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

**Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings**  
**Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025**

GENERAL REPORT

*adopted by the Assemblies*

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This 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-eighth (27<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (2) WIPO Conference, forty-sixth (27<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (3) WIPO Coordination Committee, eighty-fourth (56<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (4) Paris Union Assembly, sixty-first (27<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (5) Paris Union Executive Committee, sixty-fifth (61<sup>st</sup> ordinary) session
- (6) Berne Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (27<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (7) Berne Union Executive Committee, seventy-first (56<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (8) Madrid Union Assembly, fifty-ninth (26<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (9) Hague Union Assembly, forty-fifth (25<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (10) Nice Union Assembly, forty-fifth (27<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (11) Lisbon Union Assembly, forty-second (26<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (12) Locarno Union Assembly, forty-fifth (26<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (13) IPC [International Patent Classification] Union Assembly, forty-sixth (25<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (14) PCT [Patent Cooperation Treaty] Union Assembly, fifty-seventh (25<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (15) Budapest Union Assembly, forty-second (23<sup>rd</sup> ordinary) session
- (16) Vienna Union Assembly, thirty-eighth (23<sup>rd</sup> ordinary) session
- (17) WCT [WIPO Copyright Treaty] Assembly, twenty-fifth (12<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (18) WPPT [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty] Assembly, twenty-fifth (12<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (19) PLT [Patent Law Treaty] Assembly, twenty-fourth (11<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session
- (20) Singapore Treaty [Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks] Assembly, eighteenth (9<sup>th</sup> 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, tenth ordinary session
- (22) BTAP [Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances] Assembly, sixth ordinary session.

meeting in Geneva from July 8 to 17, 2025, and which made decisions in joint meetings of two or more of the said Assemblies and other bodies convened (hereinafter referred to as “the joint meeting(s)” and “the Assemblies of the Member States,” respectively).

2. In addition to this General Report, separate Reports have been drawn up on the sessions of the WIPO General Assembly (WO/GA/58/14), WIPO Coordination Committee (WO/CC/84/2), Madrid Union Assembly (MM/A/59/3), Hague Union Assembly (H/A/45/2), Lisbon Union Assembly (LI/A/42/3), and Singapore Treaty Assembly (STLT/A/18/1). Furthermore, consolidated Reports of the sessions of the other bodies have also been drawn up, as follows: WIPO Conference (WO/CF/46/1), Paris Union Assembly (P/A/61/1), Paris Union Executive Committee (P/EC/65/1), Berne Union Assembly (B/A/55/1), Berne Union Executive Committee (B/EC/71/1), Nice Union Assembly (N/A/45/1), Locarno Union Assembly (LO/A/45/1), IPC Union Assembly (IPC/A/46/1), PCT Union Assembly (PCT/A/57/1), Budapest Union Assembly (BP/A/42/1), Vienna Union Assembly (VA/A/38/1), WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly (WCT/A/25/1), WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty Assembly (WPPT/A/25/1), Patent Law Treaty Assembly (PLT/A/24/1), Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (MVT/A/10/1), and the Beijing Treaty Assembly (BTAP/A/6/1).

3. The list of the members and observers of the Assemblies, as of July 4, 2025, is set forth in document [A/66/INF/1 Rev.](#)

4. The meetings dealing with the following items of the Agenda (document [A/66/1](#)) were presided over by the following Chairs:

Items 1 to 7, 9 to 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 24	Ambassador Alfredo Suescum (Mr.) (Panama), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly
Items 21 and 22	Karan Thapar (Mr.) (India), Vice-Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee
Item 8	Abdulaziz Alswailem (Mr.) (Saudi Arabia), Chair of the WIPO Conference; Ainna Vilengi Kaundu (Ms.) (Namibia), Vice-Chair of the WIPO Conference
Item 13	Jérémie Fénichel (Mr.) (France), Vice-Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly, in the absence of Loreto Bresky (Ms.) (Chile), Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly
Item 14	Pascal Faure (Mr.) (France), Chair of the Hague Union Assembly
Item 15	Grace Issahaque (Ms.) (Ghana), Vice-Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly, in the absence of Matúš Medvec (Mr.) (Slovakia), Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly
Item 18	Kathrine Myhre (Ms.) (Norway), Chair of Singapore Treaty Assembly

5. The agenda, as adopted, the list of documents and the list of participants appear in documents [A/66/1](#), [A/66/2](#) and [A/66/INF/5](#), respectively.

## ITEM 1 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

6. The Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO 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 the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Alfredo Suescum (Mr.) (Panama).

8. The Chair welcomed all delegations, including those participating remotely from locations all over the globe. He thanked the delegations for the trust placed in him and encouraged holding discussions in a spirit of collaborative engagement to achieve meaningful outcomes for WIPO and to successfully conclude the Assemblies.

## ITEM 2 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. Discussions were based on document A/66/1 Prov. 3.
10. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, adopted the agenda as proposed in document A/66/1 Prov.3 (referred to in this document as “the Consolidated Agenda”, document [A/66/1](#)).

## ITEM 3 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### ADDRESS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO

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

“Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly,

“Excellencies, Ministers,

“Heads of IP Offices,

“Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Good morning and welcome to the [Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States](#). We are delighted to welcome more than 1,600 delegates – our highest ever – including a record 40 Ministers and Vice-Ministers and nearly 100 heads of IP offices. This is truly the world’s largest gathering of global IP leaders.

It is also my joy to share that the WIPO family has grown. Two weeks ago, the Federated States of Micronesia joined the WIPO Convention, becoming our 194<sup>th</sup> Member State. Please join me in welcoming them to WIPO and their first Assemblies with a warm round of applause!

#### *Global Landscape*

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

We meet at a time when the storms in our world seem to grow larger and stronger by each day. Political conflict, economic uncertainty, technological acceleration and societal shifts all seem to be converging to disrupt our world in a way that is unprecedented.

But in these troubled times, I believe that it is more important than ever to remind ourselves of what we share in common and what unites us. And here at WIPO, what brings us together is our belief in the human spirit of imagination, invention, innovation and creativity.

This unique quality of humankind gave us fire, the wheel, agriculture, cities, medicine, science, poetry, music and the arts. And within our lifetimes, conquered illnesses, extended the human lifespan, harnessed new forms of energy, given us new avenues to share our stories with the whole world, and revolutionized the way we work, live and play.

As the global IP community, our common and shared responsibility to humankind is to nurture this spirit, and channel it into what is good for all.

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This defining mission of supporting innovators and creators from around the world does not exist in isolation, but within a global context. As the global agency for IP, innovation and creativity, we have a broad and unique vantage point and I would like to share three trends that are shaping the global innovation ecosystem of today.

First, despite challenges and headwinds, global innovation activity remains resilient. Every minute, more than 40 IP applications are filed somewhere in the world. Since 2018, over 20 million applications have been made each year, including more than 23 million in 2023. This is 150 per cent higher than in 2010.

Beneath these numbers is a less visible but deeper transformation in where value is now created and stored. As enterprises and countries innovate, create and digitalize, what is valuable is shifting from tangible to intangible assets like IP, data, brands, know-how and others. WIPO estimates that the global value of intangible assets has reached almost 80 trillion US dollars last year, more than the size of the world's largest economies put together.

This trend will only grow – tomorrow we will release a report that shows that investment into intangible assets is now growing nearly four times faster than investment into tangible assets, led by the United States and reaching nearly 15 per cent of GDP last year.

Second, innovation is increasingly digital.

One third of the over three million patents filed each year now relates to digital technologies like AI, quantum computing, cybersecurity, IoT (Internet of Things) and others, with investment pouring into software and data faster than any other intangible assets. The United States also leads in software spending, accounting for over half of global investment. But what's interesting is that [some of the fastest growth rates are coming from middle-income countries such as Argentina, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Senegal.](#)

Digital innovation is not just transforming industrial innovation, but also the creative economy. Technology, media, culture and content are merging in new and dynamic ways. Video games, now a \$200 billion industry, is a prime example. Developers are using digital worlds to tell stories rooted in their own myths, legends and cultures, but transformed into games that attract global audiences. China's "Black Myth Wukong", Poland's "Witcher" series, France's "Clair Obscur" and Saudi Arabia's "Bahamut" show how digital innovation, creative expression and local heritage are blending in new ways.

Third, the engines of IP, innovation and creativity are increasingly global. Today, seven in 10 IP filings originate from Asia, Africa and Latin America. [According to WIPO Pulse, our global survey of IP opinion, public attitudes toward IP are most positive in these regions as well.](#) And in the creative economy, global music revenues rose fastest in the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America last year.

Countries of all sizes, and at all stages of development, now see innovation, creativity, and IP not as peripheral or technical concerns, but as central to their development, growth and prosperity. This year, we welcome more Ministers than ever to the WIPO Assemblies, many from developing countries, with this a testament to the increasing political interest from all countries to our work. And in my official visits abroad, it is becoming more common to meet heads of States who speak about IP not just as legal rights, but also as business and financial assets, and as a horizontal driver of jobs, investment, business growth and economic development.

Against this backdrop, WIPO's work has also transformed. We have stepped up to make IP not just about registration and protection but also about commercialization and utilization. We have worked to bring IP to the grassroots, by bringing our programs to those innovating and creating on the ground, both in cities and in rural areas. We have put our energies into serving those underserved, like women, youth, SMEs, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, alongside our traditional stakeholders. And we have been laser-focused on making sure that our work is concrete and impactful, giving visible results to communities and real persons, rather than just nice words on paper.

If a picture speaks a thousand words, I think a video can convey a million impressions. So, I would like now to share with you a short video showing some of our work, all over the world, to bring IP into the lives of ordinary citizens.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to bring IP into these lives and to change lives in ways that allow them to meet their hopes and aspirations. Thank you for your partnership in helping to make our collective vision concrete.

In my following report to you on our work over the past year, [I will do so following the four pillars and foundation of WIPO's Medium Term Strategy Plan](#).

### *Pillar 1*

Pillar 1 is about making IP understandable, relatable and visible – demystifying it, so it is not just for experts, but for everyone.

This joyful work continues to bring us into contact with inspiring innovators and creators around the world. [One example we have just seen is Isabella Springmuhl – a fashion designer from Guatemala, and the first designer with Down's syndrome to feature at London Fashion Week](#).

Visiting Guatemala, I met Isabella at her workshop, where she is blending traditional fabrics and handicrafts with modern fashion. Her story was our most-watched video of the year.

Isabella's story is one of a growing library of over 250 videos, designed for different social media channels and platforms. It is a massive shift from before, when our communications mainly focused on fellow IP experts.

As a result of this shift, we now have nearly 600,000 followers across social media, including Instagram and TikTok. These are our fastest growing platforms, and key to our engagement with youth.

[This year's World IP Day was another highlight. Themed around IP and Music, our campaign drew 30 million visits and 60,000 reactions and comments](#), with over 240 countries and territories celebrating IP and Music with us.

We plan on keeping the energy going through another theme that unites and excites us all.

In 2026, a year of the Winter Olympics in Italy, the World Cup in North America, and the first ever Youth Olympics in Africa – in Senegal – I am pleased to announce that next year's theme for World IP Day will be on IP and Sports. We invite you to celebrate this with us.

### *Pillar 2*

Pillar 2 is about WIPO's role as *the* global forum for setting IP standards, discussing IP issues and shaping the future of IP.

2024 was a historic year, marked by the conclusion of two new treaties - [the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources \(GRs\) and Associated Traditional Knowledge \(TK\) in May](#), and [the Riyadh Design Law Treaty in November](#). I am particularly proud that these were achieved by consensus, which has become all too rare in these difficult times for multilateral negotiations.

We thank Member States for their spirit of constructiveness, collaboration and pragmatism that allowed this unprecedented achievement, which has sent a signal that, while multilateral negotiations are difficult, crossing the finishing line together is not impossible here at WIPO.

But WIPO's role goes beyond formal treaty negotiations. Much of our work also revolves around more informal dialogues and forums where we serve as a neutral, professional and inclusive convenor of different groups and communities.

These include discussions on specialized issues like IP Finance, Standard Essential Patents, and Patent Analytics. Other topics are more cross-cutting, like our IP and Women Symposium and WIPO WILD, our new global dialogue for ICT leaders from IP offices.

One topic that continues to dominate discussions is IP and AI. [We are proud to be a truly global forum and that more than 14,000 participants from over 170 countries have joined the WIPO Conversation on IP and Frontier Technologies over the last five years.](#)

To further our work in this area, we will launch a new initiative in December: the AI Infrastructure Interchange, or AI<sup>3</sup>. This will be a forum to exchange ideas and gather partners around digital identifiers and other metadata that are increasingly important to everyone in the creative economy as content becomes digital.

We're also proactively bringing the IP world together to engage with future in a more structured way. [Last week, we released a Pathfinders report that looks at the Future of IP 10 years out from now.](#)

This is a critical exercise as IP offices are highly operational, with not much luxury of time to think too far ahead. I know this personally as someone who used to run a national IP office. And this is actually a very risky state of affairs in our fast-changing innovation landscape. We will help IP offices to build foresight capabilities and create a global foresight community of practice to help us all to think long-term and anticipate change more effectively.

With the shift in the geography of IP activity, we see more innovators, inventors, creators and entrepreneurs from developing countries join the ranks of those from developed countries. Demands from developing countries are therefore converging with those from developed countries.

One place where this has become evident is in IP enforcement. In recent weeks, I have spoken at enforcement events in Africa, Europe and Asia. The themes raised – from digital piracy to stamping out fakes – are common across all of these countries and regions, and the price of IP piracy – loss of jobs, and lives in some cases, and the destruction of local creators and inventors, are raised wherever I go in the world.

WIPO remains fully committed to fighting piracy and counterfeiting. Last year, we launched a new digital campaign on sports piracy. It drew over 60 million views. We also trained nearly 1,500 law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges worldwide.

[Thousands of IP infringing websites were also added to WIPO Alert, our global platform identifying copyright-violating websites.](#) And we're advancing two new tools: WIPO Alert Pay, which targets pirate site financing, and WIPO CRIS, a customs recordation system designed to boost IP enforcement at borders.

Looking ahead, we'll launch a new dialogue on IP Protection in e-commerce later this year. And next year, we'll establish a forum for IP Prosecutors – supporting a global community of practice for prosecutors of IP crime.

Partnerships underpin all this work, and how we deliver impact. We are deepening collaboration within the UN system, which is more important than ever within the context of UN reform and the UN 80 initiatives. This includes our trilateral work with WHO and WTO, collaborations with the ITC on women entrepreneurs and Indigenous Fashion and with the UNFCCC on the Green Technology Book.

Beyond the UN, we work with NGOs and like-minded partners and are pleased to have joined the Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative to help build vaccine manufacturing capabilities in developing countries. We continue to be strong partners with international IP and innovation associations like AUTM, INTA, LESI, FICPI, and more, all here in the house today, to advance the IP agenda globally.

We are also establishing a presence in the World Expo in Osaka, Japan, to bring IP to the millions of visitors at the Expo. All these partnerships expand our reach and ability to deliver meaningful results on the ground as well as to scale our programs.

### *Pillar 3*

Pillar 3 focuses on IP services and data – the engine room of global innovation.

