financial performance and the increase in its net assets for 2020. Malaysia looked forward to the implementation of the MTSP 2022–2026, which aimed to ensure that IP acted as a powerful catalyst for jobs, investment, economic development and social vibrancy. It hoped that the MTSP 2022–2026 would help Member States to rebuild their economies as borders reopened. In Malaysia, SMEs formed the backbone of the economy, representing 97 per cent of businesses. Some 85 per cent of the country's SMEs operated in the service sectors. Therefore, Malaysia prioritized helping SMEs to leverage IP in their efforts to strengthen and expand their operations. The Delegation welcomed trilateral cooperation among WIPO, WHO and WTO with a view to tackling the pandemic and rebuilding the economy. It supported the Organization's stance on vaccine equity and hoped that the trilateral arrangement would enhance cooperation and practical coordination among those bodies, particularly on issues related to public health, IP and trade, both during and after the pandemic.

The Delegation noted the work of the SCCR and encouraged it to continue focusing on limitations and exceptions, the protection of broadcasting organizations and the analysis of copyright related to the digital environment. The Delegation supported the proposal to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2022–2023 biennium. It also called for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of that Committee to ensure a constructive discussion and facilitate the reaching of concrete conclusions by the Member States. Malaysia looked forward to continuing its effective cooperation with WIPO in the future.

74. The Delegation of Mexico said that technological developments had enabled the continuation of day-to-day life during months-long periods of lockdown. IP had been key to the development of vaccines and would doubtless play a fundamental role in economic recovery. Mexico considered IP a lever for economic development and societal welfare. Over the previous year, it had harnessed IP for the benefit of SMEs and women and for the protection of TK and TCEs. Two initiatives in particular, developed with the assistance of WIPO, demonstrated the positive impact of international cooperation. The first was the Network for Innovative Women and Industrial Property, which promoted women's advancement in the area of IP by raising their profile and providing them with one-to-one mentoring and advice on trademark and patent protection. The network had huge potential. Every woman who joined it came with her own ambitions and achievements and the role of her country was to assist her in protecting her inventions, goods or services. The second initiative was to leverage IP for SMEs. Assessing SMEs' knowledge and use of IP would provide a basis for the development and implementation of policies for their benefit. A course on IP and exportation – a joint initiative of Brazil, Colombia and Mexico devised with the cooperation and guidance of the WIPO Academy – was due to be launched imminently. The Government considered IP a tool for the development and well-being of traditional communities and was thus grateful for the Organization's support with the Virtual Regional Seminar on Copyright and Traditional Cultural Expressions, held from September 22 to 24, 2021, which had provided a platform for sharing experiences of relevance to both Mexico and other WIPO Member States. Mexico had taken initial steps towards ratifying the Lisbon Agreement. Once it had done so, it would be a member of the four IP protection systems administered by WIPO, namely the Hague, Lisbon and Madrid Systems and the PCT, reaffirming the country's commitment to international cooperation and IP protection. The Delegation attached great importance to IP and would continue to work with WIPO to promote it as a tool for development.

75. The Delegation of Mongolia, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG, said that the COVID-19 pandemic had illustrated the importance of IP and innovation to economic development, and that the engagement of WIPO with other multilateral organizations on common efforts to combat the pandemic was very welcome. The Delegation greatly appreciated WIPO cooperation in supporting creative sector stakeholders, and the work of the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector to improve the use of the IP system by businesses and SMEs by creating a global network of SME intermediaries. Mongolia had greatly benefited from WIPO technical assistance; it had implemented the Technology and Innovation Support Center program and the Enabling Innovation Environment project, and had received technical assistance to strengthen collective management organizations and improve IP office diagnostics. At the national level, Mongolia had performed above expectations for its level of development in the GII. The Government had continued to upgrade its IP legislation framework with laws on copyright and related rights, patents, trademarks and geographical indications, taking into account the provisions of relevant international treaties, including the PCT, the Paris Convention and the Hague Agreement. Work on regulations to implement those instruments was also underway.

76. The Delegation of Montenegro said that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO had demonstrated its ability to adapt and respond to the crisis by introducing new work methods and measures to support Member States. The Delegation welcomed that approach and the WIPO Secretariat and Member States should consider how to improve WIPO services further. Having

worked with WIPO intensively and without interruption during the pandemic, Montenegro was committed to future cooperation and expected visible and sustainable results. In order to emulate the IPRs protection that the European Union provided, Montenegro amended legislation regularly and implemented it efficiently. A Coordination Team for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, composed of the representatives of IPR enforcement authorities, detected and prevented counterfeiting and piracy. Montenegro raised awareness and kept the public informed about IPR events and achievements through announcements in the news, print media, visual media, web pages and interviews. Over the previous year, the IP staff of the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) had attended webinars, seminars, meetings and a conference organized by WIPO. WIPO had provided advice about collective management organizations and other copyright related issues. The MED was receiving WIPO support to develop its IP strategy for 2022-2025, which was a priority activity. A domestic working group, composed of representatives of IPR authorities, had provided the necessary inputs for the local and international WIPO experts who had drafted the document, and the relevant WIPO staff were reviewing the document. Once finalized and adopted, the MED would work alongside WIPO to organize an event to promote its strategy and cooperation with WIPO and remind the public of the importance of WIPO as a global forum for IP services, policy, information and cooperation. The Marrakesh Treaty was undergoing parliamentary procedure. In the context of the pandemic and local issues that hindered actions in the area of IP, Montenegro would rely on WIPO support to protect creators and innovators as well as encourage citizens to use IPR protection.

77. The Delegation of Morocco said that WIPO had a key role to play in the economic recovery from COVID-19, given the need to stimulate innovation at the global level in particular in the health sector. Only through developing relevant IP systems that encouraged creativity and innovation would it be possible to promote economic and social development for the benefit of all, particularly at a time when innovation had become essential for the economy and for society's ability to face new challenges. Morocco had always prioritized IP and welcomed its excellent cooperation with WIPO. In line with its conviction that South-South cooperation was a key to development, Morocco reiterated its willingness to share its expertise to promote an effective and productive IP system. To that end, IP systems should be balanced, target SMEs and promote the involvement of young people and women in economic life, in line with the vision of the WIPO Director General. The Delegation underscored that, despite complex times, the Organization, under the Moroccan presidency of the WIPO General Assembly, had made significant steps, particularly with the launch of the MTSP 2022-2026, which set out the activities of WIPO for the coming five years. The Delegation also welcomed in particular the inclusion of a development aspect in all the Organization's structures. With regard to norm-setting, WIPO should ensure that any instruments adopted took due account of the SDGs. The Delegation hoped that an agreement could be reached on the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT, which would strengthen the system's transparency and effectiveness and encourage research and innovation while contributing to the fair and equitable distribution of its benefits. In conclusion, the Delegation underscored Morocco's strong faith in multilateralism as a catalyst for the development of international relations, and in the role of WIPO.

78. The Delegation of Mozambique aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group and expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by WIPO over the previous year to implement its action plan and meet its strategic objectives in the face of the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and with its work in support of IP in developing countries through the DA. The Organization had assisted Mozambique with its IP modernization plan and the registration of its first ever geographical indication, for *cabrito de Tete* goat meat. Mozambique had also benefited from technical training imparted to its industrial property officials and assistance with the country's technology for development project. WIPO had helped Mozambique to launch its first national IP strategy in 2008 and was contributing to the review of a new strategy and to the drafting of a parallel IP policy. IP would play a key role in the

country's recently launched national industrialization program, which was a part of the Government's five-year plan for the country's socio-economic development.

79. The Delegation of Namibia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. As creativity and innovation flourished during trying times, intellectual products would be vital to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with IP vital to driving such solutions. However, human ingenuity would not be enough without international cooperation and the Delegation welcomed the efforts of multilateral organizations, including WIPO, to advance a collective approach to the fair and equitable worldwide distribution of vaccines. Namibia continued to prioritize the implementation of strategic projects, as defined in its National IP Development Plan, within the framework of the MoU between Namibia and WIPO. Namibia was implementing its IP policy, finalizing its copyright legal framework, pursuing stakeholder engagement with law makers, aiming to create efficient innovation ecosystems for African countries and providing community-based entrepreneurs with support in using IP systems, in particular with trademarks for business growth. When implementing such projects, Namibia embraced the targeted technical assistance and capacity-building support of WIPO, in particular in using the flexibilities of the IP system to achieve key public policy goals, such as access to health and education. The Delegation supported the drive towards achieving gender parity within WIPO, and called for the same effort to be directed towards equitable geographical representation among the staff of the Organization and its governing bodies.

80. The Delegation of Nepal aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG. It noted the new strategic direction of WIPO as set out in the MTSP 2022–2026. The COVID-19 pandemic had reversed hard-won gains and threatened the timely achievement of the SDGs. International collaboration was crucial in bridging technology gaps, supporting innovation and capacity-building and ensuring equitable access to vaccines as a global public good for combatting the pandemic together. Extra support was required to help developing countries, and in particular the LDCs, to meet global objectives. The Delegation noted with appreciation the formalization of trilateral cooperation among WIPO, WHO and WTO with a view to reaching sustainable and integrated solutions to public health challenges, including commitments on universal, equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies. The Delegation hoped that resolutions could be found for longstanding issues such as global norm-setting in the area of GRs, TK and folklore and the broadcasting and design law treaties.

81. The Delegation of New Zealand commended the Director General for the Organization's new vision, which was based on implementing outreach activities, bringing people and stakeholders together, providing high-quality IP services and supporting governments. The sound initiatives and broad, inclusive goals would leverage IP to encourage post-pandemic recovery. The Organization's new vision resonated with the purpose of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to "grow New Zealand for all". Its goal was to improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders today and in future by focusing on wellbeing and productive, sustainable, inclusive growth. The previous year, New Zealand had reached new audiences with its IP message. It had launched new case studies in its "Dream It, Do It, Own It" campaign, which had targeted people with little IP experience. It had highlighted the impressive innovation of SMEs in New Zealand during a successful World IP Day event. It had delivered new tools for IP system users, such as a classification tool to facilitate the use of the trademark system. The value of WIPO global IP systems was clear and use of the Madrid and PCT Systems equaled and exceeded pre-pandemic levels respectively, demonstrating the importance that New Zealand businesses attributed to protecting their brands and innovations globally. New Zealand appreciated the work of the IGC and it looked forward to contributing to IGC deliberations. It hoped that, during its mandate period, the IGC would continue developing international instruments to protect IP, GRs, TK and TCEs. The Government of New Zealand had started to develop *sui generis* systems and legal frameworks to protect Māori traditional knowledge and TCEs and explore how they would work alongside existing IP protection. Those

developments included modernizing plant variety rights. The new Plant Variety Rights Bill, which the Parliament of New Zealand was considering, would enable the Māori to participate in the granting of plant rights in the case of new plant varieties developed from indigenous plant species.

82. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group. Nigeria continued to attach importance to promoting and protecting IP rights as a tool for socio-economic development and, in particular, building young people's capacity for innovation. It was committed to helping the Organization to meet the objectives of the MTSP 2022–2026. Despite numerous setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trademarks, Patents and Designs Registry of Nigeria had continued to work assiduously with longstanding partners to enhance the country's IP capacities. With the valuable assistance of WIPO, it was currently reviewing the national law on geographical indications and continuing to license trademark records and had signed an agreement with the Organization on the introduction of an alternative resolution system for IP disputes. It was also finalizing the construction of a fully digitalized space to serve as a trademark opposition tribunal. The country's patent laws had been significantly expanded to include utility models and business method patents to further stimulate innovation in the country. Moreover, the Nigerian Copyright Commission had continued to collaborate with WIPO and domestic stakeholders to strengthen the collective management system by creating toolkits for the training of collective management licensing offices. It had also concluded an MoU with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center to promote the use of mediation for dispute settlement in the country's entertainment industry and had engaged in educational and advocacy work on copyright and building respect for IP. Lastly, the WIPO Nigeria Office had made remarkable progress in its first year of operation and the Delegation looked forward to the further strengthening of the Office to improve its engagement with factories.

83. The Delegation of Norway welcomed the work done to improve Member States' ability to monitor the finances and administration of WIPO. It noted with appreciation the continued efforts of the International Bureau to ensure the provision of unparalleled global services under the PCT and the Madrid and Hague Systems. The smooth operation, simplification and cost efficiency of such systems benefited users and helped to increase their adoption globally. Moreover, the working groups for those systems continued to make pleasing progress towards improving regulations, guidelines and practices. Norway was committed to enhancing global services in the interest of existing and future users. It supported the renewal of the mandate for the IGC. In addition, it continued to support work within the SCCR on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. Turning to domestic developments, the Delegation wished to highlight the entry into force of amendments to the Norwegian Copyright Act allowing for the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty (and Directive 2017/1564/EU) and the submission on August 31, 2021 of related necessary documents to WIPO; a new act on collective management of copyright and related rights (Directive 2014/26/EU); and amendments to the Norwegian Dispute Act and Criminal Procedure Act prohibiting the taking of evidence from patent advisors that appeared on the list of professional representatives provided for in article 134 of the Convention on the Grant of European Patents.

84. The Delegation of Oman supported the new directions taken in IP matters by the Director General of WIPO, the aim of which was to involve a broad range of stakeholders in the Organization's work. Oman was sparing no efforts in raising awareness of the importance of IP and its significant contribution to adding economic value and in working with universities, students, judges, women inventors, SMEs and non-governmental organizations to build the necessary capacity. While the Delegation supported the Organization's project-based approach, one-off capacity-building and awareness-raising exercises remained essential in Oman. WIPO should focus on the bearing IP had on health care when addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of developing countries and, in that way, leverage IP to boost economic growth and encourage investment. Technical and other cooperation

assistance provided down the years by the Secretariat and the Division for Arab Countries had fostered a better understanding of IP in Oman and led to the improvement of related services. Oman was a party to many international IP agreements and had most recently acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement with a view to protecting its registered geographical indications. In 2021, the country's IP Department had been renamed as the National Intellectual Property Office, which now had four departments for: trademarks and geographical indications; patents and industrial designs; copyright and related rights; and IP rights enforcement. Key cooperation projects with WIPO under way in Oman included work on the country's national IP strategy and a project to establish a technology and innovation support center, for which it was hoped that an MoU would be signed with WIPO during the current Assemblies. Oman had become the first Arab country to take part in the Development Agenda Project on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System. The country also held its own version of the Assemblies on IP. The Arab region faced numerous challenges in following up on the work of WIPO, including one of language. Although an official language of the UN, the Arabic language was not widely employed in the Organization. Certain documents were not translated immediately into Arabic and interpretation into Arabic was not always available for online activities, in particular for training. Services in Arabic should be provided for the sake of inclusiveness and in order to broaden access to WIPO services. Efforts to encourage multilingualism and the goal of translating major publications into all six languages of the UN were laudable. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would review its language policies in order to reflect those goals.

85. The Delegation of Pakistan said that it wished to thank the WIPO Director General for his capable leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent IP developments in Pakistan included the country's accession to the Madrid Protocol in February 2021 and the enactment of the Geographical Indications Act in 2020. The Delegation looked forward to building on its collaboration with the Secretariat to enhance the development and commercialization of geographical indications in the country. It also looked forward to the development by WIPO Academy of training modules on capacity building for developing countries in particular. Pakistan held the view that WIPO should play a leading role in balancing IP rights related to medical technologies for combatting COVID-19 to ensure timely and affordable access to vaccines by everyone, everywhere. In addition, there was a need for greater transparency and broader consultation with Member States in relation to the GII, especially its ranking methodology and criteria. The Delegation deemed that steps should be taken to ensure the proper application of the principle of equitable geographical representation in the WIPO workforce and key decision-making bodies. Moreover, there was an urgent need to further align organizational structures to the key function of advancing development cooperation. Pakistan had proposed the establishment of a single-window system, particularly in the area of legislative advice. Lastly, a serious review was required to determine the rationality of establishing new External Offices. If they truly added value, efficiency and effectiveness to the delivery of WIPO programs in a way that headquarters could not, then they should be established in all WIPO Member States.

86. The Delegation of Paraguay aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC. Over the previous year, the National Directorate of Intellectual Property had spared no effort in maintaining its full range of services for system users and had continued to improve its technological infrastructure. It was currently finalizing the implementation of the Industrial Property Administration System, which marked an important step in the optimization of its processes and would facilitate connectivity with other IP offices around the world. In that connection, the goal of having a paperless system was gradually becoming a reality. Progress had been made under the National IP Plan 2020-2030, drafted with the assistance of WIPO. With regard to enforcement, the National Coordination Center for Intellectual Property Rights had been formed to coordinate IP protection activities. With regard to industrial property and copyright, the update of the regulatory system was under way and the

draft laws on trademarks, industrial designs and copyright had been finalized and submitted to WIPO for comments and suggestions. The Law on Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin had been established and, in the area of TK, the formation of a task force comprising indigenous peoples and civil organizations for the development of a draft law on the protection of ancestral assets represented a significant step forward. With regard to international regulation, Paraguay had acceded to the Nice and Locarno Agreements, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the international IP system. The Delegation considered the Assemblies a valuable opportunity to conclude agreements for the global advancement of IP protection.

87. The Delegation of Peru, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC, said that the present Assembly was a much needed forum for dialogue between Member States to strengthen and improve the IP system. Peru was convinced of the positive economic, social and cultural impact that the system had on countries and would continue to work on bringing the IP system closer to users, in particular to SMEs, a fundamental driver of the economy, and to the rural sector. Several months previously, the IP Pathways program had been launched; it was a free service offering personalized and specialized guidance that was intended to help SMEs to protect and monetize their creations, innovations and developments, while also improving the competitiveness of those businesses through strategic use of the IP system. In the specific case of distinctive signs, Peru continued to strengthen its collective mark program, which, in addition to its economic benefits, had a social element of great value to the peoples and communities that used it to preserve the traditional customs, practices and knowledge of Peru. Regarding inventions and new technologies, of particular importance had been the establishment of TISCs, of which there were 43 across 18 of the country's 25 regions, and the work of the Inventor Assistance Program, in which 15 lawyers were participating pro bono. In regard to copyright and related rights, INDECOPI, the Peruvian IP authority, had been promoting a series of high-impact actions to combat online piracy, in addition to a related set of legislative reforms. Lastly, it should be recalled that one of the most significant IP achievements of recent times had been the creation of the Latin American IP Network. The Network, a unique endeavor, was formed exclusively of Latin American and Caribbean IP offices and was the product of a joint initiative of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru; it had received continuous support and encouragement from WIPO, which was an honorary founder member of the Network, and aimed to strengthen the position of women by harnessing IP. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO for working with INDECOPI to ensure that IP could play a truly decisive role in the development and general well-being of Peru and the world.