[Economic headwinds have been challenging for all IP offices and for WIPO, but we are happy to show that filings before the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems all grew last year – by 0.5 per cent, 1.2 per cent and 6.8 per cent respectively.](#) Use of WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation Center, also grew by 25 per cent, with much of it driven by an increase in mediation.

WIPO is unique among UN agencies in providing these global IP services to those in the private sector. With hundreds of IP disputes resolved and hundreds of thousands of IP filed through our registries by companies, professionals and individual inventors each year, we have built an ethos of customer service that echoes that of the national IP offices.

We are pleased that many of your companies, inventors and creators are already using our services, but we want to delight them, our customers even more. To drive this, we have established a Future Growth Taskforce to enhance customer service and better market our offerings. It's allowing us to be more strategic and proactive in how we drive growth, while pursuing internal business reforms to make our registries more efficient and more user-friendly.

[One example is the new eMadrid platform,](#) which started not with an IT vision, but with deep consultations with nearly 1,000 customers from all over the world and at different levels of expertise, letting their customer needs drive system redesign.

With the growth in global IP filings, a big part of WIPO's work is also in helping the IP offices of our Member States to serve their customers. IP offices all over the world are under tremendous pressure to digitalize, manage IT costs and reach out to their entire country, rather than just those in capitals.

[This is why WIPO is now helping 94 IP offices use our suite of IP Office Business Solutions for free](#), with around a quarter moving to cloud-based services, including Botswana as the first IP office in Africa to move to the cloud using our free software.

We're also driving regional modernization. Through the ASEAN IP Register, we have helped to unify 10 million IP records of the ASEAN member States into a single, searchable database – a major leap from the old, fragmented system, which has been accessed millions of times. Building on this, we're now exploring work with ARIPO in Africa on a similar platform.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Sound information, data and insights are key to helping you as policymakers and leaders to understand how your innovation and creative ecosystems are doing, and what needs to be done to make them better.

Here, WIPO plays a unique and strategic role. [Our Global Innovation Index, covering over 130 economies, is used extensively by policymakers, thought leaders and researchers in over 90 countries](#). Last year, our special theme was social entrepreneurship, which sparked new exciting partnerships with the Skoll Foundation, the World Economic Forum and the Schwab Foundation.

Pillar 3 also includes our work to address global challenges like climate change and healthcare. Some are new, like the Medical Manufacturing Centre of Excellence. This supports local manufacturing through on-the-ground partnerships with stakeholders. Others are well established, like WIPO Green, [our sustainable tech marketplace, home to more than 140,000 green technologies from over 140 countries, and that is delivering impactful projects in China, Tajikistan and across the Latin American region](#).

#### *Pillar 4*

Pillar 4 is about making IP a catalyst for growth and development *for all countries*.

WIPO's work in this area has evolved in the past few years, guided by three core principles.

First, we look for impact, avoiding "tick box" developmental support that does not deliver concrete results on the ground. This is why, alongside the more traditional seminar/workshop format, we have pioneered a project approach where we mentor a handpicked group of beneficiaries, selected by you, over a 9-to-12-month period, helping them to incorporate IP into their life journey. [Right now, we have delivered close to 90 projects that have transformed the lives of over 2,000 beneficiaries](#).

Second, we don't try to do everything ourselves but find partners who can help us to scale. This means that we actively look for local and community partners who can help us to bring our programs to their members and communities, and when we find these partners, we trust them to deliver our tools, programs and work on our behalf. One example is our work with the CII and FICCI in India, that has allowed us to reach out to thousands of companies in India's huge SME sector.

Third, we don't believe in giving things, but in building capabilities. This is what we mean when we say that WIPO's support isn't about giving handouts – and this is not what countries want, anyway. Rather, this is about building skills, capabilities and confidence, so that what is imparted is sustained and sustainable. One example is our work in Namibia to support women entrepreneurs, which has morphed from a WIPO one-off project into a Ministerial program led by Namibians for Namibians.

As a result of these three new ways of working, I am pleased to report that WIPO's programs, projects and support have reached 400,000 youth, 300,000 women and 200,000 SMEs in the past four years, and in this same period the WIPO Academy has trained 620,000 persons from 190 countries – practically the whole world. We have become the world's largest provider of IP skills, training and capabilities.

Let me share a few highlights.

First, [50,000 SMEs in over 180 countries have used our IP Diagnostics Tool to understand how IP connects to their business and growth strategy](#), raising fundamental IP awareness among business leaders. We are proud the tool is available in nearly 30 languages.

We are also helping businesses to make smarter, more strategic use of IP. SMEs in over 60 countries have benefited from IP Management Clinics, covering everything from AI and agribusiness to MedTech and fashion to design.

Partnerships with SME intermediary organizations are also growing. We now have 100 in operation. [Last month, I signed a new agreement with INPI France and the body of African and Francophone Consular Chambers to reach more SMEs in Francophone Africa](#). This is exactly the kind of focused partnership that helps us to build IP knowledge and skills in very concrete ways in different parts of the world.

And we're not stopping here. Our goal is to reach another 100,000 SMEs over the next two years. To help do that, we're proposing a new initiative: the Global Entrepreneurship Empowerment Program, or GEEP. GEEP is a one-stop shop, aligned with every stage of the business journey – from understanding IP, protecting it, and using it for growth and commercialization. We see GEEP as a global blueprint for business success.

Secondly, nearly 5,000 women entrepreneurs benefited from our training and mentoring programs last year. Some efforts are national – like support for basket weavers in Djibouti or the *Tally* handicraft community in Egypt. Others span regions, like our branding and fashion initiative in the Arab world. We're also building cross-regional connections, linking women from Africa and the Caribbean to share best practices, inspire one another and promote gender equality through IP.

Third, we're empowering the next generation. [Last year, we launched WIPO's first-ever Youth Empowerment Strategy, IP YES!](#) One priority is reaching youth early. That's why we're working to bring IP and innovation into primary and secondary schools, expanding our IP Summer Camps to Antigua and Barbuda, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Jordan.

But IP education must also lead to IP application. For instance, in Zambia and Tanzania, we've helped 100 youth commercialize their inventions. This has led to a dozen patents being granted. This is how we help the next generation not just to imagine the future, but to build it.

Fourth, we're deepening support for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. One example comes from the Pasco region of Peru, a tea-producing area, where we've worked with 15 local Ashaninka communities to register a collective mark. Projects are also active

in Australia for First Nations' businesses in Bushfoods, and Guatemala, where we've begun a new project for 30 Indigenous women weavers.

We're also increasing IP awareness among traditional medicine practitioners through a project in Botswana that draws on a successful pilot in Ethiopia. And we're deepening work for other marginalized groups – including entrepreneurs with intellectual disabilities in Mexico and migrant entrepreneurs in Spain. [Thanks to our Accessible Books Consortium \(ABC\), 1.1 million accessible titles have reached people with print disabilities and visual impairments around the world.](#)

Fifth, Member States are paying a lot more attention to IP commercialization, asking us for support to go beyond IP protection to ensuring that IP translates into jobs, investment, and economic outcomes.

To support inventors and researchers, [our global network of 1,600 Technology and Innovation Support Centers, active in over 90 countries, handled more than 2.2 million requests last year](#), helping to move research breakthroughs into commercial outcomes. Our next stage is to help them to move up the value chain from providing information to being tech transfer offices, using a benchmark that we will soon be launching.

IP commercialization isn't just about industrial innovation, it can also be about heritage products made by local communities and centered around traditional practices.

In countries like Cambodia, Chile, Ghana and Grenada, as well as Kazakhstan, Togo and Vanuatu, we are partnering extensively and intensively with local producers to secure GI or collective mark protection and then combine these more community-based IP with the right mix of trademarks, designs and copyright so that different types of IP come together to help these products to be branded, marketed, packaged and their stories told so that they can enter new markets.

[Our efforts to push for IP to be seen as a financial asset and to move the needle on IP valuation, collateralization and financing is also making steady progress.](#) We have completed a growing series of studies of practices in Member States and have begun to engage with the accounting, valuation and financial communities on this issue. We will need your help in this area, as my sense is that it is still very new to many of the financiers. We are looking for pilot projects with you to make this mainstream.

Sixth, our work for the creative economy and creators is growing, with strong demand coming from both developed and developing countries for WIPO to help grow the creative economy.

To support this, we've developed a new Creative Economy Model to bring more depth and consistency to how we measure the economic contribution of this part of the economy. We have already piloted this project in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago, and hope to reach over 10 countries by year-end.

We are also happy to report that WIPO Connect, our free software for the collective management of copyright and related rights, is now being used by 60 Collective Management Organizations, and more importantly, distributed over 30 million dollars in royalties to creators and performers in developing countries last year. Through WIPO Connect, ECCO, the Caribbean CMO, has just announced over a million dollars in royalties to musicians in places like Dominica, Saint Lucia and St Kitts & Nevis. Many of these musicians are benefitting from royalties for the first time.

This has also been a major year for CLIP or Creators Learn IP, our free, online platform raising creators' awareness of IP, now available in the six UN languages and Portuguese.

We have just named our first group of CLIP Champions, including Solange Cesarovna from Cabo Verde, who are helping to spread the word and extend our reach. We plan to expand the platform beyond music to the visual arts as well.

Finally, beyond programs that target individuals within Member States, our work is also at the national policy level.

We are currently helping over 65 countries with their national IP strategies, which are increasingly being updated or revised in order to align with the new vision of IP which many of you share. This is critical in positioning IP in an entirely different way and is one of the most powerful policy tools for governments to reform their IP system into an innovation ecosystem.

For Least Developed Countries, we have put together the LDC Graduation Support Package, which is our suite of services and support for LDCs that are on the pathway to graduation. We are pleased these are already active in Angola, Laos and Sao Tome and Principe – with new efforts underway in Bangladesh and Nepal. A further 40 LDCs have benefited from legislative advice, and we have developed a graduation toolkit in patent and technology law.

As well as a tool for development, we see IP as a bridge between countries and we always find opportunities to bring Member States together to learn.

Some highlights in this area include the first Heads of IP Office Conference for the 17 OAPI Member States in Yaoundé last year, and the latest Ministerial Meeting on IP for Central America and the Dominican Republic hosted by Guatemala. We're also stepping up support for small island developing States and deepening opportunities for South-South and triangular north-south cooperation.

We want WIPO to be a bridge, and a connector, and these Assemblies are yet another opportunity for us to do this, with so many networking events being organized.

### *Foundation*

Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues,

The foundation of all this work is WIPO's financial and governance strength. Results-based management, strategic planning, robust internal controls, effective governance – these are not mere administrative functions, they are part of the very lifeblood of our organization, essential organs that keep WIPO fit, healthy and ready to serve.

In this regard, I am pleased to report another year of healthy finances. Revenues in 2024 reached 496.7 million CHF, investment gains totaled 73.7 million CHF and we closed the year with a surplus of 140 million CHF. We run a tight ship so that we can serve you without burdening you with substantial contributions.

But strong organizations are not built on financials alone. Culture and people are equally, if not even more critical. That's why we are deepening efforts to align our talent and human resources with our strategic goals. We've accelerated the implementation of our action plan for geographical diversity, launching pilot projects in Botswana, Estonia and Paraguay. I can also share that 60 per cent of colleagues joining us last year were women. We will continue to put our efforts into building a more diverse, open, vibrant, collaborative and results-driven work culture.

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Dear Colleagues, Friends,

In concluding, let me go back to where I started, which is our mission of safeguarding and promoting the human spirit of innovation and creativity, and of supporting the world's innovators and creators.

With your support, we have undertaken, together, a journey of transformation at WIPO and also of the global IP ecosystem to make IP relevant, concrete and visible for all – ensuring that IP is not just for the few, but for the many.

We can be proud that we as the global IP community have touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world, but there are many more who need our help and support to bring their ideas to the market and make their aspirations come alive.

My team and I pledge our full support to you as we continue this journey of transformation together, so that our vision of innovation and creativity working for everyone, everywhere comes alive in the years to come.

Thank you very much for your warm support and I wish you all the best for a successful Assemblies ahead.

Thank you.

#### ITEM 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### GENERAL STATEMENTS

12. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 141 States (including 11 on behalf of groups of States), eight intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and 29 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, European Union, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Eurasian Patent Office, League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), South Centre (CS), Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN), European Commercial Patent Services Group (PatCom), Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights (User Rights Network), Intellectual Property Latin American

School (ELAPI), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIFI), International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Incomindios), International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA), International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC), Maloca *Internationale*, Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (ORIGIN), Third World Network Berhad (TWN), All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA), American Arab Intellectual Property Association (AAIPA), Bahrain Intellectual Property Society (BIPS), Brand Owners Protection Group (Gulf BPG), China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Egyptian Council for Innovation, Creativity and Intellectual Property Protection (ECCIPP), Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA), Emirates Reprographic Rights Management Association (ERRA), Emirates Science Club, German Association for Intellectual Property Law (GRUR), Health and Environment Program (HEP), Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ), Intellectual Property Protection Association (IPPA), Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) and Knowledge Ecology International (KEI).

13. The statements provided under this agenda item are included in the Annex.

#### ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

14. Discussions were based on document [A/66/INF/2](#).

15. Introducing Agenda Item 5, the Legal Counsel recalled that, at the current year's Assemblies, Member States were required to elect officers as follows: one Chair and two Vice-Chairs for the 22 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions, for a total of 66 officer positions. She recalled that all officers, with the exception of those of the Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Unions Executive Committees, were appointed to a two-year term. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Unions Executive Committees served a one-year term. The Legal Counsel recalled that, in accordance with Rule 9(2) of the WIPO General Rules of Procedure, the officers' terms of office would begin following the final meeting of the session during which they were elected and officers would remain in office until terms of office of newly elected officers began. The Legal Counsel was pleased to announce that Member States reached consensus in respect of officers to be elected, adding that the list of nominees was projected on the screen.

16. The Chair thanked the Legal Counsel and proposed the approval of the nominations, which gathered consensus among Member States.

17. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as appears in document [A/66/INF/2](#).

#### ITEM 6 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

18. Discussions were based on document [A/66/3 Rev.2](#).

19. Introducing Agenda Item 6, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document [A/66/3 Rev.2](#) and invited Member States to consider applications for observer status

by one international NGO and 12 national NGOs as listed in paragraph 4 of document A/66/3 Rev.2. The Legal Counsel informed the Member States that in respect of the 12 national NGOs, and in conformity with the principles applicable to national NGOs that were adopted by Member States, the Secretariat held the requisite consultations with the Member State from which the NGO originated prior to the submission of the NGO's request to the WIPO Assemblies. She further informed the Member States that the necessary agreement was received in respect of all 12 national NGO applications concerned.