88. The Delegation of the Philippines said that it had recorded an improved performance in the 2021 GII report, and that the number of filings received by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) and the Innovation and Technology Support Office in the first half of 2021 had represented a significant increase on 2020. Recognizing the urgency of treating and containing COVID-19, IPOP HL was making patent data accessible to relevant sectors and the public, and had prepared nine patent search reports containing the patent data of relevant drugs and medicines to facilitate research and development. In 2021, the Philippines had deposited its instrument of accession to the Beijing Treaty and was finalizing the implementing rules and regulations. Moreover, IPOP HL continued to comply fully with its obligations as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority for the PCT, and had marked the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of that Treaty with webinars for users, patent agents and academia. The Philippines had implemented an incentive package to help eligible MSMEs to register their trademarks abroad through the Madrid System, in addition to the Juana Make A Mark program, under which 4,000 free registrations had been awarded to women-led MSMEs. Regarding the protection and enforcement of IP rights, the IPOP HL Alternative Dispute Resolution program had been accredited by the Department of Justice and its implementing rules and regulations had been revised. IPOP HL had fully digitized its services with the adoption of the electronic filing of pleas, online payment for cases, the electronic service of

orders and notices for cases, and automation of the appeals process. It had also intensified its partnership with the private sector to adopt a code of conduct to improve notice-and-take-down procedures for online sites and to strengthen preventive measures to address repeat infringements of IP rights. IPOPHL had offered online IP courses at various levels for learners and professional groups, including the joint WIPO-IPOPHL Summer School, and would continue to enhance and expand its IP education programs to suit the demands of learners.

89. The Delegation of Poland aligned itself with the statements made by the CEBS Group, and the European Union. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO had continued to make valuable progress. The Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 was welcome, as were the impressive number of new initiatives and programs aimed at raising awareness about IP, especially among SMEs. WIPO must continue to serve as the global lead for exchanging ideas and knowledge on technological innovation. The technical support provided by WIPO to Poland was much appreciated. The Delegation stood ready to strengthen its cooperation with WIPO, in particular on the development of the international IP system, to ensure that innovation and creativity were to the economic, social and cultural benefit of all.

90. The Delegation of Portugal aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of the European Union and its member States, and by the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of Group B. It underscored the significance of discussions that had been held on patent quality and, under the PCT, the introduction of safeguards for applicants in exceptional situations such as those that had arisen from the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress had been made on the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications, in particular under the Lisbon System, including the accession of the European Union to the system. The process to ratify the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement in Portugal would begin shortly. The Council of the European Union had recently adopted conclusions on IP as a driver of innovation, competitiveness, economic growth and sustainable development, as a key to knowledge and technology transfer and as a tool for combatting the pandemic, and on its importance for SMEs and economic recovery. In its conclusions, the Council had also stressed the need to introduce a *sui generis* system of protection for non-agricultural products in the European Union, to harmonize its system of supplementary protection certificates and to tackle counterfeiting. Portugal had received welcome support in joining WIPO Green and had subsequently held a webinar on “The future of Earth as industrial property of all” to mark World IP Day in April 2021.

91. The Delegation of Qatar, noting that the report of the Director General touched on the latest developments in global IP policy, commended the WIPO Secretariat for the spirit of cooperation it had shown in its dealings with Qatar over the previous year. Since the previous session, Qatar had worked to develop its IP policies and systems, in particular its national IP strategy, the aim of which was to focus on the development and commercial application of IP by means of a strategic partnership with WIPO and the promotion of a knowledge-based economy. Qatar was finalizing the procedures for accession to several WIPO agreements, including the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and its Protocol and the Brussels Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite. Qatar appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat in negotiations on the final texts of a range of bilateral MoUs, in particular a memorandum of cooperation and understanding between the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Hamad Bin Khalifa University and WIPO on developing IP human resources and an MoU between WIPO and the Ministry of Trade and Industry on alternative means of resolving IP disputes. Qatar remained committed to the WIPO DA and supported the efforts of Member States to ensure that development issues were included in the Organization’s work program and to narrow the international IP system knowledge gap between developed and developing countries. Qatar was working with other Member States to collectively address the main challenges facing WIPO, which included the pressures of rapid technological change, globalization and increasing demand. The COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on

the work of the Assemblies, leading to a truncated agenda the previous year, and was yet to be overcome. Nonetheless, the international cooperation displayed thus far in efforts to combat the pandemic gave grounds for optimism. A significant amount of work postponed from the previous year's Assemblies lay ahead and would require a high degree of flexibility and cooperation on the part of Member States in order to get through it. The Delegation supported ongoing negotiations on global protection laws, in particular those being conducted by the SCCR with a view to agreeing terms for a multilateral treaty for the international protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations. It was to be hoped that Member States would achieve consensus on the outstanding issues in that regard. The Delegation encouraged the Organization to continue fostering cooperation between Member States, maintain the quality of its services and to keep leading the way in the development of an effective and comprehensive international IP system that would promote the innovation and creativity that underpinned sustainable development.

92. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea said that efforts to encourage creative and innovative activities in that country had led to more than 20,000 patent applications being filed in 2020, the fourth highest number in the world. The Republic of Korea was growing as a copyright powerhouse and had ranked fifth in the 2021 GII. The growing pace of technological change, such as in the fields of AI and big data, made it imperative for the international community to discuss how to improve the IP system. The Republic of Korea had recently amended its Design Act to better protect new digital products, such as graphic user interfaces, and established separate patent examination guidelines on emerging technologies, including AI and (IoT). The Copyright Act would be amended to reflect environmental changes in the creation and use of works. The Delegation would work closely with WIPO to facilitate discussion on IP and frontier technologies. It had carried out projects through the Funds-In-Trust to bridge the IP knowledge gap between developed and developing countries. A recently published white paper on blockchain would help developing countries to better understand frontier technologies and a new podcast program containing easy-to-understand content would be launched to raise awareness of copyright protection worldwide.

93. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Georgia on behalf of the CEBS Group. As the new Government of the Republic of Moldova had prioritized efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, ensure public access to health care and provide a secure social environment, it welcomed the efforts of WIPO and other organizations to ensure inclusive access to medicines and health care. As IP could and should be used to support companies and individuals to grow their revenues, the Delegation supported the commitment of WIPO to concentrate on expanding the use of IP as a tool for job creation, investment, business growth, economic development and social vibrancy, with a focus on women and young people. As much remained to be done to make IP a part of Moldovan culture and daily life, the Government aimed to improve access to knowledge and education through digitalization and AI, as reflected in the strategic development plan of the national IP Office. The Government was keen to preserve cultural heritage and TK; it supported regional development by promoting traditional products and welcomed the assistance of WIPO in consolidating the national geographical indications system. In addition, the Government's short-term priorities included the national implementation of an efficient compulsory licensing regime.

94. The Delegation of Romania said that it appreciated the comprehensive report that the Director General had presented and the work of the Director General and his team on the MTSP 2022–2026, which would help WIPO to deal with challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Romania was pleased that matters on the public agenda, which covered the proposed amendments to the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems, included the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a DLT. The Treaty would establish working relations with other intergovernmental organizations, such as the recent cooperation between WIPO, WHO and WTO. Those matters, in addition to the achievements in the report, reflected

the strength of WIPO. It was important to share information and raise awareness of IP at the national level and Romania had participated in the WIPO exercise on patent mapping and landscaping to review the services that national IP offices provided to SMEs. The Delegation wished to thank WIPO for its support in organizing joint events to promote IP rights. WIPO worked with the Romanian copyright office and the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks to organize the Fourth Regional Conference on Intellectual Property in the Digital Economy for SMEs. The event, which had taken place in Bucharest in September 2021, had attracted 200 participants online and in person and had addressed topics relating to video games. An online webinar had covered topics relating to industrial designs and another would address ePCT. WIPO, in cooperation with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and the European Union Intellectual Property Office, would organize a training program on IP developments for magistrates. The Delegation wished to reiterate its readiness to host a WIPO external office in Bucharest to boost the development of the IP system in the sub-region and promote WIPO services and values.

95. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, aligning itself with the statement of CACEEC, said that IP services remained important, despite the uncertainty of the present economic situation and enforced changes to working habits. The Russian Federation had recorded a steady growth in the number of registration applications for trademarks (up 13 per cent), industrial designs (up 5 per cent) and computer programs (up 36 per cent). The emphasis within WIPO on building IP ecosystems was becoming ever more vital. In the Russian Federation, there were plans to use a digital platform that would include patent analytical support and enable progress to be made in complex research projects that had significant technological and commercial potential. A special mechanism had been approved for COVID-19-related applications: ROSPATENT had introduced an accelerated system for the consideration of applications for inventions related to combating the virus and associated illnesses. To date, more than 870 patent applications had been received, with more than 350 patents issued for vaccines, antiviral therapies, diagnostic testing systems and disinfectant technologies. The first patent for a vaccine protecting against COVID-19 infection had been registered in the Russian Federation, and the processing time from filing the application to granting the patent had been three weeks. It was important to reduce the timeframe as overcoming the pandemic would require innovative decision-making that would be impossible without the rapid exchange of information between developers. The Delegation called on other WIPO Member States to adopt similar measures. The patented Chinese vaccine was well-known and, in August 2021, the patent application of another key vaccine manufacturer had been published, although most vaccine manufacturers were not patenting their inventions. The patenting of vaccines was essential for everyone to be able to use new technologies and information, and a failure to patent could have negative consequences for the legal protection of vaccines. The Russian Federation was making significant efforts to create a national IP ecosystem in response to the demands of the business community: a law had entered into force in January 2021 that would allow three-dimensional (3D) models of IP objects to be included in applications. They would be reviewed using algorithms based on AI. The Delegation hoped that a WIPO Standard on 3D models would be adopted in the near future. As was known, the work of the Task Force of the Committee on WIPO Standards had been broadened to further explore opportunities to compare and search across arrays of 3D images. The Delegation expressed the hope that progress would be made on that task, which would improve the quality of expertise in 3D modelling. Work was continuing on the creation of a single Eurasian space for the registration and protection of IP objects, which would offer the benefits that regional systems enjoyed in comparison to national ones. In June 2021, the Eurasian system for the legal protection of industrial designs had become operational. Ratification had been completed and preparations were underway for the launch of the registration system for trademarks and appellations of origin for goods from the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Work was also ongoing to create a single jurisdiction and EAEU countries were ready to develop a single space for information and expertise using new computer systems. As the use of the Russian language was undoubtedly one of the factors

contributing to harmonization, the Russian Federation considered it a priority to expand the languages used in the WIPO registration systems, the Madrid and Hague Systems. In 2021, ROSPATENT had introduced 15 new digital products. An online service for the registration of computer programs was already operational and more than 200 applications had been filed. The new services covered AI technologies, machine learning, 3D and Big Data. Focusing on platform-based solutions made it possible to digitally transform the way information was handled. Such a step must form the basis for accelerating the completion of work and significantly improving its quality, and for creating a user-friendly information environment for online registration applications. The Russian Federation expected further dialogue with WIPO and Member States on the Digital Agenda.

96. The Delegation of Rwanda aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation welcomed the MTSP 2022–2026 and appreciated its vision for strengthening IP globally and at the national level. The Delegation also appreciated the work done by the Director General through trilateral workshops with WHO and WTO to seek common ground on substantive IP issues related to COVID-19 vaccine equity. The Government of Rwanda was creating the necessary environment to ensure that the national IP regime provided good incentives for innovators and creators to develop new technologies to help fulfil the national economic development agenda. Significant progress had been made in streamlining WIPO partnerships with Member States in Africa for strengthening national IP ecosystems. Rwanda had made progress in implementing three key industrial property treaties. Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of notifications from the International Bureau of WIPO had increased. The Parliament of Rwanda had recently ratified the Marrakech Treaty; the instrument of ratification would be deposited imminently. The Government of Rwanda appreciated the support it had received for improving its GII ranking; much still remained to be done and every effort would be made to improve further.

97. The Delegation of San Marino said that it remained committed to supporting WIPO in all its activities. Companies increasingly used IP to develop and grow. As drivers of economic activity, they needed support from national and international institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had advanced technological solutions and digital transformation and the Delegation hoped that the hardest part of the pandemic was over. Research in AI, machine learning, blockchains and biotechnology would continue to produce new challenges and needs, such as protecting IP. San Marino planned to develop the sector by implementing legal instruments that balanced IP protection with the circulation of ideas. San Marino had recently signed an agreement to develop IP office business solutions, including a cloud hosting service, to provide applicants with more efficient IP services and to complete its digitalization process at national level. It was committed to implementing that agreement with the cooperation of WIPO. Having signed several fundamental WIPO treaties, San Marino was also committed to completing and implementing domestic legislation on copyright.

98. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG, and by the Delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the Arab Group. Saudi Arabia was keen to become a member of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC and take an active part in their work. The efforts made and negotiations held thus far with a view to convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT were welcome. Saudi Arabia was ready to host that conference. Since the previous session of the Assemblies, Saudi Arabia had acceded to the Budapest Treaty, the Nice Agreement and the Strasbourg Agreement. It intended to deposit the instruments of accession to a number of other WIPO treaties by the end of 2021. Saudi Arabia supported international efforts to facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccines while upholding IP rights and the provisions of the related international treaties. The Director General's efforts in that regard were welcome. In Saudi Arabia, work was being done to draft a national IP strategy and to launch a project to include IP in education curricula. As part of the country's IP awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts, preparations were under way to host a WIPO Summer School in partnership with the

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, which would be attended by 55 participants from nine countries. Some 35 IP support centers had been opened in universities and research centers. Under a unique new initiative to improve public sector compliance with IP laws and regulations, officials from 76 government agencies had been trained as IP respect officers. The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property conducted periodic site inspections and monitoring exercises, as well as blocking websites that violated IP rights. The Delegation appreciated the technical assistance provided by WIPO and looked forward to it publishing IP dictionaries in all six official languages. In that vein, the Authority had issued the first version of its Arabic IP dictionary, which was available on its website.

99. The Delegation of Serbia, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Georgia on behalf of the CEBS Group, said that it supported the MTSP 2022–2026. The plan could be a tool for combatting inequality. An appeal to the President of the United States of America by 175 former heads of State, government leaders and scientists to suspend IP rights for COVID-19 vaccines underscored the global importance of IP. The Delegation welcomed the assistance it had received from WIPO with a project designed to help the country gain a deeper understanding of its own innovation system. The Council for Encouraging the Development of Digital Economy, Innovation, High-Tech Entrepreneurship and Digitalization had been set up to stimulate business-based on innovation. The Council would evaluate a project led by the Intellectual Property Office of Serbia, alongside WIPO, which, it was hoped, would help to improve the country's GII ranking. The Delegation welcomed support by WIPO for a WIPO awards program in Serbia and the organization of the Tesla Fest in Novi Sad. In spite of the pandemic, the number of domestic trademark applications had increased by 12.2 per cent in 2020 over the previous year. The Office had also provided information to 27 per cent more customers than in the previous year, indicating that interest in IP rights was growing. Nonetheless, the number of patent applications had fallen slightly. The electronic application service was proving successful: more than 73 per cent of applications and 57 per cent of files had been received online. Serbia had taken part in the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications in 2021 and the Delegation commended WIPO on its Virtual Exhibition. Assisted by Switzerland, Serbia had gone to great lengths over the previous five years to market Serbian products protected by a geographical indication. The Original Serbia association had been established to promote traditional products protected by geographical indications. The market value of some products had increased significantly as a result of a geographical indication protection.

100. The Delegation of Singapore said that IP and innovation had a vital role to play in the global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore had continued to take steps to adapt to an increasingly digital environment and to transform IP into commercially valuable assets. It had launched the Singapore IP Strategy 2030 (SIPS 2030), which aimed to leverage the benefits of IP, innovation and intangible assets (IA) for businesses and individuals and to establish Singapore as an IP and IA hub to continue to attract innovators and future-proof jobs and skills. In September 2021, the Parliament of Singapore had passed a bill to strengthen the national copyright regime with due regard for the new ways in which content was being created, distributed and used. Noting the clear synergies between SIPS 2030 and the MTSP 2022–2026, Singapore looked forward to working with the Organization to pursue shared objectives, including in the area of dispute resolution. In particular, it planned to enhance its alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and intensify its collaboration with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center to help businesses to negotiate complex legal challenges related to IP. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO and the Member States for their collaboration in various activities, including joint programs with the Singapore IP office and the publication of the first ever Singapore country report on IP-backed financing. It looked forward to continuing that collaboration and its active and constructive role in the global IP community.

101. The Delegation of Slovakia, aligning itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its member states and by Georgia on behalf of

the CEBS Group, said that it appreciated the WIPO activities outlined in the Director General's report to the Assemblies, particularly those that provided technical assistance and information about adhering to WIPO treaties and about the increasing use of international IP systems. The Delegation noted efforts to improve the ability of Member States to monitor WIPO affairs. Slovakia acknowledged the focus that WIPO had on securing the best available global services under the PCT as well as within the Madrid and Hague Systems. The annual financial report outlined the Organization's strong performance despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The working groups under the systems continued to improve rules, guidelines and practices. Slovakia was committed to working on global services in the interest of existing and future users of the systems. WIPO had effectively and efficiently responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and Slovakia supported the efforts WIPO had made to encourage economic recovery. Regarding the normative agenda, the Delegation hoped that there would be a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. The ongoing efforts of Lisbon Union members to eliminate the budget deficit were appreciated and Slovakia was involved in discussions held by the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Union. The work carried out by the SCP in that area was satisfactory. Slovakia recognized the importance of the technical assistance that WIPO provided and the activities that the CDIP carried out. The WIPO Secretariat, WIPO Academy and the Department for Transition and Developed Countries had provided excellent cooperation and assistance during the previous period. In February 2021, there had been an online seminar on WIPO databases and online tools for universities. Slovakia was considering how to develop its automotive industry and preparations for the December 2021 Hydrogen Technologies in Transport international conference were underway.

102. The Delegation of South Africa aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. The world was facing an unprecedented health, social and economic crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Only through multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity could countries "build back better" after the pandemic. As a specialized agency and key member of the UN family, WIPO had an important role to play in that regard; the pandemic had brought to the fore the important crossover between IP and public health, in particular the extent to which IP could become a barrier to access to essential medicines. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, WIPO had a responsibility to contribute to the development of a more inclusive and development-oriented global IP regime that ensured that patent laws in particular did not restrict access to public health goods. The need for an economically and socially responsible IP ecosystem was the reason why South Africa, with others, had spearheaded the move to encourage a temporary waiver of the TRIPS Agreement, to counter growing vaccine nationalism. The Delegation was encouraged by the cooperation between WIPO, WTO and WHO, and hoped action would be taken to support developing countries in their efforts to develop their manufacturing capabilities, tackle the current pandemic and prepare for future health emergencies. The IP system was an important enabler for innovation, technology transfer, research and development, industrial development, and more broadly economic growth. It was crucial to find common ground and long-standing issues, including the conclusion of a DLT which recognized the contribution of TK, TCEs and GRs to many of the designs registered across the world. South Africa remained committed to the key principles of equitable geographical representation and proportionality, as well as fairness, inclusiveness and universality, in WIPO's key governing bodies.

103. The Delegation of Spain said that IP was an important driver of economic growth. It commended the WIPO Director General for capably implementing his mandate, pursuing the Organization's mission and raising awareness of IP as a tool for inclusive economic growth during a difficult period. It underscored the importance of best practices aimed at promoting the participation of women in the IP ecosystem, as well as its commitment to gender equality and its readiness to continue supporting such actions. The Delegation welcomed the Organization's ambition to develop IP ecosystems that helped innovators and creators to bring their ideas to market. It considered IP vital to the success of start-ups and SMEs and had full faith in WIPO to

continue adapting to users' needs while maintaining the highest management standards. It supported the work of the SCCR and was committed to reaching a consensus in the near future on the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a broadcasting treaty that reflected recent technological developments and the current needs of broadcasters. It considered resale rights a pertinent issue that should permanently be included on the SCCR agenda. The Delegation underlined the need to continue supporting the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement, particularly with respect to IP infringements on the Internet. Spain had been among the first countries to join WIPO ALERT in a bid to prevent cultural piracy and protect IP. It welcomed initiatives aimed at strengthening collaboration with UN agencies, international organizations and other parties interested in discussing IP rights in the context of global challenges such as COVID-19, food security and climate change. Multilingualism was vital and the use of Spanish within the Organization was central to achieving its objectives and reaching a wider audience. Lastly, the Delegation called for cooperation among States to enable the conclusion of agreements that improved how the Organization worked. It praised the Member States and the Secretariat for their successful drafting of the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23.

104. The Delegation of the Sudan aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, and by the Delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the Arab Group. The Division for Arab Countries and Division for Least Developed Countries of WIPO had provided unstinting support to the Sudan National Office and assistance with IP capacity-building and awareness-raising. Cooperation between the Sudan and WIPO was ongoing, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of in-person meetings and online workshops had been held in 2021. The most important of the meetings had taken place in May 2021 between the Minister of Justice, Nasr al-Din Abd al-Bari and the Director General of the Organization, who reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two sides. A national meeting had been held online on 29 June, 2021, on TK and geographical indications. The meeting, which had been attended by representatives of a broad range of institutions, had highlighted the importance of GRs and geographical indications. Discussions had taken place on how to protect them and thereby ensure that they contributed to boosting the economy and development, and on how the Sudan could reap the economic benefits of its rich cultural and geographical diversity. The Sudan was one of the least well represented countries in the Organization and, with a view to boosting its presence, an online seminar had been held in March 2021 on employment in the Organization. It had been attended by civil servants from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, along with professors of Sudanese universities and think tanks. The aim of the seminar had been to raise awareness of the Organization, make known the kind of employment opportunities that it offered and provide technical support for applicants. The Sudan had participated in a WIPO IP training program for the LDCs, which had been held as usual in 2020. Projects presented by participants from the Sudan had focused on raising awareness of IP among young people and government institutions, especially women employees thereof. The program, conducted in cooperation with the Division for Least Developed Countries, had led to the holding of a national workshop in September 2021 on IP for trademarks and product development, the main target audience being women entrepreneurs. The Sudan had an interest in public-private partnerships and a desire to strengthen its partnership with WIPO, stimulate research and broaden access to information for researchers. In February 2021, therefore, the Sudan had joined the WIPO Research Initiative through the Institute of Public Health in Khartoum. The Institute acted as a health sector think tank, engaging in policy analysis, evidence-based research and advocacy for health-care reform. It sought to promote the development of public health systems in the Sudan in general. Joining the initiative would enable the Institute to develop partnerships with research centers in 150 countries. Convinced that databases could facilitate access to IP information, the Sudan had announced its desire to join WIPO Lex-Judgments, through which it would be able to disseminate its IP jurisprudence, in 2021.

105. The Delegation of Sweden said that it fully supported the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, and by the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its member States. It wished to thank the WIPO Director General, Secretariat and staff for their efforts to facilitate the ongoing development of the IP law system against the difficult backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delegation attached great importance to the work of the WIPO committees. With regard to the SCCR, the Delegation was following with interest the ongoing efforts to update the international legal framework for the effective protection of broadcasting organizations and was committed to constructively participating in the Committee's future deliberations. The WIPO IP diagnostics tool would help small enterprises and business intermediaries to manage intangible assets when engaging in new business opportunities. The Delegation welcomed such support, particularly given the important role of SMEs in the economic growth of the Member States and the development of green and sustainable technologies. It also welcomed the update to the WIPO Good Practice Toolkit for Collective Management Organizations, which was all the more important since the creative and cultural sectors had struggled to maintain revenue during lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With regard to AI and IP, the Delegation encouraged WIPO to continue to facilitate discussions in a multistakeholder forum. The Delegation was particularly grateful for the excellent cooperation between WIPO and the Swedish IP office in relation to the advanced international training programs financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Sweden had rolled out IP programs for LDCs in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Division and a program on the role of IP and GRs in innovation in collaboration with the Traditional Knowledge Division. Special thanks were owed to the former Director of the Least Developed Countries Division, Kifle Shenkoru, who had played an important role in establishing those programs in 2004 and fostering their development over the years. Sweden looked forward to continuing its successful cooperation with WIPO in the development of the international IP system for the economic, social and cultural benefit of all.

106. The Delegation of Switzerland said that it wished to highlight two main points in line with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B. Firstly, it was necessary to bear in mind that standard-setting work was central to the mandate of WIPO. Despite the ongoing international situation, Switzerland called for a return to the normative work underway, which would have a direct impact on the users of IP systems. In that regard, the Delegation welcomed the key role played by WIPO during the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to support innovation and its dissemination. At the international level, WIPO had fully embraced its role as the leading body on IP issues in cooperation with relevant UN institutions and other international organizations. Membership of the UNSDG would offer WIPO an opportunity to further promote IP for sustainable development. Secondly, the appeal of WIPO systems to users depended on short processing times, reliable titles of protection, and tools and computing solutions tailored to their needs. The enhancement and balanced development of the international IP framework was a main objective of the Organization, which could be achieved by paying particular attention to all WIPO registration and classification systems to ensure their proper functioning and continue to encourage their growth. In addition, on August 31, 2021, Switzerland had acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, which would enter into force on December 1, 2021. Switzerland looked forward to joining and playing an active role in the Lisbon Union.

107. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG. It welcomed the focus of WIPO on the needs of developing countries and strengthening their capacities through technical cooperation. The Syrian Arab Republic was continuing, in spite of the challenges arising from the unilateral coercive measures imposed on it and the devastating repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, to develop national legislation, stimulate creativity and invention, support SMEs and harness them to serve sustainable development. WIPO had made an invaluable contribution to the country's efforts to leverage IP as a tool for development and capacity-building and as a

means of supporting creators and inventors. In particular, the Organization's support had ensured success for the AI-Basel Creativity and Invention Exhibition and contributed to implementation of a project to create TISCs, for which an MoU had been signed recently, and of a project to establish a national IP training center. The Organization was working with a broad range of actors and stakeholders to draft a national IP strategy that would help to enhance the impact of IP on economic growth and comprehensive development. In the light of the deepening challenges arising from the spread of COVID-19, the Syrian Arab Republic was keen to launch a development action plan for a health sector IP system that would facilitate fair and equitable access to diagnostics, medication and vaccines in the face of the pandemic. The Delegation was in favor of broadening membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee and opening membership of the PBC to all Member States.

108. The Delegation of Thailand set great store by IP as a driver of economic development. Thailand continued to strengthen its IP ecosystem and provide effective and responsive services for all stakeholders as it recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Intellectual Property had taken steps towards becoming a smart IP institution and provided fully integrated and efficient online services, including e-Filing and fast-track trademark registration. It had reduced the processing times for trademark renewals from 60 days to one hour and for copyright notifications from 30 to three days. Other services available to innovators included an online IP dispute resolution service and an early warning system for patent expirations. Turning to IP rights enforcement, the Government had signed an MoU with e-commerce platforms to improve the protection of IP rights on the Internet. The Delegation supported the continuation of negotiations within the IGC and welcomed the extension of that body's mandate to the 2022-23 biennium. The Delegation appreciated the continued support of WIPO and would continue to work constructively on the Organization's initiatives.

109. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago supported the statement made by the Delegation of Paraguay, on behalf of GRULAC. The Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement had entered into force in Trinidad and Tobago in January 2021 and the first domestic application for the registration of a mark under the Madrid System had been filed in June of the same year. Amendments to the Copyright Act of Trinidad and Tobago providing for the implementation of the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh Treaty had also entered into force. An MoU between the National Library and Information System Authority and the WIPO-led Accessible Books Consortium, aimed at facilitating access to published works in accessible formats for blind and visually impaired people in Trinidad and Tobago, was due to be signed in the near future. Moreover, the Government was preparing draft amendments to its legislation with a view to the country's accession to the Patent Law Treaty and the Geneva Act. The WIPO File portal, launched with the Organization's assistance, continued to be a success. On May 17, 2021, the Government had established the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force to coordinate the efforts of eleven different public and private agencies, including the national IP office, to combat illicit trade. Trinidad and Tobago was on course to launch a national IP training institution, with the trainers due to complete their training by the end of 2021. It had also taken further steps towards establishing a technology and innovation support center, which was eagerly anticipated by stakeholders and partners. The country had continued to collaborate with its Latin American and Caribbean neighbors to improve IP services in the region. It also looked forward to concluding MoUs with Singapore and Canada in the next few months to further strengthen its national IP office. The Delegation was grateful to WIPO and in particular the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean for their continued collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago IP office. It looked forward to helping the Director General to realize his vision for the Organization and the global IP system. Trinidad and Tobago wished to see the successful conclusion of discussions on a broadcasting treaty, particularly given the rapid increase of commercial activity in that area. In addition, it looked forward to continuing discussions on an instrument for the protection of TK and TCEs and the convening of a diplomatic conference regarding the DLT. The Delegation remained committed to advancing discussions and working together towards mutually beneficial goals while ensuring the sustainability of the Organization.

110. The Delegation of Tunisia said that it was glad that the present meeting of the Assemblies was taking place despite the unprecedented global health situation, and commended the efforts of the Director General to ensure continuity in the services provided by WIPO and the implementation of the Organization's program of work. The launch of the GII on September 20, 2021 had once again showed the Organization's commitment to fulfilling its mandate for the promotion of IP and innovation throughout the world. WIPO had the necessary tools and leadership to play a greater role in helping countries to address the effects of the pandemic, and the Organization should be at the center of worldwide efforts to deal with the global crisis. The Delegation underscored the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and cooperation between international organizations, as well as the need to find the necessary synergies between policies on health, trade and innovation. The Delegation stood ready to cooperate on the fundamental aspects of the MTSP 2022–2026, which would enable WIPO to play a critical role in the development of a balanced and inclusive global IP ecosystem. Tunisia had recently proposed an ambitious program to WIPO, introducing the concept of value chains for the development of an ecosystem of innovation, creativity and technology transfer. The Delegation also underscored Tunisia's interest in the convocation of a diplomatic conference to adopt the DLT. In that regard, Tunisia had, for the previous three years, been hosting IP Olympiads with a view to disseminating IP culture among young people. The Delegation noted with interest the reports presented to the Assemblies describing WIPO efforts to assist Member States in using IP for job creation, in particular for young people, as well as for investment, business growth and economic development. Lastly, it remained vital to foster gender equality and women's autonomy in the context of the WIPO mandate, both in the Organization's policies and program activities, and in the management of its human resources. In that regard, Tunisia was proud of the encouragement it had received from WIPO at the launch of the "IP needs women" association, which was aimed at encouraging women's participation in IP and innovation.

111. The Delegation of Turkey aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B, and, noting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on business, welcomed the MTSP 2022–2026 and underscored the importance of innovation and collaboration on the path to recovery. The Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium would pave the way for important achievements by WIPO. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, patent, trademark and design applications in Turkey had increased, placing the country among the top 10 IP countries globally in terms of national applications. Patent, trademark and design applications had grown by 1 per cent, 31 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. TURKPATENT, as an international search authority, had taken its place among the leading 10 PCT authorities in the prepared reports. Copyright policy in Turkey had been shaped to develop copyright and creative industries, a key growth area for the country. A copyright specialization library had been established in the General Directorate of Copyright and cooperation arrangements on copyright had been put in place between universities and creative industries. Turkey had ratified the Marrakesh Treaty. The Intellectual Property Academy provided training in all aspects of IP for professionals from all segments of society. The Turkish IP Valuation Company had been set up to boost IP valuation capacity and facilitate IP commercialization in Turkey.

112. The Delegation of Uganda aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO must continue to deliver its services; thanks to technological innovations, the Assemblies could still be held. The national IP office of Uganda had adapted its services to the "new normal" and the number of applications received had increased during the pandemic. Such challenging times brought to mind the spirit of the TRIPS Agreement; The Delegation applauded the extension of the TRIPS transition period to July 1, 2034. Uganda had made significant progress in the development, protection, generation, management, utilization and enforcement of IP. Under the aegis of the ARIPO, representatives of African countries had met in Kampala in August 2021 to adopt a protocol on voluntary registration of copyright and related rights. The Delegation was committed to

cementing and promoting relations with other national and international IP offices. An online trademark filing system was being launched with the support of the European Union Intellectual Property Office; more online services would be developed in future. While strengthening the IP regime, Uganda had amended trademark regulations to provide for the registration of trademarks or trademark agents. Uganda was also in the process of ratifying all WIPO corporate treaties, the Berne Convention and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty. WIPO support for those legal and administrative reforms, in particular for the protection of TK and TCEs and the promotion of the geographical indications landscape was appreciated, as was its support for technology and innovation-related projects and the establishment of TISCs. The Delegation also appreciated the support for its project on women in innovation. Workshops and training programs conducted virtually since the beginning of the pandemic had also been particularly welcome.

113. The Delegation of Ukraine, aligning itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Georgia on behalf of the CEBS group and by the Delegation of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union, said that its Government continued to prioritize IP and had included it in its strategic plan. Institutional reform in the field of IP had been successfully completed with the establishment of the National IP Authority under the Ukrainian IP Institute. Under the framework of the joint cooperation program for 2020-2021, the Ukrainian National IP Training Center had been established with the support of the WIPO Academy, 17 TISCs had been in operation, Ukraine had become a member of the WIPO ALERT platform and, in cooperation with the WIPO Academy, an online summer school on IP had been held with more than 120 students from 30 countries. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Economy and the National IP Authority, in cooperation with WIPO, had regularly held joint awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. Following the path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, Ukraine aimed to join the CEBS Group, which would reflect the country's geographical and historical realities. The Delegation invited all CEBS countries to support the aspirations of Ukraine. It also wished to draw attention to UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine; WIPO, as one of the specialized agencies of the UN, should share its views and adhere to its principles. The Delegation looked forward to engaging with WIPO with respect to the Madrid and PCT Systems to develop a legal mechanism that would allow the effective refusal of registration under certain circumstances.

114. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, on behalf of the APG, and by the Delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the Arab Group. The Delegation welcomed the Organization's outstanding financial performance over the previous year, achieved in spite of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the slogan, "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future", countries from around the world were coming together in the United Arab Emirates to show off the very best in their products, services, technology and their latest inventions. The country had recently launched its "50 Projects", a roadmap for sustainable socio-economic development over the coming five decades guided by the standards of knowledge, innovation, technology, talent and entrepreneurship. The United Arab Emirates had acceded to the Madrid Protocol with the aim of supporting trademark owners. It had earlier acceded to the Budapest Treaty and the Strasbourg Agreement in order to foster an environment conducive to innovation, R&D as firmly established drivers of the future economy. Key among the country's ongoing efforts in that regard was the recent overhaul of industrial property law, undertaken in order to bring patent systems fully up to date. Copyright and trademark law would also be amended shortly. The country's efforts had been rewarded with its improved position on the 2021 GII, in which it had ranked first in the Arab world for the sixth year running and had risen a place in the global ranking. Member States should weigh up the importance of multilingualism for all WIPO systems, including the Madrid System, in order to break down language barriers and improve the Organization's services. There was a need to identify ways to help inventors to get back on their feet and the Delegation was eager to see the project approved by the CDIP in that regard implemented. The Delegation encouraged delegates to attend the Second World Conference

on the Creative Economy, which would be hosted by Dubai in December 2021. It also called for flexibility in discussions at the current session on issues such as the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC.