20. The Delegation of China expressed its disagreement regarding the admission of the Wikimedia Foundation as an observer at WIPO. In the Delegation's view, the Wikimedia Foundation operated projects, including the Wikipedia website, which contained a large amount of content and misinformation that violated the one-China principle. Over the past five years, China repeatedly stated its concerns on that matter at relevant WIPO meetings. The Delegation continued by underlining that the Wikimedia Foundation continued conducting activities just as in the past, showing no interest whatsoever in addressing the issue. Until the Wikimedia Foundation addressed the serious concerns of China, the Delegation of China would oppose the admission of the Wikimedia Foundation as an observer. The Delegation wished to reiterate three main points concerning the application. First, it noted that the activities of WIPO observers must adhere to the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, which was paramount, and even a red line for determining whether an organization met the criteria for observer status. The Wikimedia Foundation's operations undermined the one-China principle, as well as China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ran counter to UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 2758 and WIPO's consistent position on the one-China principle. As a specialized agency of the UN, WIPO should implement strictly the relevant UNGA resolutions and should not accept the Wikimedia Foundation as an observer. Second, it noted that observers must demonstrate a sincere willingness to engage in communication and cooperation. Over the years, China repeatedly expressed its concern regarding issues involving the Wikimedia Foundation to which it always turned a blind eye and took no concrete remedial action. Instead, the Wikimedia Foundation attempted to pass through year after year. According to the Delegation, that showed a lack of sincerity in fulfilling the responsibilities and obligations of an observer. Tolerating such action not only undermined WIPO's authority but also hindered its long-term and healthy development. Third, the Delegation wished to re-emphasize that the decision on the admission of observers was always made by the Member States of WIPO based on consensus and hoped that all parties would continue to follow the consensus based working methods in the spirit of unity and cooperation. The Delegation called on all Member States to adhere to and uphold WIPO's long-standing consensus based working methods to maintain the dynamism and stability of the international intellectual property (IP) governance system.

21. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing document A/66/3 Rev.2 and expressed support for all requests outlined therein. The Delegation stated that it was Group B's understanding, on the basis of paragraph 4 of the document A/66/3 Rev.2, that all requests for observer status received by the Secretariat contained the requisite information necessary to enable the consideration and subsequent granting of observer status. In the view of Group B, the published requests complied with all procedural requirements. The Delegation recalled that organizations listed in Annex 1 and 2 of A/66/3 Rev.2, comprising one international NGO and 12 national NGOs, demonstrated clear relevance to IP matters. Those organizations aligned with WIPO's observer admission principles, as indicated on the WIPO website, which emphasized substantive contributions to IP deliberations. Group B highlighted that observer participation enriched WIPO's policy discussions through technical expertise and regional diversity as evidenced by past sessions. The inclusion of various entities ensured balanced representation across divergent sectors. The Delegation underscored WIPO's long-standing commitment to inclusivity as reflected in the 209 international and 111 national NGOs accredited as observers. The Delegation emphasized that denying observer status without substantive grounds would contradict the spirit of

transparency and inclusiveness. Therefore, Group B respectfully requested the approval of the full list of requests for observer status in document A/66/3 Rev.2 in line with established precedent and procedural fairness.

22. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported the approval of observer status for the Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency (KOIPA). The Delegation believed that the participation of KOIPA as an observer would contribute positively to the work of WIPO by bringing diverse expertise and perspectives, especially in the area of IP enforcement and protection, to the discussions. As a public institution, KOIPA played a key role in safeguarding IP rights and combating infringement at both domestic and international levels. The Delegation observed that KOIPA's experiences and best practices could serve as valuable input to WIPO's ongoing efforts to enhance the global IP protection system. In that regard, the Delegation would welcome KOIPA's engagement in WIPO's work and expressed support for its application for observer status.

23. The Delegation of Cuba supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of China. The Delegation underscored the importance of adopting by consensus the decision on admission of observers and respecting that principle within WIPO.

24. The Delegation of the United States of America concurred with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B. The Delegation supported the approval of the full list of observer applications in document A/66/3 Rev.2. The Delegation regretted that, for another year, China objected to admitting the Wikimedia Foundation as a WIPO observer. The Delegation recalled that China continued to claim that Wikimedia's participation was inconsistent with the so-called one-China principle, which referred specifically to Beijing's position that Taiwan was part of China. The Delegation stressed that countries and private organizations around the world made their own decisions regarding interactions with Taiwan. The Delegation pointed out that one Member State's position cannot be the basis for excluding an NGO, especially one with expertise directly relevant to WIPO's work. The Delegation stated that it was another case of China trying to intimidate and punish any entity that chose to engage with Taiwan. According to the Delegation, China's position was deeply unfortunate because observers were critical to the work of WIPO Committees and the WIPO Assemblies. Observers contributed significantly to debates through wide-ranging and informed views and their engagement improved the discussions in the WIPO Assemblies and helped advance WIPO's activities and objectives. In particular, the Wikimedia Foundation's work aimed to provide the infrastructure to disseminate free knowledge worldwide. Along with Wikimedia country chapters, the Wikimedia Foundation demonstrated an interest in copyright issues, a subject with direct relevance to WIPO's work. It was clear for the Delegation that the Wikimedia Foundation had a legitimate interest in gaining observer status at WIPO. The Delegation concluded that Wikimedia's application should be decided on its merits and on what it could conceivably contribute to discussions on IP issues in the WIPO Assemblies. The Delegation observed that Wikimedia's application was strong and should therefore not be denied observer status because one Member State chose to politicize that agenda item. The Delegation urged the approval of all organizations listed in document A/66/3 Rev.2.

25. The Delegation of Belarus noted the concerns raised by the Delegation of China on the admission of the Wikimedia Foundation as an observer. The Delegation pointed out that it was not logical to provide observer status to an organization to which Member States found substantiated objections. The Delegation stressed that organizations applying for observer status should be committed to goodwill-based cooperation with WIPO and constructive contributions to the work. The Delegation supported the preservation of the policy of consensus-based decisions including on the admission of observers.

26. The Delegation of Algeria took note of the concerns expressed by the Delegation of China. The Delegation recognized the pivotal role of observers in enriching the deliberations

within UN specialized agencies, including at WIPO. However, it underscored the importance of upholding the principle of consensus in matters relating to the admission of observers.

27. The Delegation of Nicaragua reiterated that WIPO's activities must be restricted to the promotion, protection, and the use of IP as a tool for socio-economic development. Nicaragua rejected the request for the admission of Wikimedia Foundation as an observer to WIPO because Wikimedia disseminated misinformation against China and undermined the one-China principle, which undermines Chinese sovereignty. Therefore, the Delegation did not believe that the Wikimedia Foundation met the criteria for becoming a WIPO observer. The Wikimedia Foundation contradicted UNGA resolutions that recognized the one-China principle, and the Delegation noted that WIPO must align itself with those UNGA resolutions. The Delegation underscored its support for the one-China principle and for the Peoples's Republic of China. The Delegation supported the statement by the Delegation of China rejecting the admission as observer of the Wikimedia Foundation. Finally, the Delegation believed that the procedures for the admission of observers should be respected, and the decision must be taken by consensus by Member States.

28. The Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported the position of China in rejecting the request of the Wikimedia Foundation for observer status as inconsistent with the one-China principle. The Delegation stressed the importance of respecting the principle of consensus on that matter and reiterated its opposition for the request from the Wikimedia Foundation.

29. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recalled that decisions on the admission of observers in the WIPO Assemblies was always made by consensus of all Member States of WIPO. The Delegation urged respect for WIPO's longstanding tradition of decision-making based on consensus and in the spirit of unity and cooperation. The Delegation reaffirmed its support for the one-China principle and insisted that the Wikimedia Foundation was not in compliance with UNGA resolution 2758 and thus was not qualified to participate in the WIPO Assemblies.

30. The Delegation of Pakistan thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/66/3 Rev.2. It emphasized the importance of admission of responsible observers as an important endeavor for the functioning of WIPO. The interactions of observers at the WIPO Assemblies and at Unions administered by WIPO enabled important support functions and guided Member States in assessing the progress and priorities of WIPO's work. The Delegation believed that a prerequisite for admission of observers was the acknowledgement and respect for globally recognized principles. In the view of the Delegation, an aspirant for observer status espousing partisan concepts and misinformation was a definitive cause for concern over its credentials. The Delegation expressed support for taking decisions by consensus on the matter of admission of observers. The Delegation seconded the position expressed by other delegations on the inability to accept the admission of the Wikimedia Foundation as an observer at WIPO.

31. The Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the statement made by the Delegation of China emphasizing that any observers' participation must be based on the rules. The admission of observers whose activities aimed at undermining the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Member States would be counterproductive and would contradict the original goals of observer participation in the work of WIPO. The Delegation noted that at WIPO, decisions on the admission of observers had always been taken by consensus, and that the practice of granting observer status to organizations regarding which certain Member States had doubts or objections did not exist. The Delegation hoped to see the continuation of those longstanding WIPO traditions based on the spirit of cooperation and professionalism.

32. The Delegation of the United Kingdom supported the statement made by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/66/3 Rev.2. The Delegation emphasized that observers were important for the activities of WIPO, enriching conversations and discussions and bringing valuable contributions across all committees and bodies. The Delegation believed that all applications should be considered on their individual merit and that all organizations listed in the document complied with WIPO rules to join as observers. Wikimedia had a legitimate interest in joining as a WIPO observer. The Delegation was disappointed to hear opposition to Wikimedia's admission for another year preventing consensus. The Delegation urged approval of the full list of organizations as listed in A/66/3 Rev.2.

33. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted the concerns raised by the Delegation of China. While the contribution of observers was always welcomed and important, the Delegation reaffirmed that the established principles of consensus decision-making consistently remained a priority for WIPO and were highly valued by WIPO Member States.

34. The Delegation of France thanked the Chair and extended congratulations on his election. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of Group B and thanked the Secretariat for preparing document A/66/3 Rev.2. The Delegation supported granting observer status to all NGOs that requested it. The Delegation endorsed, in particular, the request for observer status by the Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers of Music (SACEM), which played an important role in copyright and provided essential services to authors. The Delegation noted that it always advocated for the involvement and engagement of civil society in multilateral organizations. Lastly, the Delegation endorsed the admission of the Wikimedia Foundation, which worked in favor of free sharing of knowledge.

35. The Delegation of Canada expressed support for the practical inclusion and participation of NGOs in relevant discussions in UN agencies such as WIPO. The Delegation believed that observers enriched conversations at WIPO and noted the importance of amplified voices in UN agencies beyond those of Member States given WIPO's impact on end users of the international IP system. The Delegation did not support the singling out of NGOs that demonstrated, and clearly stated, interest in WIPO's work. It expressed that the full slate of NGOs seeking admission as observers should be welcomed in their entirety.

36. The Delegation of Switzerland thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/66/3 Rev.2. The Delegation associated itself with the statement delivered on behalf of Group B, and the statements made by the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France and Canada, and supported all applications for observer status contained in the document. It also reminded Member States that the Wikimedia Foundation had been waiting for acceptance since 2020. The Delegation noted that the aim of the Wikimedia Foundation was the promotion of educational content around the world and highlighted Wikimedia's direct connection to IP matters. The Delegation believed that the Wikimedia Foundation could make a significant contribution to the work of WIPO. Therefore, the Delegation supported the application for observer status from the Wikimedia Foundation, and indeed all the requests, and requested Member State approval of the applications.

37. The Delegation of China thanked those Member States that supported its position. It noted that some Member States supported the application of the Wikimedia Foundation and that their statements might sound high-minded but were fundamentally unfounded. First, the Delegation reiterated that respecting due process was a fundamental prerequisite for reviewing observer applications and that the authority to grant observer status was vested only in the WIPO Assemblies, as stipulated in the WIPO Convention. While the Secretariat could only conduct a formal review of applications, the WIPO Assemblies made substantive decisions in this matter, following a consensus-based approach, which meant that as long as one Member State objected, the applicant in question could not become an observer. Second, the

Delegation noted that following rules was a fundamental requirement for observer status. The Delegation stated that WIPO, as a UN specialized agency, must observe the UN Charter and the principles of international law, including UNGA resolutions. By blatantly violating UNGA resolution 2758, the Wikimedia Foundation was clearly unqualified. The Delegation observed that Member States that encouraged violations of law were politicizing discussions and tolerating distortions of international law, which, in turn, undermined the foundations of the global IP system. Third, the Delegation noted that the primary purpose of admitting observers was to serve WIPO's work. China consistently supported various organizations participating in WIPO's work and encouraged them to contribute to international IP cooperation. However, allowing an organization that undermined a Member State's sovereignty and territorial integrity to become an observer would clearly disrupt WIPO's work and damage the atmosphere of cooperation. That was completely contrary to the purpose of admitting observers and, if such a wrong practice was left unchecked and became widespread, any country could suffer from it and WIPO's authority and credibility would be weakened. Over the past five years, China repeatedly stated its position on that issue. The Delegation advised that the Wikimedia Foundation should correct its course and not force its way forward. Finally, the Delegation wished to respond to the statement of the Delegation of the United States of America. The Delegation highlighted that the Taiwan Question was purely China's domestic affair that tolerated no foreign interference and that the United States of America had no right to make arbitrary comments. The Delegation recalled that the United States of America accused China of threatening other countries and organizations. The Delegation noted that those were unfounded accusations, and the international community saw clearly that the United States of America, rather than China, used tariffs to coerce, or threaten other countries, or unilaterally launched military attacks against another country.

38. The Chair thanked all delegations for their statements and acknowledged the consensus on all of the requests for admission as observers except for the Wikimedia Foundation. The Chair therefore proposed to adopt a decision paragraph as contained in document A/66/3 Rev.2, except for the request by the Wikimedia Foundation.

39. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following national non-governmental organizations:

- (i) Association of Technology, Education, Development, Research, and Communication (TEDIC);
- (ii) Chamber for the Protection of Copyright of Artists, Creators and Performers (SIIP);
- (iii) Copyright Society of China (CSC);
- (iv) Emirates Publishers Association (EPA);
- (v) INDICAM for the Protection of Intellectual Property (INDICAM);
- (vi) InfoCons Association;
- (vii) International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA);
- (viii) Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency (KOIPA);
- (ix) National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce (NPRCC);
- (x) News/Media Alliance (N/MA);
- (xi) Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers of Music (SACEM); and
- (xii) United States Council for International Business (USCIB).

## ITEM 7 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 2026

40. Discussions were based on document [A/66/4](#).

41. Introducing Agenda Item 7 on the appointment of the Director General in 2026, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/66/4. She recalled that the term of office of the Director General expires on September 30, 2026. The Legal Counsel noted that the working document recalled the constitutional provisions concerning the nomination and appointment of Directors General of WIPO, and the procedures related thereto adopted by the WIPO General Assembly in 1998 and amended in 2019.

42. The Legal Counsel described the timeline for the implementation of the procedural steps contained in the document A/66/4, which included: July 24, 2025, the dispatch of the circular inviting proposals for candidates; October 24, 2025, the deadline for submission of candidatures; February 12 and 13, 2026, the convening of an extraordinary session of the Coordination Committee to nominate a candidate for appointment to the post of Director General; April 21, 2026, the extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly to appoint the Director General, and October 1, 2026, the start of the term of office of the next Director General.

43. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), took note of the information contained in document A/66/4 and expressed its readiness to support the process for the appointment of the Director General of WIPO in 2026. The Delegation appreciated the transparency and clarity of the proposed timeline and procedures as presented by the Secretariat and highlighted that it stood ready to engage constructively in all upcoming stages of the process. The Delegation believed that the selection of the Director General was among the most consequential decisions taken by the Organization. Leadership at WIPO must inspire confidence across its diverse membership, respond to the evolving needs of the global IP landscape and uphold the Organization's core values of inclusivity, equity and IP development. Therefore, it was essential that the process reflected not only competence but also balance and fairness in representation. The Delegation wished to take the opportunity to express sincere appreciation to the Director General for his visionary and collaborative leadership. The Delegation highlighted that his tenure was marked by efforts to strengthen responsiveness to Member State needs and advance development in the global IP ecosystem. As WIPO prepared for the appointment process, the APG reaffirmed its commitment to engage constructively and to continue cooperation with all regional groups.

44. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), thanked the Secretariat for having prepared document A/66/4 that gave a clear picture of the relevant steps that needed to be taken and the schedule proposed for the nomination and appointment of the WIPO Director General in 2026. The Delegation expressed its agreement with the suggestions made in the document and noted the schedule proposed for implementation. GRULAC valued the work of the Director General of WIPO and the initiatives taken that helped all members to strengthen their IP systems. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to an inclusive, transparent process in line with WIPO rules.

45. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for preparing document A/66/4 and for introducing the appointment of the Director General in 2026. The Delegation hoped that, thanks to the concerted efforts of all Member States and the Secretariat, and by observing the relevant procedures, the Organization would be able to select a future Director General who would earn the recognition of all Member States. The Delegation further hoped that the future Director

General would lead the Organization forward despite all the challenges and would continue to promote the multilateral IP system in a more inclusive, transparent and balanced direction.

46. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia paid tribute to the visionary leadership of the Director General, as demonstrated throughout his time in office, during which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia saw considerable progress in innovation and creativity development. The initiatives and support of WIPO helped to respond to existing challenges and assisted in making IP systems more responsive to technological and other challenges. As the date for the nomination and appointment of a new Director General was coming up soon in 2026, the Delegation hoped to pursue constructive cooperation with WIPO and all Member States, maintaining the momentum already built, either through continuing the current leadership or selecting another competent and skilled individual capable of carrying the policy forward. The Delegation affirmed that WIPO was one of the essential drivers of IP development around the world and met the expectations of its Member States.

47. The Delegation of Thailand thanked the Secretariat for the information provided and reaffirmed its support for an open and transparent process, as noted by the Delegation of Pakistan. The Delegation wished to express its appreciation for the work of the Director General, who showed dedicated leadership in promoting an inclusive IP system. Thailand remained committed to working with all delegations to support a smooth and consensus-based process in the best interest of WIPO.

48. The Chair thanked the delegations that took the floor. Seeing no other requests for the floor, he proposed the following decision paragraph as contained in the working document A/66/4.

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

- (i) took note of the circular set out in Annex II of document A/66/4, to be dispatched as indicated in paragraph 7 of that document;
- (ii) approved the convening of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly on April 21, 2026;
- (iii) approved the timeline of procedural steps set out in paragraph 7 of document A/66/4.

## ITEM 8 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

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

50. Discussions were based on document [A/66/5](#).

51. In the absence of the Chair of the WIPO Conference, Mr. Abdulaziz Alswailem (Saudi Arabia), the Vice-Chair, Ms. Ainna Vilengi Kaundu (Namibia) presided over the meeting (hereinafter referred to as “the Chair”). She opened the agenda item, noting that it had been deferred, rather than opened, the previous week, as the Secretariat had not received all nominations for election to these bodies.

52. The Chair informed delegations that following informal consultations, consensus had now been reached on the States to be elected as members of the Coordination Committee. She invited the Legal Counsel to briefly introduce the document under consideration as prepared by the Secretariat.

53. Introducing Agenda Item 8, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/66/5. She recalled that the membership of the Coordination Committee was established once every two years, at the ordinary session of the Assemblies of WIPO, and consisted of members of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions; *ad hoc* members designated by the WIPO Conference, that is, States that were party to the WIPO Convention but not members of the Paris or Berne Unions; and Switzerland, as the host State, as an *ex-officio* member. The Legal Counsel announced that the terms of office of the present members of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions and the Coordination Committee expired in the current year. Therefore, new members were to be elected during the present Assemblies to serve until the close of the next ordinary session of the Assemblies.

54. The Legal Counsel recalled that, as explained in the working document, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was to consist of 90 members, an increase above the current membership of 83. However, in the absence of agreement on how best to allocate the seven additional seats of the Coordination Committee, consensus among Member States was that the Coordination Committee should remain exceptionally at 83 members. If approved by the WIPO Conference, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly, the Coordination Committee would consist, for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions and of the WIPO Conference in 2027, of the 41 countries elected for membership in the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, 40 countries elected for membership in the Executive Committee of the Berne Union, one *ad hoc* member designated by the Conference, and the host State as an *ex-officio* member. The Legal Counsel announced that an informal document had been provided to Member States listing the 83 members proposed for the Coordination Committee.

55. The Legal Counsel noted that the proposed decision paragraph for the agenda item included language stating that the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions and the WIPO Conference, each insofar as it is concerned, decided, per unanimous agreement by all Member States of WIPO, that the Coordination Committee as exceptionally composed at 83 members was properly constituted, including, in particular, in view of its functions with respect to the process of appointment of the next Director General and should not be the basis for any challenge, by any State member of any pertinent WIPO body, to the validity of the nomination by the Coordination Committee of a candidate for appointment to the position of Director General in 2026.

56. The Legal Counsel recalled for delegations that the paragraph was likewise included in the decision adopted on the last occasion of the composition of the Coordination Committee in the year preceding the appointment of the Director General in 2019. At that time, a similar situation arose concerning the exceptional 83-member composition of the Coordination Committee - regarding which the Legal Counsel referred delegations to document A/59/14, paragraph 96 - notwithstanding the treaty provisions calling for a larger membership. Therefore, as in 2019, it was proposed to include the above-mentioned paragraph to confirm that the 83-member composition of the Coordination Committee could not serve as a basis to challenge the nomination process for the appointment of Director General in 2026.

57. The Legal Counsel noted that the proposed decision text also reflected standard language pursuant to which the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly would undertake consultations on the allocation of the vacant seats for the election of the composition of the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions at the WIPO Assemblies in 2027. Finally, the proposed decision included text specifying the bodies of which the countries concerned were members, in relation to the statements it contained. Such text, which resulted from informal consultations, was consistent with that adopted under agenda item 9 on the composition of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC).

58. The Chair thanked the Legal Counsel as well as the Group Coordinators and delegations for their active engagement in the consultations held during the current Assemblies. She stated that, while there was no consensus on the complete 90-member composition of the Coordination Committee, consensus was reached on 83 nominations. She therefore proposed that delegations proceed with the election, exceptionally, of these 83 members. The Chair stated that as the Legal Counsel just mentioned, the proposed decision paragraph was shared informally with Member States and, in her understanding, it was acceptable to all.

59. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the APG, wished to place its statement on record. APG appreciated the Secretariat's preparation of document A/66/5 on the composition of the Coordination Committee. The Group wished to reiterate the position expressed in the joint proposal of the APG and the African Group, as contained in document A/64/9, originally submitted in 2021 and reaffirmed during subsequent meetings. APG believed that the current allocation of seats in the Coordination Committee was neither fairly proportioned, nor truly representative of the geographical reality of WIPO's membership. APG supported a fair and equitable allocation of the vacancies in the WIPO Coordination Committee on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The principle of equitable geographical distribution was enshrined in Article 14(4) of the Paris Convention and Article 23 of the Berne Convention. The Group believed that this principle must guide the allocation of the new vacancies to correct the existing imbalances in groups' representation in the Coordination Committee. It also wished to recall that the growth in the Coordination Committee membership resulted from new accessions predominantly from the APG and the African Group, with the APG alone accounting for 16 of the 24 accessions to the Paris and Berne Conventions since 2011. APG believed that this trend clearly reflected the evolving reality of WIPO's membership and must be adequately mirrored in its governance structures. APG respected the diversity of views, adding that the Group was of the view that limiting seat allocation to economic metrics undermined the foundational principles of multilateralism that were inclusivity, balance, fairness, and Member States solidarity. WIPO was a UN) specialized agency, and its governance structures must reflect the diversity of its membership, not merely their economic weight. Equitable geographical representation in WIPO's key decision-making bodies was vital to ensure the legitimacy of the decisions made in the organizational bodies and long-term sustainability of the Organization's policies. All regional groups must have a meaningful voice in shaping WIPO's direction and guiding its future work. In conclusion, APG called for a constructive and consensus-based decision during the session, one that ensured the new Coordination Committee composition truly embodied the principle of equitable geographical distribution and corrected historical imbalances in the representation.

60. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, took note of the proposed decision paragraphs for the composition of the Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and the Berne Unions. The Group appreciated the effort made by the Chair to facilitate consensus on the agenda item and affirmed the importance of safeguarding consensus in multilateralism. In the spirit of flexibility, the African Group viewed this decision as a compromise reached under exceptional circumstances, and not the norm, given its implications for consensus and the precedent it would set.

61. The Chair thanked the Delegation of Namibia and gave the floor to the Delegation of Japan. She also reminded the delegations that she would open the floor on the agenda item after the decision, assuring them they would have the opportunity to comment.

62. Speaking on behalf of Group B, the Delegation of Japan thanked the Secretariat for preparing document A/66/5 on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions. While Group B acknowledged geographical representation as one criterion to be considered in determining the allocation of new seats, it wished to reiterate that geographical balance must be complemented by recognition of material contributions to the international intellectual property (IP) system,

including the number of IP filings and registrations. In that regard, stakeholders from Group B countries were making fundamental and critical contributions to the smooth functioning of WIPO's services and activities. The proposed allocation of 44 seats per Executive Committee and the inclusion of non-Union *ad hoc* members should not dilute the voice of major stakeholders driving the IP ecosystem. Group B concluded by expressing its readiness to continue contributing to discussions on the matter.

63. The Chair thanked the Delegation of Japan and, unless there were any objections, requested the Secretariat to project the following decision paragraph on the screen.

64. Following informal consultations among Member States,

(i) The Paris Union Assembly elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Paris Union Executive Committee*: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Zambia (41).

(ii) The Berne Union Assembly elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*: Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Colombia (2026), Congo, Cuba, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay (2027) (40).

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

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

As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions and of the WIPO Conference that will meet in 2027, is composed of the following States:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia (2026), Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia (*ad hoc*), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay (2027), Zambia (83).

65. The Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, and the WIPO Conference, each in so far as it is concerned, decided, per unanimous agreement by all Member States of WIPO, that the Coordination Committee, as exceptionally composed at 83 members, has been properly constituted, including, in particular, in view of its functions with respect to the process of appointment of the next Director General, and shall not be the basis for challenge, by any State Member of any pertinent WIPO body, to the validity of the nomination by the Coordination Committee of a candidate for appointment to the position of Director General in 2026.
66. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as 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 2027, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Paris and Berne Unions Executive Committees, at the same WIPO Assemblies.
67. Ukraine expressed its opposition to the nomination of the Russian Federation as an ordinary member of the Berne Union Executive Committee and as a member of the Coordination Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027.
68. The Russian Federation expressed its opposition to the nomination of Ukraine as an ordinary member of the Paris Union Executive Committee and as a member of the Coordination Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027.
69. Seeing no objection, the Chair declared the decision paragraph adopted and opened the floor for those delegations that wished to put their statements on the record.
70. The Delegation of Estonia took the floor on behalf of the following members of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The Delegation stated that those CEBS Group members strongly disassociated themselves from the election of the Russian Federation as a member of the Coordination Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the Assemblies in 2027, as a State systematically violating norms and principles of international law in the most severe form had no right to participate in the strategic decision-making of the Organization. Therefore, while the Russian Federation was continuing its military aggression against Ukraine, it could not serve as an example of a responsible partner in WIPO, and business as usual with the Russian Federation in the Coordination Committee was not an option for rule-abiding countries. Those CEBS Group members reiterated their demand to the Russian Federation to immediately end the war of aggression against Ukraine, reaffirming UN resolutions condemning the attempted annexation of Ukraine's territory. No territorial acquisition resulting from the Russian Federation's armed invasion of Ukraine and the threat or use of force should be recognized as legal.
71. The Delegation of Denmark delivered its statement on behalf of the following member States of the European Union and other States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, as well as Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom. The States mentioned fully supported Ukraine and disassociated themselves from the election of the Russian Federation as a member of the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the Assemblies in 2027.

72. The Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of members of the CEBS Group and the statement delivered by the Delegation of Denmark on behalf of the States mentioned. The Delegation also thanked Member States for their continued support to, and solidarity with, Ukraine. The Delegation wished to place on record that it strongly disassociated itself from the decision to elect the Russian Federation as an ordinary member of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union and as a member of the Coordination Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the Assemblies in 2027. The Delegation pointed out that, as noted by it on numerous occasions and under agenda item 9, the ongoing war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine continued to inflict profound human, cultural and institutional damages, including to its IP system. The Coordination Committee played a vital role in WIPO's institutional governance, particularly through its mandate to nominate candidates for the position of Director General and other high-level appointments and to ensure the proper functioning of the Organization's leadership processes. The Delegation remained convinced that allowing the Russian Federation to persistently violate international law, systematically misuse multilateral platforms, and sit on committees posed a direct threat to the credibility and neutrality of WIPO's governing procedures. The Delegation once again urged all Member States to ensure that the values and principles of the Organization were upheld and not undermined by the actions or presence of an aggressor State.

73. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia thanked the Member States for electing Saudi Arabia as a member of the Coordination Committee and of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for the efforts made to renew the composition of the main bodies and to ensure effective and full participation of Member States and geographic representation through rotation, thereby upholding this principle within these bodies. The Delegation welcomed the opportunity to actively take part in these bodies to help implement the Organization's strategic objectives. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to work with all partners in WIPO to promote the IP system internationally and regionally, as well as to implement systems to protect IP rights.

74. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that based on the principle of reciprocity, it objected to the nomination of Ukraine as a member of the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, as indicated in the decision paragraph. Furthermore, considering the statements made by a number of previous delegations, the Russian Federation disassociated itself from the consensus on the nomination of candidates from among the countries of the CEBS Group and the European Union that disassociated themselves from the decision to elect the Russian Federation.

75. Seeing no further requests for the floor, the Chair declared Agenda Item 8 closed.

#### ITEM 9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

76. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

#### ITEM 10 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

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

77. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14.).

(ii) Report by the External Auditor

78. Discussions were based on documents [A/66/6](#) and [A/66/7](#).

79. The Chair welcomed the External Auditor's representative, Dr. Bahtiar Arif, Director General of Audit VIII and International Organization, Auditor in Charge, Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan (BPK)), who delivered the following report:

"Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Members of the Assemblies, Assistant Director General of WIPO, the management, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. It is an honour for me to present the audit results of the WIPO for the year 2024 at the esteemed Assemblies, representing the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan or BPK, as the Auditor in Charge of the WIPO audits.

"As the External Auditor, we uphold our mandate to provide you with a comprehensive report covering: the financial and performance audit for the year 2024 and the implementation status of past audit recommendations.

"Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia remains steadfast in our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality assurance services, consistently upholding the principles of independence, integrity, and objectivity throughout every stage of our audit processes.

"Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, based on the audit that we have conducted, in our opinion, the 2024 Financial Statements of WIPO were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and financial transactions comply with WIPO's Financial Regulations and Rules.

"While asserting the soundness of WIPO's financial management, the financial audit report highlights three strategic recommendations aimed at enhancing institutional governance, which we believe will further strengthen the WIPO financial management without compromising the integrity and the fairness of the Financial Statements.