115. The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania associated itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. It congratulated the Director General for ably steering WIPO through the COVID-19 pandemic and was optimistic that under his leadership the Organization would achieve its strategic objectives and overcome whatever challenges lay ahead. The WIPO committees were to be commended for continuing to implement their programs in line with their respective mandates and the DA. The Delegation hoped that consensus could finally be reached on certain longstanding issues. WIPO had continued to provide valuable technical assistance and support to the United Republic of Tanzania with a number of programs, including in the area of training and capacity building. Recently, WIPO and the judiciary of the United Republic of Tanzania had signed an MoU to strengthen the judicial system and the protection of IP services in the country. Other ongoing projects and activities included the distance-learning access platform for students enrolling in the Master's Program for IP at the University of Dar es Salaam and the training of trainers on IP teaching methodologies with the WIPO Academy. In addition, WIPO had supported the United Republic of Tanzania with the establishment of alternative dispute resolutions, the review of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act and the preparation of other regulations. Such support helped to create the conditions for the development of the innovation- and knowledge-based economy in the country. The United Republic of Tanzania was taking steps towards ratifying the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, the Kampala Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights and the Madrid Protocol and sought the Organization's support in that endeavor. Lastly, the Delegation urged WIPO and all Member States to take measures to ensure equitable access to affordable, safe and effective treatments and therapeutics for COVID-19. As the global custodian of all manner of IP rights, WIPO had an important role to play in responding to the calls of WHO and the UN General Assembly for solidarity and cooperation in combatting the pandemic.

116. The Delegation of the United States of America endorsed the statement delivered by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of Group B. The concept of the Strategy House introduced in the MTSP 2022–2026 was especially important and welcome. The Delegation considered the shift in focus from programs to sectors logical and was confident that it would result in more transparency and accountability throughout the Organization. Since the last Assembly meetings, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) had adopted policies and programs aimed at increasing access to IP systems with due regard for diversity and inclusiveness, enhancing pro bono services and expanding its outreach and assistance programs for inventors and entrepreneurs. It had included a new category in its Patents for Humanity program with a view to accelerating the deployment of COVID-19 technologies for tracking, diagnosing, preventing and treating the disease. Patents for Humanity was an awards program for patent holders, licensees and applicants whose groundbreaking innovations addressed longstanding global development challenges. The deadline for submitting applications under the COVID-19 category had closed recently and the winners were due to be announced soon. The success stories from the program would doubtless inspire others to harness innovation for human progress. Now, more than ever, all WIPO Member States must work harder to empower more people to engage in innovation. Many more people were needed to invent and commercialize the solutions required to keep society moving forward. The Delegation stood ready to collaborate with the Organization over the coming year.

117. The Delegation of Uruguay said that it attached the utmost importance to technological innovation and development as tools for the economic, social and cultural advancement of societies and as drivers for the prosperity of its citizens – objectives whose attainment went hand in hand with intellectual and industrial property. The COVID-19 pandemic had underscored the need for the wider use of modern technology in IP offices, not only to ensure

business continuity in the event of emergencies, but also to facilitate the use of IP system tools by end users, in particular SMEs, which were the lifeblood of the economy. The Delegation supported the Director General's initiatives that focused on specific products and thus made the Organization's work more relatable to entrepreneurs seeking real and tangible benefits. With that in mind, it was essential to strengthen ties and cooperation between WIPO and the IP offices of all Member States to enable the sharing of knowledge and experiences and the harmonization of practices with a view to establishing a predictable framework and clear rules of play.

118. The Delegation of Uzbekistan said that its Government paid particular attention to the development of IP. In 2021, a resolution on measures to improve the protection of IP assets had been adopted, entrusting the National IP Agency with ensuring the legal protection of IP and coordinating the relevant activities of other State bodies. Work was underway to implement national IP legislation, taking into account the requirements of recognized international standards, including the TRIPS Agreement. A bill on geographical indications had been drafted with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Under another bill, criminal liability for counterfeiters and fines for legal entities engaged in the production and sale of counterfeit goods had been introduced. The number of court cases relating to counterfeiting had risen sevenfold in 2020 compared with the previous year and the Agency was taking concerted action to counter the phenomenon. A number of national laws had been amended to establish the amount of compensation for damages in the field of copyright and related rights and to extend the term of copyright from 50 to 70 years. In addition, the Agency had been involved in implementing pretrial measures, including issuing warnings and reports on administrative offenses. IP application filings had continued to rise in Uzbekistan in 2020, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the support of WIPO, Uzbekistan was working on a national IP strategy for the period 2022-2025 and particular importance was attached to raising public IP awareness. It was expected that Uzbekistan would ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, the Singapore Treaty, the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement and the Rome Convention in 2022.

119. The Delegation of Viet Nam supported the MTSP 2022-2026 and particularly appreciated the intention to build a balanced and efficient global IP ecosystem, with the priority of supporting developing countries, and LDCs in particular. Continued assistance from WIPO for the implementation of Viet Nam's national IP strategy and in support of its efforts to implement international treaties on matters related to IP was particularly appreciated. Technical assistance to support the digital transformation of Viet Nam's IP office, and in particular for the completion of the industrial property administration system (WIPO-IPAS) had been crucial. Efforts were being made to promote gender and youth engagement in IP at the national level. Viet Nam remained committed to engaging with WIPO and its Member States.

120. The Delegation of Zimbabwe, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group, said that its national development strategy continued to embrace the IP ecosystem. The Government had prioritized the establishment of six innovation hubs at the country's five state universities to drive technological advances in the industrial sector, and legislation enabling research, innovation and development had been enacted. The Delegation appreciated WIPO support for capacity-building and would continue to rely on the Organization for funding for IP studies, including the Masters' degree in IP jointly offered by WIPO, ARIPO and Africa University. Zimbabwe prioritized the implementation of the recommendations in the WIPO DA and urged the Secretariat to mainstream the Agenda in all its work. Regarding the convening of a diplomatic conference on the DLT, a workable solution should be found that addressed concerns on disclosure and technical capacity-building assistance. The Delegation appreciated the intersectional work on the expansion of the governing bodies, which must be in line with geographical equity and balance. The Delegation called on the Assemblies to expedite the work of the IGC and looked forward to cooperating with WIPO in relation to the newly established IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. Finally, it

was hoped that Member States would use the Assemblies to reach a consensus on IP-related solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic.

121. The Representative of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), associating itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, said that it had held a diplomatic conference in August 2021 to adopt the Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights. The outcome had been the Kampala Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright Related Rights, which had been adopted on August 28, 2021 in Kampala, Uganda. The Representative noted the importance of IT infrastructure and appreciated the support that WIPO had provided to improve ARIPO e-services, which had allowed operations to continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities to raise awareness about IP had been organized in 2021 through the MoU between WIPO, ARIPO and OAPI, in particular to celebrate World IP Day. SMEs from ARIPO member states had benefited from a workshop that WIPO and the IP Office of Singapore had organized. On May 3, 2021, the Gambia had joined the Banjul Protocol on Marks and on October 1, 2021, the Seychelles had become the 21st ARIPO member state.

122. The Representative of the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office) said that the extraordinary circumstances in which the Assemblies were being held underlined the fact that new types of challenges were coming into view with the emergence of technology based on AI. The IP system and the international agreements underpinning it played a pivotal role in encouraging research centers and development and innovation institutes worldwide to discover vaccines and treatments for new epidemics, and to develop medical devices, tools and smart phone apps that contributed to monitoring of those epidemics, limiting their spread and reducing their impact on public health. The system also had a role to play in terms of regulating IP rights in emergency situations, such as pandemics, and, of particular importance, making use of the flexibility built into international agreements for such situations. The economies of most countries were showing signs of recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had had a major impact on public health and the economy, including through disruption of the movement of goods, most of which benefited from IP rights, and supply chains around the world. Going forward, there was a need for an approach that tackled the impact of COVID-19 and the challenges that had arisen therefrom and to find effective solutions. Growing interest in a comprehensive IP and innovation system and the protection of related rights had stimulated pioneering work and high-quality output at the national and international levels. The Council trusted that the role of the Organization in building a balanced and effective international IP system that fostered innovation and creativity and took into account the various levels of development would continue to grow.

123. The Representative of the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIPI) said that ASIPI was a non-profit organization founded 57 years ago to promote and protect the collective interests of its active members through the study and dissemination of IP, encourage regulatory development, protect IP in the Americas and improve the knowledge and professional practices of its members. It was considered the most important and well-established IP organization in Latin America. Throughout its history, ASIPI had assumed a leadership role on the international stage, forging strong relationships and productive partnerships with sister organizations and associations and reaching out to local authorities in countries of the region, and it had a long tradition of promoting the harmonization and uniform management of IP in the Americas. It was committed to improving knowledge of IP rights in the region and, in that vein, took measures to promote and raise awareness of IP protection. While the Americas had a vast working population, workers were generally unaware of the potential benefits of IP in establishing and developing businesses of all kinds and of its impact on future generations through innovation and education. Therefore, ASIPI had rolled out a number of educational projects to increase knowledge and promote the use of IP, namely ASIPI Emprende, ASIPI Pro Bono and ASIPI Academia. ASIPI Emprende taught creators and inventors about IP, including its various forms of protection, and how it could be harnessed to

transform their activities into businesses for their prosperity and development. ASIPI Pro Bono concerned the provision of pro bono IP services in the Americas. It aimed to support entrepreneurs and MSMEs, benefit people and communities with limited resources and access to IP systems and raise awareness of IP issues in the Americas. Given the scale and importance of the WIPO Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) and the support provided by ASIPI since its global launch in October 2016, the partnership between IAP and ASIPI Pro Bono would facilitate the pursuit of the common objective to promote progress and innovation. The aim of ASIPI Academia was to train the legal community through courses on IP and related topics. Noting the high quality of the courses offered by the WIPO Academy, ASIPI was keen to conclude a cooperation agreement that would enable ASIPI Academia and the WIPO Academy to work on projects of mutual interest that had an impact on the community and strengthened IP. The Representative appreciated its close and productive cooperation with WIPO over recent years and acknowledged the Organization's excellent work and tireless efforts to leverage the benefits of IP for all stakeholders.

124. The Representative of the Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA) said that His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, had launched the "50 Projects" in the United Arab Emirates, which encapsulated the future-oriented thinking of the country's leaders, envisaging the United Arab Emirates as a leading economic player by 2071. EIPA was focusing on fostering a culture of respect for IP rights and was keen to maintain 100 per cent business continuity through cooperation with its strategic partners. It also intended to continue working with WIPO in order to advance its goals with regard to fostering an IP culture. The Representative extended an invitation to attend Expo 2020, a major global event being held in the United Arab Emirates that constituted a hub for intercultural exchange and the promotion of cooperation, embodied by the slogan "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future".

125. The Representative of the Health and Environment Program (HEP) said that, during the pandemic, a focus on environment and health was more essential than ever. From the perspective of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attaining the SDGs, non-governmental organizations should be guaranteed optimal and equitable participation in the work of the various WIPO committees to find solutions to urgent matters and seek compromise in the interest of everyone. HEP had been participating in the work of WIPO and in the development of IP for 20 years, and therefore had robust experience in that regard.

126. The Representative of IP Justice urged delegates to reject a WIPO broadcasting treaty. Access to knowledge had become more critical than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic, with educational materials increasingly reliant on the transmissions of broadcasting companies, and the companies and countries that monopolized broadcasting materials were trying to take advantage of that need. A broadcasting treaty would create new economic rights that would enable broadcasting companies to control the public's access to knowledge, and limitations and exceptions provisions should be adopted to grant exceptions to libraries, museums, and schools. The Representative urged WIPO not to consider any more broadcast treaties in order to focus on increasing Internet coverage and access to information instead.

127. The Representative of the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) said that JIPA supported the vision in the MTSP 2022–2026 of a world where IP was used to support creativity and innovation for the common good. In June 2021, with the support of WIPO, JIPA had held the JIPA GREEN Symposium online to provide information about the role of IP in environmental issues and the use of WIPO GREEN. As a non-governmental organization, JIPA had a unique role to play in the development of a balanced and inclusive global IP ecosystem and was committed to moving forward together with WIPO.

128. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed flaws in the IP system. In a public health crisis, no single company

should have a monopoly over essential inventions, data, biological resources or manufacturing knowledge required for countermeasures. Access to manufacturing knowledge was particularly important, given the shocking inequality of access to vaccines and drugs. WIPO needed to explore how inventions, data, biological resources and manufacturing knowledge could be treated as global public goods while providing worthwhile incentives and rewards to developers for new products and recognizing the significant role of governments in funding research and development. To that end, the SCP and the CDIP should discuss Alternatives to the Patent System that are used to Support R&D Efforts, Including both Push and Pull Mechanisms, with a Special Focus on Innovation-Inducement Prizes and Open Source Development Models (CDIP/14/INF/12) and other works relating to the supply of public goods. The Representative opposed any further work on a broadcasting treaty, given the evident confusion over the objectives of such a treaty, as well as any proposals to provide effective perpetual rights to broadcasters for content that they did not create, own or license. The SCCR should publish a report on the ownership, concentration of ownership and nationality of ownership of new streaming services that were rapidly replacing traditional broadcasting in many markets. The work of the SCCR on broadcasting hardly took account of the exploding role of encrypted, subscription-based online streaming services, the most significant of which were controlled by large multinationals such as Google, Netflix, Spotify and Amazon rather than locally owned broadcasting entities. Such companies should not have IP rights over others' creative works, which was the logical conclusion of any new IP rights for broadcasters that included deferred transmissions. On limitations and exceptions, norm-setting for archives and preservation was an achievable near-term objective. In that context, global and social issues were important, while harmonization was less of a challenge and conflicts with rights owners were insignificant. The report of the SCCR to the WIPO General Assembly omitted any reference to the Friends of the Chair process in relation to the broadcasting treaty. The Representative urged the Secretariat to shed more light on that process. As regards education and other exceptions, the Representative would like the SCCR to review the exceptions in the 1976 Tunis Model Law on Copyright for Developing Countries, as well as the bases for the development of that law. The Representative supported the work of the SCCR on artists' resale rights for physical works of art; however, any treaty in that regard should not extend copies of works.

129. The Representative of the Latin American School of Intellectual Property (ELAPI) said that it was grateful to have been an observer at the 2020 WIPO Assemblies and was committed to bringing a fresh perspective from Latin America to the proceedings of the 2021 Assemblies and its work with the committees. The mission of ELAPI was to develop IP in Latin America in concert with newcomers to the IP sector and to encourage university students to consider IP in their professional and academic development through a newsletter, masterclasses, webinars, conferences and the implementation of a gender equality policy. Since its creation in 2019, ELAPI had staged different IP events and cooperated with WIPO and the IP offices of Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and other Latin American countries. Based on that cooperation, it had set a number of goals for the coming days, such as strengthening diplomatic relations with GRULAC and other groups of countries to discuss issues that affected Latin America. Since becoming an observer, ELAPI had actively participated in committees to protect, promote and strengthen IP. During the 2021 Assemblies, it aimed to raise matters relating to copyright, patents, designs and mechanisms for the extrajudicial settlement of disputes.

130. The Representative of the League of Arab States (LAS) said that it aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the Arab Group, and with all the statements made by Arab States in the morning meeting. WIPO had provided valuable technical support to the Arab region. The appointment of the Organization's new Director General would no doubt be accompanied by a new vision and direction for WIPO in its efforts to make IP more tangibly relevant in people's everyday lives. The Representative was keen to continue its coordination and close, constructive and fruitful cooperation with WIPO, which had worked in the region's interest since the two bodies had signed their MoU in 2000. The Arab

region had benefited from the smart partnership between the two bodies through capacity-building and technical assistance, which had improved the performance of IP offices throughout the region, and from the commitment by Arab Governments to build effective and balanced IP systems in their countries. The Standing IP Technical Committee, which was made up of officials from the region's IP offices, met periodically at the League's Secretariat headquarters in Cairo to regulate IP cooperation between Arab countries. Many online activities had been organized in 2021 in conjunction with the WIPO Division for Arab Countries and had been attended by Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director General and Head of the Regional and National Development Sector at WIPO, and Walid Abdelnasser, Director of the Division for Arab Countries.

131. The Representative of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) commended WIPO on its pivotal role in promoting an inclusive international IP system and providing capacity-building and technical assistance to its Member States, thereby helping them to achieve the SDGs. The Representative welcomed the progress made by several member States of OIC in the GII rankings in 2021 and the recently updated MoU between WIPO and the Islamic Development Bank, which greatly supported the advancement of science, technology and innovation across its 57 member countries. In implementing its OIC-2025 Program of Action, OIC recognized that IP rights, especially patents, were key to advancing innovation and scientific development. Acknowledging the need to increase investment in science, technology and innovation, OIC had adopted its STI Agenda 2026 at a summit held in Kazakhstan in 2017. Science and technology transfer was key to accelerating the economic development of developing countries. At a second science and technology summit, held in Abu Dhabi in June 2021, OIC had issued a declaration on the need for its member States to work together to reduce IP-related barriers to the timely access to affordable medical products, including vaccines and medicines.

132. The Representative of the South Centre (CS) said that a balanced and flexible international IP system, with adequate safeguards, could be supportive of the SDGs. Increasing the global supply and access to COVID-19 countermeasures could be accelerated with greater cooperation and a removal of IP-related barriers; to that end, WIPO should support its Member States in reaching an agreement on a temporary waiver of the TRIPS Agreement. The Representative looked forward to accelerated work within WIPO on the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. It would also welcome the organization by WIPO, together with WHO and WTO, of a global conference on IP and public health that would be open to all interested stakeholders. WIPO should also produce patent landscapes on potential treatments, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical technologies for COVID-19, and disseminate relevant technologies in the public domain. In the context of the PCT, Member States should discuss how to promote the early publication of COVID-19 patent applications. The SCP should discuss trends in patent applications and patent grants on, *inter alia*, monoclonal antibodies, and share recent jurisprudence and experiences on the application of patentability criteria. The CS, for its part, offered free technical assistance to developing countries on the intersection of IP and public health.

133. The Director General said that he was heartened by the positive responses of the delegations to the Organization's new vision and MTSP 2022-2026, which had been drafted after broad and transparent consultations with the Member States. He shared the desire of many Member States for progress on unresolved normative matters and WIPO would do all in its power to facilitate progress in that regard. WIPO would continue to serve as a neutral platform for discussing common challenges and exchanging ideas as part of a global IP community. In addition to fostering greater geographical, linguistic and gender inclusivity, WIPO would focus on bringing hitherto underserved sectors of the community, such as SMEs, young people and women, into the IP fold. WIPO had a key role to play in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better and it would continue to work with WHO and WTO on implementing trilateral cooperation to that end. Close cooperation with Member States

was crucial for WIPO to deepen its long-term engagement with IP actors at the regional and country levels and deliver results on the ground. The many national IP initiatives undertaken in the previous year dovetailed with the Organization's overall IP vision.

[End of Annex and of document]