"Mr. Chair, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, firstly, we strongly advocate for the WIPO to strengthening the Organization's consolidated financial reporting by optimizing its Administrative Integrated Management System (AIMS), replacing the current manual consolidation. This will not only enhance the WIPO internal controls but also greatly improve the accuracy and efficiency of WIPO's financial reporting.

"Secondly, we recommend a comprehensive refinement of the WIPO accounting policy regarding Madrid System Fees, to address the treatment of accounts related to the Madrid fee payment structure and to improve clarity and consistency of its financial reporting.

"Thirdly, I would like to recognize the WIPO administrative challenge posed by unresolved Trademark Deposits as these payments accumulate. To effectively address this matter, we recommend that WIPO consider establishing a dedicated system for managing the backlog or ensure that relevant functionalities are integrated into the forthcoming Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) framework.

"Mr. Chair, Distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, with regards to the performance audit - we focused on Pillar 1 and 2 of WIPO's Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2022–2026 (Pillar 1, "reaching out worldwide to explain the potential for intellectual property to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere," and Pillar 2, "bringing people

together and partner with stakeholders to shape the future of the global intellectual property ecosystem”).

“The objective of the performance audit was to assess the effectiveness of the planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities to achieve Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 goals. The audit concluded that the planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities were managed effectively throughout the audit period.

The audit also provided three recommendations for potential improvement.

“Firstly, we recommend that the Organization develop formalized Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for coordinating meetings and evaluate the key performance indicators (KPIs). The formalized SOP would enhance operational consistency, optimize procedural efficiency and establish ambitious guidelines for further event coordination while the improved KPIs would enhance the monitoring and evaluation process of the WIPO performance.

“Secondly, the use of advanced tools, such as machine translation for publications and the “WePerform” application, has the potential to enhance accessibility and strengthen WIPO’s multilingual communication initiatives significantly.

“Lastly, we highlight enhancing the survey process could lead to enriched stakeholder feedback and facilitate service improvements while enabling a more thorough evaluation of KPIs.

“By embracing these recommendations, the Organization can reinforce its commitment to excellence and amplify its impact on the global intellectual property landscape.

“Mr. Chair, Distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, as of March 2025, WIPO has made commendable progress by implementing 91 per cent of the audit recommendations issued between 2018 and 2023, reflecting a firm commitment to enhancing governance and management practices.

“Regarding the recommendations currently in progress for the Estate Strategy, Management has informed us that an Estate Strategy was presented during the 38th session of the PBC to address two specific audit recommendations.

“While we appreciate this proactive step, it is essential to note that this information was conveyed after the issuance of the audit report.

“Consequently, it has not yet been subject to our review. A comprehensive assessment of these actions will be incorporated into our upcoming audit report.

“Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the outstanding professionalism and expertise of WIPO Management, whose support and collaboration have been instrumental in the successful completion of this audit. I would also like to thank the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), my colleagues who are also present here for supporting us to accomplish our audit service.

“On behalf of the BPK, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Assemblies for the privilege of supporting WIPO in its pursuit of transparency, accountability, and good governance. It is a distinct honor to contribute to the Organization’s ongoing endeavors to achieve its strategic objectives.

“Furthermore, I also wish to acknowledge, with appreciation, the previous External Auditor, the United Kingdom’s National Audit Office, for their collaborative spirit and constructive engagement in facilitating a smooth and effective transition.

Thank you.”

80. The Chair thanked the External Auditor for the report.

81. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its gratitude to the External Auditor for the comprehensive report on the 2024 WIPO Financial Statements, as well as for the audit work undertaken in 2024. The Group stated that it attached great importance to the report, which it analyzed carefully, and appreciated its detailed assessment of both financial and performance aspects of WIPO’s operations. Group B acknowledged the External Auditor’s assessment that the Financial Statements were presented fairly in all material respects in accordance with IPSAS. The Group also thanked the External Auditor for the professional insights and expressed appreciation for the constructive approach applied in the assessment. The Group encouraged the Organization to continue implementing the External Auditor’s recommendations arising from the 2024 audit and looked forward to receiving updates on the progress of implementation in future reports. Regarding other substantive comments, Group B recalled its statement at the thirty-ninth session of the PBC.

82. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, extended its gratitude to the External Auditor for the detailed report, which presented the findings and recommendations in a very clear and concise manner. The CEBS Group noted that the External Auditor’s report indicated that the Organization’s performance had improved significantly in 2024 with a notable surplus increase despite the continued geo-economic and geopolitical challenges. The Group expressed that it was pleased to hear that the Organization’s internal controls were overall sound and effective. Regarding substantive comments, the Group recalled its statements delivered during the thirty-ninth session of the PBC where, among other matters, it emphasized the importance of taking steps to implement the following recommendations issued by the External Auditor: improving the optimization of financial reporting; assessing the current KPIs and formulating them at the outcome level; developing a unified SOP that incorporated best practices and harmonized processes for event coordination; expanding the use of machine translation to all publications that meet the criteria outlined in the translation strategy.

83. The Delegation of the United States of America supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and thanked the External Auditor for the report contained in document WO/PBC/39/4. The United States of America acknowledged WIPO’s progress in closing previous recommendations and noted that 91.2 per cent of outstanding recommendations were closed. The United States of America encouraged WIPO to prioritize the noted issues with financial statements rollup, the consolidated trial balance generation feature in WIPO’s AIMS financial system and the reconciliation in the general ledger. The Delegation noted that the system challenges were centered around the manual entry and reconciliation as well as related internal control risks of unauthorized or unintentional modifications. The Delegation noted that WIPO’s management agreed with all audit recommendations and encouraged the Organization to provide a report prior to the close of the audit year on progress and timelines.

84. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the “Report by the External Auditor” (document A/66/6).

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

85. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

## ITEM 11 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

86. Discussions were based on document [A/66/7](#) and [A/66/9](#).

87. Opening Agenda Item 11, the Chair thanked the outgoing Chair and Vice-Chairs of the PBC for their work at the last two sessions, and he congratulated the incoming Chair and Vice-Chairs on their elections and thanked them for their engagement and interest. He then invited the Controller and the PBC Secretariat to make a brief introduction.

88. The Secretariat stated that two sessions of the PBC were held in May and June 2025, respectively. The agendas of the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions covered numerous items, including audit and oversight matters, performance and financial review, planning and budgeting, items following the 2024 PBC session and Assemblies of WIPO Member States, a proposal, and the election of officers for the 2026-2027 PBC sessions. Member States were engaged intensively throughout both recent sessions and took note of, or recommended for approval by the Assemblies, a number of items as listed in document A/66/7. The decisions included recommendations to the Assemblies for the approval of WIPO's Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2024 in document WO/PBC/39/6, and Financing Plan to Restore the Coverage of Long-Term Employee Benefits at WIPO in document WO/PBC/39/9. The PBC also requested the Secretariat to prepare Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices and present them for consideration at the fortieth session. The PBC's list of decisions also included recommendations to the Assemblies to take note of WIPO's positive performance in 2024, as contained in the WIPO Performance Report 2024 in document WO/PBC/38/3 Rev., and the reports by the Audit and Oversight bodies. The Secretariat stated that the PBC reviewed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27 at its thirty-eighth session and identified two outstanding issues for further consideration at the thirty-ninth session. At the thirty-ninth session, the PBC reached consensus on the two outstanding issues and decided to refer three other outstanding issues to the sixty-sixth series of meetings of the WIPO Assemblies. The Secretariat stated that document A/66/INF/4 provided an update on the status of payment of contributions as of June 30, 2025, and noted that, since July 1, 2025, a contribution was received from Nepal, thereby reducing arrears to approximately 10.2 million Swiss francs.

89. The Chair noted that the PBC took decisions and made clear recommendations on all items except one, the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27 (see document A/66/9). He assumed that the Assemblies agreed with all other recommendations and stated that he did not intend to revisit those agreed items. He appreciated the engagement by Group Coordinators, Ambassadors, and all delegations to make progress on the outstanding issues. Although the draft enjoyed broad support, three outstanding issues required further discussion: (i) a proposal to remove all references to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs from the Proposed Program of Work and Budget; (ii) a proposal to adjust the estimated number of applications and income forecast for the Lisbon System in 2026/27 and to revise the Lisbon Union's budget; and (iii) a proposal to remove the Development Acceleration Fund (DAF) and its associated references and budget. As the delegations discussed those issues at the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the PBC, the Chair asked them not to repeat statements they had already made.

90. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC contained in document A/66/7. The Group expressed its appreciation to the two Vice-Chairs of the PBC, who presided over the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions, respectively, for their effective leadership and dedication to the PBC process. The Group noted that the Member States unfortunately could not reach consensus on the entire Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, but observed with

satisfaction that agreement was reached on important topics such as the Financing Plan to Restore the Coverage of Long-term Employee Benefits at WIPO and recommendations of the selection panel of two new IAOC members. Group B noted the discussion on the Draft ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices and would continue to participate constructively in the PBC discussions at the fortieth session. The Group remained committed to collaborating with Member States to approve the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27 by consensus and to advance a balanced and effective global IP ecosystem.

91. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the APG, reaffirmed the pivotal role of the PBC in overseeing the financial, strategic and programmatic direction of the work at WIPO. The Group welcomed the solid financial performance achieved by WIPO and appreciated the development focus of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget. The significant increase in development expenditure provided for therein and the establishment of the DAF would help WIPO to advance its DA and assist Member States in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. WIPO should continue to prioritize technical assistance and capacity-building for tailored support to developing countries and emerging economies. A balanced outcome on the matter of WIPO External Offices was reached at the thirty-eighth session of the PBC.

92. The Delegation of China welcomed the spirit of cooperation that characterized discussions in the two sessions of the PBC in May and June 2025. The Delegation was pleased to note that under the leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the PBC, the vast majority of Member States engaged in extensive dialogue and coordination in the spirit of cooperation during the sessions, which demonstrated considerable flexibility and consensus on a number of issues in the budget proposal. Outstanding issues regarding the Proposed Program of Work and Budget should be resolved by consensus. Maintaining unity was vital to the Organization's long-term development. The Delegation urged all parties to demonstrate flexibility and engage constructively to reach agreement on the Proposed Program of Work and Budget at the current Assemblies.

93. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, commended the PBC on its work and, welcoming the positive financial performance of WIPO, noted that a provision for a surplus of 7.6 million Swiss francs over the 2026/27 biennium was included in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget. That confirmed the effectiveness of the current approach, which should be maintained, as should the Organization's unified approach to budget planning. WIPO should continue to promote IP as an enabler for addressing challenges such as access to public health, climate change and food security. The proposal to remove all references to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs from the Proposed Program of Work and Budget was a cause for concern. The 2030 Agenda and SDGs guided international cooperation and should remain anchored in the Program of Work and Budget. Development must remain a central pillar of the Organization's mandate. In that regard, the aim of DAF was to bolster WIPO development efforts and offer targeted assistance to developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). It would address capacity gaps, nurture the innovation ecosystem and strengthen the use of IP as a tool for sustainable development. The Group supported the introduction of new languages into the international registration systems, including in the framework of the Brands and Designs Sector's implementation strategies. The long-standing underrepresentation of nationals from certain countries, in particular African nationals, in leadership and senior management and throughout the workforce at WIPO, remained a source of grave concern.

94. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, hoped for a productive and successful Assemblies session that would help to advance constructively towards the adoption of the Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. The Group reiterated that the work of the PBC should help to connect IP with national development priorities, build an inclusive and representative IP ecosystem aligned with sustainable development priorities, ensure that the benefits of IP reach everyone and generate a tangible impact, and promote the use of IP as a

driver of inclusive growth and development. GRULAC was committed to seeking consensus and reaching decisions that strengthened the PBC's mandate.

95. The Delegation of Indonesia welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, which reflected the commitment by WIPO to advance strategic priorities that responded to its Member States' needs, ensuring that IP would remain a powerful enabler for innovation, creativity and economic development globally. The SDGs should continue to inform the activities, programs and budget planning of WIPO. The IP system was a key driver for achieving those goals, in particular SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 13 (climate action). WIPO should, therefore, strengthen technical assistance and capacity-building programs to help developing countries harness IP for sustainable development and inclusive and transformative growth. Moreover, by continuing to contribute to good governance, risk management, internal control processes, informed decision-making and effective oversight, WIPO would enhance its credibility and reinforce its ability to serve the public interest.

96. The Delegation of Brazil expressed its support for the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, which received near unanimous support at the thirty-ninth session of the PBC. Regrettably, consensus was not reached on allocating resources on an exceptional basis to fund the participation of representatives of IPLCs in meetings of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) during the 2026/27 biennium. That initiative enjoyed broad support and warranted further efforts to obtain consensual approval in the next budgetary cycle. As a specialized agency of the UN system, WIPO, by aligning its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, not only enhanced the efficiency and coherence of its work but also reinforced the role of IP in advancing sustainable development. The Delegation supported the DAF and, regarding the various registration systems, favored the Organization's unified budgetary approach, as the different pillars of its work must be in synergy and reinforce one another.

97. The Delegation of El Salvador, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, stated that the Organization's strong financial performance in 2024 with a surplus of 140 million Swiss francs and net assets exceeding 700 million Swiss francs provided an opportunity that must be seized to deepen its impact on development. Efforts to strengthen the global IP system must promote sustainable social and economic development and the DAF would be a key tool in that regard. The Organization's development program must be cross-cutting across all its activities. The DAF was a key tool to achieve that objective, enabling the creation and adoption of projects that promote innovation to ensure better living conditions and improve the productive base of countries. WIPO projects and programs ought to be closely linked to the protection of IPRs, thereby ensuring their alignment with its mandate.

98. The Delegation of Mexico welcomed the prudent approach adopted in formulating the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, designed to protect the Organization's financial health without weakening its mandate; its development and inclusion focus, in line with the 2030 Agenda; and initiatives such as the IP and Gender Action Plan and the DAF. It observed that aligning WIPO activities with the SDGs made it possible to connect them with Member States' national development priorities, improve coordination with other UN agencies and strengthen accountability. The Delegation supported involving Indigenous Peoples effectively in the work of the IGC and was working with other countries on proposals to strengthen the WIPO Voluntary Fund and to ensure the informed involvement of Indigenous Peoples. Although consensus had not yet been reached on that matter, Mexico would continue to explore practical and viable solutions.

99. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and reiterated its objection to the inclusion of language framing the work of WIPO in terms of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the SDGs, and its proposal to remove all references thereto from the Proposed Program of Work and Budget. The mandate of WIPO was to promote the protection of IP throughout the world, not to end poverty, promote good health or provide clean water. Although a strong IP system might contribute to achieving those aims and other SDGs, WIPO did not budget for the SDGs and its implementation strategies were not driven by the SDGs, but by the expected results in WIPO's Strategy House in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026. Any contribution to achieving the SDGs was simply a byproduct of WIPO working towards its expected results. Moreover, Member States were free to use the IP work done by WIPO to advance their national interests on any issues, including implementation of the SDGs. The Delegation objected to the references in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27 that implied or called for WIPO to focus its work on the implementation of the SDGs rather than following its mandate to promote the protection of IP throughout the world. The Delegation reiterated its proposal to remove all references to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs from the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, as contained in document A/66/9. The Delegation also objected to the increase in budget for the Lisbon System provided for in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget, which contained inflated application and income estimates prepared by the Lisbon registry rather than forecasts provided by the Chief Economist. The Lisbon registry estimates in the past proved to be particularly unreliable. Since 2018, the Lisbon System only reached its target application numbers twice. In those two years that the System reached its application estimates, the actual application numbers exceeded estimates by a substantial amount. The Delegation reiterated that the Lisbon Registry's estimates were very unreliable pointing out that the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems all relied on projections provided by the Chief Economist and the same should apply to the Lisbon System. The Delegation expressed concern that other Member States seemed uninterested in the Lisbon System achieving self-sustainability. A study should be conducted on how to achieve financial sustainability for the Lisbon and Hague Unions and to help the PBC to identify lessons learned from the stronger revenue-generating Unions. In short, the estimates for the number of applications and income for the Lisbon System should be adjusted and the Lisbon Union's total budget reduced to 3,257,000 Swiss francs. The Delegation did not support the proposed DAF stating that the establishment of the DAF, with an allocated budget of more than 3 million Swiss francs, constituted an inappropriate expansion of the Organization's development-related technical assistance projects without oversight by Member States. WIPO already had a mechanism for considering and approving technical assistance projects such as the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), to which 4.5 million Swiss francs were allocated under the Proposed Program of Work and Budget. In its view, there was no justification for creating another fund serving a similar purpose but without oversight of Member States. Positive discussions were held at the thirty-ninth session of the PBC on refocusing the use of those funds while benefiting all Member States, ensuring oversight and avoiding the duplication of work. The Delegation concluded that it looked forward to working constructively on the matter.

100. The Delegation of Tunisia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and commended WIPO on its financial performance. The Delegation favored maintaining the current budget methodology based on the principles of solidarity and budgetary unity. It welcomed efforts by WIPO to promote the DA, implement projects that fostered innovation and creativity and helped to create jobs, and the establishment of the DAF, which would enhance the Organization's work on the ground, help to meet Member States' expectations, and boost its contribution to achieving the SDGs. As a UN agency, WIPO should align its work with the DA and take into account the SDGs in its activities.

101. The Delegation of Algeria, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, urged all Member States to continue working in the

spirit of cooperation that characterized the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the PBC to achieve consensus on the outstanding issues. The Organization's positive financial performance over the current biennium, despite difficult economic conditions, confirmed the effectiveness of its working methods. The Delegation supported all the development initiatives featured in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget, including those relating to the 2030 Agenda and the establishment of the DAF. The latter, in particular, would help countries, including developed States, to promote the use of IP. WIPO should continue to incorporate the 45 DA recommendations into its work. The efforts of WIPO with regard to the SDGs, which constituted a common framework in the multilateral system, were commendable and it was important that they be enshrined in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget. WIPO should also continue to promote a balanced IP system as a mechanism for addressing issues such as public health, climate change, food security and AI.

102. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. Nonetheless, WIPO should implement it in a manner that not only promoted sustainable and inclusive capacity-building to narrow IP gaps, but also ensured a strong and balanced IP ecosystem to safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, including major users of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems.

103. The Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and expressed the hope that the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27 would be adopted. That would strengthen a global and balanced IP system that contributed to sustainable socioeconomic growth and promoted community-based, social cooperative forms of organization and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with a focus on women and youth as reflected in the DA. The Delegation welcomed the harmonized and guiding approach of the multilateral system taking into account the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The allocation of resources under the WIPO budget should be fair and unified. That would ensure continuity in its priorities, among which was the provision of sufficient financial and human resources to allow Indigenous Peoples, whose knowledge and experience could make a significant contribution to the work of WIPO, to participate in its deliberations in a meaningful fashion.

104. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and thanked the Secretariat for presenting document A/66/7 and for its diligent work during the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the PBC. The Delegation expressed satisfaction with the Organization's performance in 2024 and acknowledged the progress made towards achieving the expected results with 79 per cent of performance indicators reported to be on track. Egypt supported the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, which was fully aligned with the four strategic pillars of WIPO and the MTSP 2022-2026 and looked forward to its adoption. Egypt welcomed the Organization's commitment to implementing its DA and achieving the SDGs, and the establishment of the DAF. The Proposed Program of Work and Budget would ensure financial prudence and allow WIPO to enhance its role in promoting a balanced international IP system. The Delegation also believed that WIPO was well positioned to adapt a financially sound, resilient and development-oriented Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27.

105. The Delegation of Argentina stated that the 2030 Agenda was non-binding and aspirational and that States were free to interpret it as they saw fit. Argentina, therefore, supported the proposal to delete all references to it and to the SDGs in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. Any mention of them should acknowledge the sovereignty of States and their right to set their own policies. Similarly, reference to the DAF should also be deleted as doing so would not imply defunding priority areas, which presumably would continue to receive the Organization's customary support.

106. The Delegation of the Russian Federation welcomed the reflection of the principle of multilingualism among the priority areas of activity of the Brands and Designs Sector in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. It expressed hope that the principle of multilingualism would also be anchored in the Organization's next MTSP. The Delegation noted the active engagement and multilateral approach of Member States in the process of preparing and implementing the WIPO Program of Work and Budget. It positively assessed the inclusion of the task on strengthening the evaluation function in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget and acknowledged the importance of the references to the SDGs. The Delegation welcomed the Organization's stable financial situation and high performance indicators, in particular, relating to the WIPO-administered international registration systems. At the same time, it emphasized that long-term perspectives and the strategic interests of all parties must be taken into account in the planning, implementation, and decision-making of the PBC and that the Committee's work should be based on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism. The Delegation expressed hope that the Secretariat would continue to maintain an open approach in providing the status of the financial and administrative activities of WIPO and would need the improvement proposals voiced in the sessions of the PBC.

107. The Delegation of Cuba aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and said that mention of the SDGs and the budget for the DAF in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget should be retained. Cuba favored budget synergy among the Unions of the WIPO-administered treaties.

108. The Delegation of Spain, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B, welcomed efforts by the Secretariat to design a program of work in alignment with the strategic priorities enshrined in the MTSP and the SDGs. The latter served as a guide for the work of the entire UN system and a reminder that IP was not a goal in itself but a means to achieve higher objectives for social and economic progress. Adoption of the budget by consensus was key to the institutional stability of WIPO, and maintaining its financial stability would allow it to continue spearheading development of the global IP system.

109. The Delegation of France, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B, opposed any reduction in the proposed budget for the Lisbon System. Nine new members, four of them being developing countries and LDCs, had acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications over the previous two years. Extra resources were therefore needed to build capacity and raise awareness of how to use the system effectively and cutting the budget would have an adverse impact on the eLisbon system. The annual estimate of 80 applications should be maintained. According to the Chief Economist, Annex V of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget was not a reliable basis for reducing the estimated number of applications for 2026/27. The model used for those estimates differed from the models applied to the Madrid System and left open the possibility that applications might even exceed the estimates. It was in the interest of WIPO and its Members that estimates for funding, staff and expertise be sufficient, and that ambitious goals be set for all the registration systems. The Delegation stated that such ambitions should not be lowered on the basis of a preliminary assessment adding that France had full confidence in the Secretariat's estimates. In addition, as a specialized agency of the UN, WIPO should contribute to efforts to achieve the SDGs and IP should continue to be a tool for building a sustainable and inclusive environment for all.

110. The Delegation of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the LDCs Group, valued WIPO as a UN specialized agency focused on IP that had a vital role in meaningfully advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Delegation stated that the work of WIPO corresponded directly to numerous targets of the SDGs, including those relating to innovation and technological capacity, good health through access to medicines, quality education through knowledge transfer, and partnerships for development. WIPO should continue to strengthen its contribution to achieving the SDGs while remaining focused on its core IP mandate. The

Organization's strong focus on the LDCs and ongoing support for the African region were appreciated. The Delegation noted that the proposed budget framework was vital for ensuring that sufficient resources were allocated to technical assistance and capacity-building for LDCs, emphasizing that the success of multilateral efforts was intrinsically linked to the meaningful and sustainable advancement of the LDCs.

111. The Delegation of Colombia, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, noted with satisfaction that the PBC took up the matter of the Draft ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, in particular given that, in 2019, Colombia was designated to be part of that network. With regard to the 2030 Agenda, a series of mandates for UN agencies were set forth in the UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 and a broader mandate for WIPO was also enshrined in the Agreement between the UN and WIPO. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs were, therefore, a key cross-cutting matter for IP and common goals that must continue to guide the Organization's programs and work.

112. The Delegation of Uganda, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, endorsed the DAF and underscored its support for the unified budget, which reflected the complementarity of WIPO services and pillars in achieving results. The establishment of the DAF reaffirmed the role of WIPO in addressing global challenges, such as climate change and pandemics. The Delegation stated that IP must be part of the global response, and the DAF affirmed that role.

113. The Delegation of Italy reiterated its support for the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. While prudent in approach, it provided for the allocation of human and financial resources sufficient to fully implement all the Organization's envisaged initiatives and activities. Under the WIPO Financial Regulations and Rules, resources could be transferred between cost items during the biennium and Member States should be informed where that occurred. The budget allocation for the Lisbon System was appropriate and was determined with a view to containing costs, most of which were staff-related, and removing extraneous expenditure. Fixed assets, such as the Lisbon Registry, required proper maintenance: updating content and IT infrastructure allowed WIPO to respond promptly to informational and decision-making needs, provide users with more efficient services and ensure transparency and good management. WIPO required a balanced and sustainable financial framework to foster the development of an IP culture and the full range of IP assets, in line with its goals and for the benefit of society.

114. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Vice-Chairs of the PBC, who presided over the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions, and the Secretariat for the preparation of the sessions and the report. The Delegation noted that the PBC, through its work, provided a framework for the effective and balanced implementation of the Organization's objectives, which was vital at a time when the international community continued to face global uncertainties and challenges. The Secretariat's prudent financial management and the attention paid to development-oriented programs and technical assistance initiatives, including the establishment of the DAF, were welcome. Those efforts were essential for developing countries and LDCs and key to advancing the DA. The Delegation supported the allocation of resources in a manner that fostered synergy among the Unions and, particularly, the budget proposed for the Lisbon System.

115. The Delegation of Ukraine expressed its appreciation to the Vice-Chairs, WIPO Secretariat and Member States for their constructive contributions to the work of the PBC. The Delegation commended WIPO's efforts to maintain financial stability and institutional autonomy and supported a balanced approach to the Organization's budget planning and efficient allocation of resources in line with its strategic goals. Resources allocated to the Lisbon System must be sufficient to support high-quality service delivery, promote awareness and foster

economic opportunities, including for local producers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Delegation denounced the ongoing presence and operation of the WIPO External Office in the Russian Federation. As the Delegation previously emphasized, Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine gravely undermined international law and threatened the integrity of the multilateral IP system. The WIPO External Office in the Russian Federation, a country that systematically undermined the rule of law and weaponized and misappropriated IP, was incompatible with the basic principles of WIPO and should be closed. The tragic missile attack by the Russian Federation on Kyiv the previous night, resulting in the death of two women and injuries to thirteen others, was yet another reminder of the human and material cost of its war of aggression against Ukraine and underscored the urgent need for accountability across all international forums. The Russian Federation must bear the legal consequences of its internationally wrongful acts and harassment of the IP community, and all funding for projects in that country should cease immediately, the WIPO External Office in Moscow should be closed, and redirecting those funds to constructive partnerships that were respectful of rights would help to restore confidence in international law and justice in the IP community.

116. The Delegation of South Africa aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and underscored the importance of achieving the SDGs and the need to align the Organization's agenda and activities with them. South Africa was committed to implementing the DA and supported the establishment of the DAF as a pillar of the Organization's mandate.

117. The Delegation of Kenya, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, reiterated its support for the mainstreaming and implementation of WIPO's DA and the SDGs in all WIPO workstreams. The Delegation voiced concern over the proposal to delete references to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs from the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. Kenya supported the DAF, the implementation of the DA and the mainstreaming of the latter's recommendations and the SDGs across all WIPO work streams. WIPO should continue focusing on developing countries and LDCs in IP and development matters.

118. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressing support for the Proposed Program of Work and Budget, recalled that the matter was already discussed fully at the most recent sessions of the PBC and attempts by the Delegation of Ukraine to incite confrontation and politicize WIPO served only to undermine the Organization. The Secretariat should ensure that the proceedings of the Assemblies reflected the mission of WIPO.

119. The Chair suspended discussions on the agenda item, given the absence of consensus on the three outstanding matters.

120. Re-opening the item, the Chair thanked the delegations for constructively taking part in the discussions on the outstanding item. The Chair invited the delegations to provide an update on the progress of the discussions.

121. The Delegation of Switzerland stated that it facilitated constructive discussions among delegations and added that it would continue the discussions later that day.

122. The Chair thanked the Delegation of Switzerland for facilitating the discussions and suspended the deliberations on the item.

123. Re-opening the agenda item, the Chair announced that the informal consultations, facilitated by the Delegation of Switzerland, were brought to a successful conclusion and thanked delegations for their engagement, constructive work and spirit at the Assemblies.

124. The Delegation of Switzerland thanked delegations and, recalling that consultations focused on three issues relating to the DAF in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, announced that all three issues were resolved. First, it was agreed to amend the name of the “Development Acceleration Fund” to “Innovation, Creativity and Development Acceleration Program”. The change of name would have no bearing on the substance or content of the Program. Second, the Program would remain under the Regional and National Development Sector. Third, the text was finalized with regard to a transparency and oversight mechanism for the Program and the operation of that mechanism was as per WIPO practice, as already applied across the board. The understanding at the conclusion of the informal consultations was that, should the agreement be maintained, no Delegation would block consensus on the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27.

125. The Delegation of the United States of America said that it would not stand in the way of the adoption by consensus of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27 but it continued to object strongly to references therein that implied, or called for WIPO, to focus its work on the implementation of the SDGs rather than its mandate to promote the protection of IP throughout the world. Those references gave a false impression of the drivers of the work of WIPO and had no place in its Program of Work and Budget. Nonetheless, the United States of America wished to resolve difficult issues by consensus for the sake of the Organization’s long-term health. For that reason, it dissociated itself from consensus on the decision approving the Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27. Furthermore, the United States of America reiterated its strong objection to the increase in budget and increase in deficit for the Lisbon System reflected in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget. It remained concerned about the projections for the Lisbon Union set forth therein and recommended that the Chief Economist of WIPO be afforded sufficient time and provided with sufficient information to prepare projections for all WIPO fee-funded unions for future Programs of Work and Budget. The United States of America also maintained its proposal for a study to help to illustrate paths for financial sustainability for all fee-funded Unions, in particular the Lisbon and Hague Unions, to help the PBC to identify lessons learned from the stronger revenue-generating Unions. The Delegation observed that failure to conduct such a study would result in the Organization negligently ignoring failures of its Unions to abide by their treaty obligations to be financially self-sustainable.

126. The Delegation of Argentina reiterated its position regarding any mention of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget as, in its view, the 2030 Agenda was non-binding and aspirational and States were free to interpret it as they saw fit. Argentina did not wish to disturb the consensus that had been achieved but it dissociated itself from any mention in the Program of Work and Budget of those concepts. The Delegation pointed out that the sovereignty of States and their freedom to determine their own policies must be respected.

127. The Chair announced the following decision, which was displayed on the screen:

128. With respect to all matters under this agenda item, except for the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2026/27 Biennium, the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:

- (i) took note of the “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee” (documents WO/PBC/38/6 and WO/PBC/39/10); and
- (ii) approved the recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee as contained in the same documents.

With respect to the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for the 2026/27 Biennium:  
The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:

(iii) agreed to change the name of the “Development Acceleration Fund” to “Innovation, Creativity and Development Acceleration Program”;

(iv) approved the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for the biennium 2026/27 (document A/66/9) subject to the change in (iii) above;

(v) requested the Secretariat, in line with the regular WIPO practices, regarding the projects funded by the “Innovation, Creativity and Development Acceleration Program” to:

- i. Develop criteria for projects ensuring clear linkages to WIPO’s expected results, focusing on piloting new and innovative ideas and not overlapping with other ongoing projects and initiatives across the Organization;
- ii. Provide regular updates to Member States on the WIPO website, including on the status of all projects, activities to be completed under each project, updates on project implementation, and project outcomes;
- iii. Provide comprehensive reporting on projects in each WIPO Performance Report.

## ITEM 12 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### REPORTS FROM WIPO COMMITTEES

(i) The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

129. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

(ii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)

130. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

(iii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

131. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

(iv) The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations

132. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

(v) The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

133. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

(vi) The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

134. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

(vii) The Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

135. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

136. See the report of the session of the Madrid Union Assembly (document MM/A/59/3).

ITEM 14 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

HAGUE SYSTEM

137. See the report of the session of the Hague Union Assembly (document H/A/45/2).

ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

LISBON SYSTEM

138. See the report of the session of the Lisbon Union Assembly (document LI/A/42/3).

ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

139. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

140. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

ITEM 18 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)

141. See the report of the session of the Singapore Treaty Assembly (document STLT/A/18/2).

ITEM 19 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AND  
ADOPT A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

142. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/58/14).

ITEM 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE'S INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY SECTOR  
AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEM

143. Discussions were based on document [A/66/8](#).

144. The Director General introduced the Report on Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System (document A/66/8), which was prepared in line with subparagraph (d) of the decision of Member States taken at the Sixty-Fifth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (document A/65/11, para. 201). As requested by Member States and in cooperation with Ukraine, the International Bureau continued to provide support for that country's innovation and creativity sector and IP system. The support was driven by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WIPO and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine on cooperation in the sphere of IP, which was signed in July 2023. A new MoU was signed with the Deputy Minister of Economy for Digital Transformation, Digitalization and Digital Economy of Ukraine, Mr. Oleksandr Tsybort, on July 7, 2025, which would guide the future collaboration between WIPO and Ukraine building on the important results achieved so far and reflecting the latest priorities of Ukraine. Since the previous Assemblies, around 40 consultations were held with the Ukrainian authorities, and the International Bureau. Those included the recent meeting with the Deputy Minister, Mr. Oleksandr Tsybort, as well as the previous meetings with the Deputy Minister of Economy, Mr. Vitaly Kindrativ. The International Bureau was in regular contact with Ms. Olena Orliuk, Director of the Ukrainian National Office of Intellectual Property and Innovations (UANIPIO) and other stakeholders. The Director General explained that the sustained engagement enabled the International Bureau to update and tailor its systems to meet Ukraine's evolving needs. WIPO continued to provide assistance to Ukraine in developing its national IP strategy, which was nearing finalization, and provided policy and legislative advice. Cooperation with the IP Academy of Ukraine expanded into areas including emerging technologies and support for folk craft entrepreneurs. In addition, in June 2024, with the support of the Funds-in-Trust of the Republic of Korea for IP and Education, the International Bureau launched a new program to empower 350 women who were either students, young professionals, homemakers or those experiencing career interruptions, by equipping them with the skills to generate innovative ideas and leverage IP for business creation. An MoU was signed in February 2025 with the International Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce to further support local SMEs and encourage them to use WIPO tools and initiatives to bring their ideas to market. The Director General noted the updated assessment of the impact of the war on Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector, which demonstrated that the ongoing war continued to have a significant negative impact on the innovation and creativity sector and IP ecosystem in Ukraine, with most of the previously identified impact persisting and in some cases intensifying. Despite the mid-and long-term outlook remaining uncertain given the evolving security situation and prospects for peace and recovery, the country's IP and innovation ecosystem demonstrated remarkable resilience. The number of national IP filings increased in 2023, and international filings showed a positive trajectory in 2024. Institutions and stakeholders maintained core functions, expanded services and adapted operations to meet urgent needs, including in critical sectors such as information and communications technologies (ICT) and defense. Notably, the digital music market grew since the start of the war, opening up new opportunities for Ukrainian musicians and artists. Although IP activity remained below pre-war levels, those developments reflected the determination and capacity of Ukrainian innovators and creators. As requested by Member States, the International Bureau took steps to ensure that publications on WIPO resources and platforms complied with the principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. He pointed out that peace was critical to allow innovation and creativity to flourish, adding that it was hoped that peace would soon return to Ukraine. The Director General then turned the floor to the Director, Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) Division, to provide more details on the report.

145. The Secretariat introduced the structure of the report and informed about the numerous consultations it held with relevant governmental and other stakeholders from Ukraine in the process of its preparation. The Secretariat reaffirmed its continued engagement that enabled the International Bureau to tailor its support and assistance to the evolving needs of the country

and the situation on the ground. The impact assessment contained in the report was conducted using stakeholder consultations, including questionnaires and interviews, desk research, and data analysis. Some 50 stakeholders, including government authorities responsible for the protection and enforcement of IP, educational and research institutions, innovation support organizations, IP practitioners, business representatives, members of the creative industries such as artists, performers, musicians, publishers and collective management organizations (CMOs), and technology and innovation support centers (TISCs), had taken part. The International Bureau had consulted a wide range of sources, including official reports from international and regional organizations and institutions, national authorities, official websites of relevant stakeholders, as well as reports and summaries produced by research centers. Particularly, it referred to Ukraine: Fourth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, published by the World Bank in April 2025, covering the period from February 2022 to December 2024, which provided a comprehensive overview of the war, estimates of damage and losses, and the country's recovery and reconstruction needs. The impact assessment showed that the war continued to have a negative impact on the innovation and creativity sector and ecosystem of Ukraine. Many of the effects previously reported in documents A/64/8 and A/65/7, persisted and, in some cases, intensified. They included social disruption, deteriorating mental health, damage to infrastructure, loss or destruction of research equipment, brain drain and shortages of human resources in the research and innovation sector, and the continued lack of funding owing to the Government's need to allocate resources to national security and defense, and as a result the innovation ecosystem was suffering increasing harm. The creative sector also continued to face significant challenges due to contributing factors that included the sharp decline in national funding for cultural development, reduced production of creative goods and services, staffing shortages and the limited functioning of CMOs which had a major negative impact on the creative sector. The analysis by the International Bureau of Ukraine's results, as reflected in the Global Innovation Index, revealed structural challenges consistent with those identified by national and international stakeholders and confirmed downward trends in research and innovation investment, the number of researchers and scientific output. The Secretariat noted that the scope and depth of the report were limited owing to the security situation in Ukraine and the uncertainty about prospects for peace. The assessment underscored the need for the International Bureau to continue to engage closely with the Ukrainian authorities and to adapt to their evolving needs and priorities. Despite the challenges, the IP system in Ukraine remained resilient as shown in the number of national IP filings that had risen in 2023 compared with 2022, although they remained below pre-war levels. Ukrainian applicants' use of the PCT and Madrid systems had increased between 2023 and 2024 demonstrating Ukrainian institutions and stakeholders' remarkable resilience. They maintained essential functions, and in some cases, expanding services, adapted operations, and innovated under pressure. The war acted as a catalyst for innovation in specific sectors, such as ICT and defense, whereas in the creative sector, the expansion of the digital music market was helping Ukrainian musicians to reach broader audiences. WIPO's assistance to Ukraine included the development of the national IP strategy, policy and legislative advice, and a focus on building IP-related skills and capacities. The Secretariat provided some examples on the cooperation and assistance WIPO provided to Ukraine during the reporting period. The International Bureau trained 30 craft entrepreneurs in a project under the WIPO Build Back Fund. Some 670 Ukrainians benefited from hybrid and distance learning courses offered by the WIPO Academy. Furthermore, 59 trademark examiners and 43 patent examiners from UANIPIO attended a regional capacity-building program. Progress was made in translating the WIPO Primer on Intellectual Property and the general IP distance learning course into Ukrainian, and in developing tools for SMEs and start-ups. A customized IP diagnostic tool would soon be launched, along with a guidebook entitled *Enterprising Ideas: A Guide to IP for Start-ups* and an IP management clinic would also be initiated for selected companies. To support the enhancement of UANIPIO's IP Infrastructure, progress was made on making UANIPIO a Depositing and Access Office of the WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS) platform, and discussions took place with the Minister for Economy on the potential deployment of WIPO Connect. The International Bureau continued to

allocate resources under the Program of Work and Budget for technical and legal assistance, capacity-building and other initiatives in Ukraine. Steps were taken to ensure that publications on WIPO resources and platforms fully respected the principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Specifically, the International Bureau examined carefully possible measures under the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems, and as a result, it had amended the content, broadened the scope where necessary and introduced disclaimers in relevant WIPO resources and platforms. The Secretariat reiterated its firm commitment to continued close cooperation to ensure that its support and assistance deliver tangible benefits and impact for creators, innovators and members of the IP community. The focus of the support to Ukraine would remain on mitigating the adverse effects of the war and rebuilding a resilient, inclusive and dynamic innovation and creativity ecosystem, thereby contributing to the country's economic recovery and long-term development. The recently signed MoU would guide future cooperation and assistance.

146. The Delegation of Ukraine expressed its sincere appreciation to the Director General for his ongoing leadership and commitment to supporting Ukraine's innovation, creativity, and IP sectors. The Delegation also extended its gratitude to the Deputy Director General, the Division for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) as well as all other relevant units of WIPO for their instrumental support and for delivering concrete assistance to Ukraine's IP system. The Delegation was grateful for the solidarity shown to it by fellow WIPO Member States in supporting the decisions taken in previous years with respect to Ukraine. Such collective action played a critical role in helping Ukraine to protect and sustain its innovation and IP ecosystem under the most severe and challenging conditions adding that the extent of the damage and the estimated cost of recovery were colossal. While the Secretariat's report provided valuable insights onto the path to recovery, it offered only a brief overview of the immense suffering and destruction caused by the war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The impact of the war was daily and devastating. In previous weeks, the Russian Federation intensified aerial attacks on Kyiv and other cities across Ukraine, killing or wounding dozens of civilians, including children. Critical infrastructure, homes, cultural landmarks, administrative buildings, including those linked to the Ukrainian IP system, were damaged or destroyed including UANIPIO. Recent airstrikes injured colleagues from UANIPIO both physically and mentally, and damaged the homes and belongings of 15 staff members. Those were not isolated cases for they represented the daily reality faced by all IP stakeholders throughout Ukraine: creators, inventors, business owners, and public servants alike. Nearly 230,000 civilian infrastructure sites were damaged or destroyed and more than 300,000 homes were lost during the war to date, with millions more were inaccessible. More than 2,200 cultural sites, including museums, churches and libraries, were damaged or destroyed, and 7 million cultural objects lost, looted or remained trapped in the occupied territory; yet, Ukraine persevered regardless. Together with the Ministry of Economy, UANIPIO continued to operate and was finalizing a national IP strategy, to which WIPO experts contributed greatly, that would serve as a roadmap for overcoming challenges and achieving recovery. Public consultations were forthcoming, and the continued engagement of WIPO would be welcome. The resilience of the IP system in Ukraine was also demonstrated by an expanding service portfolio and operations of the UANIPIO, as highlighted in the document A/66/8. UANIPIO was expanding services and operations and the TISC network now counted more than 50 centers across Ukraine, including in regions that were heavily affected by the Russian Federation war of aggression against Ukraine. UANIPIO collaborated closely with academic and research institutions to develop their internal IP policies using the WIPO methodology. Through targeted programs, Ukraine was directing IP to areas where it would save lives and build a future. Sector-specific initiatives, such as the Lab2Market UA: Veterano and MedTech projects, opened up inclusive innovation pathways for veterans, scientists and volunteers. In the creative sector, artists were offered guidance and outreach programs, and a creative industrial support unit offering daily consultations, was established. A reimbursement scheme for SMEs was piloted in cooperation with Kyiv region authorities, allowing them to recover IP-related expenses. The program proved to be successful, and steps were being taken to broaden it to other war-affected regions. All

WIPO Member States were urged to join and supplement those initiatives, either by assisting Ukrainian applicants and businesses within their jurisdiction or by offering targeted support to build IP capacity in Ukraine. Every Ukrainian trademark registered, and patent granted was an act not only of economic resilience but also of defiance in the face of aggression. Ukraine called on Member States to be active supporters in that effort, and to stand with Ukraine on the battlefield of freedom, creativity, and democratic values. Ukraine remained deeply alarmed by the continued misuse of the WIPO-administered systems by the Russian Federation. Despite the decision adopted by the previous Assemblies to uphold the territorial integrity of Ukraine (document A/65/11, paragraph 201, subparagraph (c)), three new international trademark registrations had been published under the Madrid System listing Ukrainian addresses in temporarily occupied territories as if they were part of the Russian Federation. While recognizing the steps taken by WIPO, those applications, filed after the 2024 Assemblies decision, demonstrated clearly that the disclaimer-based safeguard was ineffective and did not prevent systematic abuse and had fallen short of what was required. The Delegation reaffirmed that WIPO should act decisively, transparently and swiftly to restore the integrity of its system. It was not a technical issue, but rather a profound institutional test for the entire international IP community about the collective ability to uphold the principles of international law and its commitments under the UN Charter. The International Bureau should strengthen technical measures ensuring compliance with the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Technical solutions must be developed and deployed to prevent the misrepresentation of applicant addresses and block any filing attempts to misappropriate Ukrainian territories. WIPO had the necessary legal basis and institutional responsibility to uphold those principles and doing so, was a matter of international law and a critical benchmark of the Organization's credibility as the UN agency for administering the global IP system. In addition to compliance measures, Ukraine reiterated its call for the only possible effective response to the brutal actions of the Russian Federation, which included closing the WIPO Office in the Russian Federation, suspend funding for any WIPO projects in the Russian Federation, cease all cooperation with Russian officials, pressure them to stop using WIPO resources to legitimize the illegal occupation of Ukrainian territory, and to continue to support and provide assistance to Ukraine with constant monitoring of the implementation.

147. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, commended WIPO on its efforts during the reporting period to enhance, where possible, the IP infrastructure and ecosystem in Ukraine. In its work, WIPO considered the circumstances and needs on the ground, which were a direct consequence of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine. The report showed that three years of war took a profound social, humanitarian and economic toll on Ukraine; however, the increased trends in some national and international IP filings offered reason for hope. The Group expressed their great concern about the findings reflecting that the Russian Federation's illegal war of aggression continued to significantly and negatively impact the innovation and creativity sector and IP system in Ukraine since the deliverables remained far below the pre-war level of 2021. The damage to infrastructure serving scientific, educational, research, and cultural institutions was unprecedented. Most important was the loss of potential and capacity of stakeholders in the Ukrainian IP ecosystem. Despite the reported increase in the number of PCT filings in 2024, overall numbers remained below the pre full scale war levels in 2021. The reported 4.5 per cent decline in 2024 of Ukrainian designations in international trademark filings compared with 2023 was a real concern which illustrated the serious damage that had been inflicted on the Ukrainian IP system as opposed to the pre-war 2021. The outflow of intellectual capital was also a source of concern: 6.9 million Ukrainians left the country as refugees and a further 3.7 million were internally displaced. The wide ranging negative effects of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine from the deteriorated mental health of the IP stakeholders, the brain drain caused by the humanitarian crisis and amplified by infrastructure damage as well as the reduced financial resources, emphasized the need for the international community to take every possibility to continue supporting the Ukrainian people in addressing the negative and long-lasting effects of the war. These facts left no doubt that it would take many years to compensate for the damage caused

by the war. The Group emphasized the necessity for a long-term engagement by WIPO adding that WIPO's role in providing targeted and tailored assistance to the Ukrainian IP ecosystem was indispensable to address immediate needs and to mitigate negative impact of the war that could have long-term irreversible effects in the long run. The CEBS Group expressed solidarity with Ukraine and its people and called on WIPO to continue to provide assistance and support for Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and IP system based on the proposed decision contained in document A/65/8 (Joint Proposal of the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS) and Group B on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System). The Group urged the Russian Federation to heed the demands of the international community to immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and immediately, completely, and unconditionally, withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

148. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, stated that for over three years, the European Union and its member States called repeatedly on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, which caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, loss of lives and humanitarian tragedy, as well as severe destruction of and damage to civilian infrastructure. For over three years, Members heard the Russian Federation accusing others of politicizing WIPO's discussions and raising matters that were irrelevant to the Organization's work. The Secretariat's report left no doubt about the profound negative impact of the Russian war of aggression on the functioning of the Ukrainian IP ecosystem. For the Ukrainian economy to return to its pre-war trajectory would take years, perhaps decades, if not longer. The Ukrainian economy, which was at a level of less than 70 per cent of pre-war time would require grant resources and enormous efforts to rebuild and recover. It was even more challenging to imagine how long it would take and how much investments would be needed to get back on the growth path that the Ukrainian economy enjoyed before the war. The European Union and its member States demanded the Russian Federation to immediately stop its illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, withdraw all its troops from the whole territory and cease all violations of international law. As evidenced by the report the war caused human tragedy, an unprecedented rise in poverty among Ukrainians and unimaginable damage to civilian infrastructure, estimated at 176 billion United States dollars. The destruction of almost 500 cultural, scientific and educational sites reported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) would adversely affect the development of the Ukrainian IP ecosystem over the short, medium and long term. According to the Delegation, the impact of the reported loss of more than 150 scientists, including women and young talents, as a result of the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine was beyond estimation. The Delegation stated that the Russian Federation and its leadership must be held fully accountable for waging a war of aggression against Ukraine and for other most serious crimes under international law, as well as for the massive damage caused by its war. The outflow of human capital, evidenced by the report and intensified by internal displacement and external migration, continued to pose a challenge to the development of the IP ecosystem in Ukraine. The Delegation believes that fear was a big enemy of creativity and innovation. The ongoing Russian attacks against Ukrainian cities and civilians were a constant source of people's fear for the lives of their loved ones. They had to flee their own country, and they could not enjoy their normal life. The European Union and its member States expressed their continued and unwavering support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. They welcomed the reported increase in the number of IP filings and commended Ukrainian innovators and creators for their determination and persistence. In spite of extremely difficult conditions, they continued to contribute to the growth of the economy and IP globally. The capacity of Ukrainian IP institutions to preserve their core functions, expand services and adapt to the new environment was also commendable. The European Union and its member States would continue to support the recovery of the Ukrainian economy and IP ecosystem, and welcomed the dynamic growth of the agrifood, MedTech, ICT and digital sectors in Ukraine. They noted with satisfaction the synergic cooperation between WIPO and European Union institutions, especially the European

Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), in assisting Ukrainian SMEs and other IP stakeholders. All WIPO activities undertaken to strengthen the institutional architecture of the Ukrainian IP ecosystem and deliver results-oriented assistance to IP stakeholders in that country were recognized and welcomed. Equally valued were initiatives designed to reinforce the resilience of Ukrainian institutions and their ability to participate in international projects and initiatives. The positive signs noted in the report confirmed the timeliness, necessity and importance of WIPO's work and efforts. The European Union and its member States were grateful of all the ongoing support provided by WIPO for the innovation and creativity sector and IP system in Ukraine. The European Union and its member States looked forward to the updated assessment of the medium and long-term impacts of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, on Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and IP system at the next WIPO Assemblies. The Delegation noted that the statement was also delivered on behalf of Iceland, Norway, Monaco, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

149. The Delegation of the United Kingdom spoke on behalf of the following Member States: Albania, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Japan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Ukraine. The Group of like-minded Member States welcomed the Secretariat's report. The Group found it regrettable that such a report needed to exist due to the illegal actions of one country, but stated that such a report was and would remain imperative while those illegal actions continued. The report highlighted the devastating impact of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine and the impact of the breach of national borders. It made clear that the war continued to have a negative impact on the innovation and creativity sector and IP ecosystem in Ukraine with the persistence and even intensification of impacts previously observed. Therefore, technical assistance was more critical than ever for the future of Ukraine. The help provided by the International Bureau to Ukraine in the face of brutal and unjustified attacks on the people, the country and, consequently, its IP, creative and innovation ecosystem, was welcome. The continued attacks by the Russian Federation on the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine by land, sea and air that caused considerable damage to the IP ecosystem were intolerable and must stop. The previous year, the Assemblies of WIPO requested the International Bureau to take steps to ensure that publications on WIPO resources and platforms complied with the principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders (document A/65/11, paragraph 201, subparagraph (c)). However, despite the clear mandate the Group did not see sufficient activity to address the incorrect publications made in WIPO systems that were in breach of Ukraine's internationally recognized and sovereign borders. The current measure to include a disclaimer was not enough. Since the Russian Federation had breached the territorial integrity of Ukraine, several IP rights applications were registered under the Madrid and PCT systems by the Russian Federation from illegally occupied territories. Such irregular applications continued to be made since the last WIPO decision, including registration No. 1820461, made on July 29, 2024, and No. 1862267, made on 17 April 2025 under the Madrid System. The Group urged the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to find solution to implement the decision of the Assemblies in 2024 effectively. It should also provide assurances of its commitment in that regard, and keep Member States informed of the steps taken to give effect to the decision's mandate (document A/65/11, para. 201), and closely monitor and report on the frequency of cases across WIPO systems.

150. The Delegation of Niger reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism, cooperation and international solidarity, and to the principle of equality between States and the equality of treatment of Member States in international organizations. WIPO assistance should be provided to all Member States without discrimination. Referring to the report contained in document A/66/8 the Delegation expressed its concern that the Organization's resources were

being allocated to assist a single Member State. Many Member States around the world, in particular developing and LDCs, faced multiple challenges, such as the impact of climate change, insecurity and armed conflict and other difficulties. Tackling those challenges required a significant portion of any given State's budget, to the detriment of the creativity, innovation and IP sectors. With that in mind, consideration should be given to the message conveyed to other Member States by diverting resources to only one Member State. Such an approach made other States feel left behind and less than equal. The Secretariat's report contained no reasoning for the privileged treatment accorded to one country. Other Member States could feel that such treatment constituted arbitrary favoritism. For that reason, the item should either be removed from the agenda of the Assemblies, or be amended to include all Member States in similar situations or facing challenges of similar gravity.

151. The Delegation of Mali took note of the report and underscored that one of the main purposes of the Organization was to ensure a balanced and efficient global IP ecosystem. The provision of assistance as given to Ukraine could be construed as favoritism, particularly in the current context of geopolitical tensions, multi-faceted and multi-dimensional crises, which forced many countries to spend much of their public resources on security to the detriment of sectors such as innovation and creativity. All Member States should be treated fairly and equitably with regard to assistance and cooperation. The principle of balance between Member States should never be undermined.

152. The Russian Federation stated that it had consistently opposed and would continue to oppose to the artificial politicization of the work of WIPO, emphasizing that agenda item 20 was the result of the odious decisions of the three previous series of Assemblies and that the political bias of the mentioned decisions constituted a gross violation of the Organization's mandate. The Delegation noted that those decisions were adopted without consensus, in a voting procedure that was unprecedented in the Organization's recent history, and received the support of only one third of Member States. The Delegation emphasized that, both during previous series of meetings of Assemblies and the current one, numerous statements were made in favor of expanding the circle of beneficiaries of WIPO's support to include the innovation and creativity sectors and IP ecosystems of other interested Member States, noting that the voices of those Member States had still not been heard. The Delegation also recalled the importance of achieving the SDGs and emphasized that WIPO's available resources should, first and foremost, be used for technical assistance to developing countries and LDCs, as well as to States facing crises such as natural disasters, the impact of climate change, pandemics and economic instability. The Delegation noted that singling out one particular Member State for such technical assistance, particularly on political grounds, was unacceptable since such an approach categorically contradicted the fundamental principle of equality, which is the cornerstone of international relations and the functioning of the UN system. The Delegation also recalled that, as a general rule, the consideration of projects related to the provision of technical assistance fell within the competence of the CDIP and emphasized that the implementation of such projects also required a clear understanding of their funding mechanisms and associated costs, which fell under the mandate of the PBC. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted that this matter, however, had never been submitted for consideration to the mentioned bodies, which was completely unacceptable. The Delegation emphasized the need to adhere to the mandate of WIPO and to properly take into account the long-term prospects and interests of all Member States, noting the inadmissibility of a selective and politicized approach to the provision of technical assistance that bypassed the agreed coordination of that activity within the relevant committees. The Delegation also particularly noted that, according to the Secretariat's report, WIPO resources are largely directed towards military purposes – several paragraphs of the report contained references to dual-use technologies, defense developments, production of drones and support for defense-related technologies; that essentially meant that the resources of a multilateral organization, originally intended for development purposes, primarily to support developing countries and LDCs, were being arbitrarily redirected to support the military industry of one Member State, against the

backdrop of discussions about a reduction in the WIPO development budget. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that the above highlighted the politicized nature of that initiative and, more generally, the desire of a particular group of countries to artificially politicize the work of the WIPO Assemblies by keeping controversial proposals, lacking universal support on the agenda. The Delegation also underlined that the report included conclusions and qualifications that fell outside the mandate of the Organization. WIPO does not have any authority in the field of international humanitarian law. The Delegation called for an end to such a vicious practice, which undermined the authority of WIPO as a specialized and expert body of the UN system. The Delegation emphasized that Member States must cease supporting the report, remove that item from the WIPO Assemblies' agenda, and conclude all work of the Organization on the matter.

153. The Delegation of Poland aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its member States, of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group and of the United Kingdom on behalf of the group of like-minded countries (LMCs). Poland strongly condemned the brutal war of aggression being waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Regular attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure were part of the Russian Federation's plan to destroy Ukraine, decompose its territorial integrity and destroy its national identity by damaging its cultural and historical heritage and by heavily impacting on the human strengths and dignity of Ukrainian people. The Delegation reaffirmed that the Russian Federation must immediately end the war that violated international law and principles that were also the basis of WIPO. The Secretariat's report provided sufficient and indisputable evidence of the intentional nature of the destruction of and damage to hospitals, schools, universities, technological centers and other sites, without which IP would become only an abstract concept. The Delegation stressed that the Russian Federation must accept full responsibility for the damage, and until then, it should not be allowed to enjoy the full rights and benefits of multilateral cooperation, including within WIPO. No report could fully convey the scale of the human drama and the impact of the outflow of intellectual capital and the time needed for its recovery, and no report could estimate where the Ukrainian economy would have been, had the power of the Ukrainian creators, artists and innovators not been stifled by overwhelming fear for their lives. Those aspects should be included in the report's impact assessment of the negative impact of the Russian continued war of aggression against Ukraine. The Delegation emphasized that the support of Poland for the Government and people of Ukraine was unconditional. Ukrainian refugees in Poland benefited from various social programs and more than 50,000 Ukrainian students studied in Poland in the previous academic year. Ukrainians accounted for half of all foreign students in Polish universities. The Polish National Science Center launched research projects to assist Ukrainian scientists and researchers, many of whom were continuing their research in Poland. Polish universities, research and technological centres adapted their activities to offer direct assistance to peers from Ukraine. More than 200,000 Ukrainian primary, middle and high school students attended Polish schools in 2024. Since the beginning of the war, more than 30,000 Ukrainian companies were registered in Poland, many of them working in IP-related areas, in particular ICT and the creative industries. The Patent Office of the Republic of Poland supported UANIPIO in its efforts to harmonize regulations and develop tools for innovators, in particular SMEs. The WIPO Secretariat's efforts to assist the Ukrainian IP ecosystem and IP stakeholders were commendable. All projects and activities presented in the report were timely and valuable. Poland saw significant value in the direct assistance WIPO provided to Ukrainian entrepreneurs, creators, artists, scientists and innovators who decided to pursue their activities despite the difficult circumstances, all of whom deserved admiration and support. Poland supported Ukrainian colleagues who expressed their concerns related to the proper registration of applications. The Delegation urged the International Bureau to take steps to ensure that publications on WIPO resources and platforms comply with the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders as set forth in subparagraph (c) of the decision taken by the Assemblies in 2024 (document A/65/11, para. 201). The Delegation looked forward to the updated assessment of the medium

and long-term impacts of the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and IP system at the next year's WIPO Assemblies, as well as full implementation of the decision contained in document A/65/11.

154. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea always opposed the politicization of the work of WIPO, the mandate of which was to address matters of innovation and creation. If the Assemblies wished to discuss the restoration of the IP system in Ukraine and the special military operation of the Russian Federation, they should also talk about support for Gaza, where even the elementary human rights to life and existence were flagrantly violated, and about LDCs, which were vulnerable to climate change and other global challenges. Reports on technical support for one specific Member State should be discussed by the CDIP or the PBC, rather than under a specific agenda item of the WIPO Assemblies.

155. The Delegation of Belarus shared the concerns raised by the Delegations of the Russian Federation, Niger, and Mali with regard to the report put forward by the Secretariat. Its preparation was the contradictory and politicized initiative of a group of countries, and violated the principles underlying WIPO technical support such as inclusiveness and equality of rights. The initiative was incompatible with the mandate of WIPO from the outset. Its implementation created unequal opportunities and discriminated against other Member States affected by conflicts, economic crises or illegal economic sanctions that also needed technical support. It was a dishonest politicization of WIPO's agenda and misuse of the Organization's mandate, which was unacceptable. The agenda and activities of WIPO must be inclusive and take account of the interests of all Member States on an equal footing. Those Member States that initiated the agenda item should cease abusing the WIPO platform. The Delegation supported the proposal that the item should be removed from the agenda and the Organization's work on the matter should be terminated.

156. The Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela took note of the report but did not agree that one Member State should be singled out for technical support to its innovation and creativity sector and IP system. Such an approach was unbalanced and did not take into account the needs of other Member States, in particular developing countries and those undergoing adversity such as natural disasters, or subject to the illegal imposition of unilateral sanctions, the consequences of which constituted an unquestionable threat to the protection of IP. It was therefore important to broaden the list of beneficiaries, in line with the principle of equality as the foundation of international relations.

157. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova recalled that it proposed the decision on assistance to Ukraine, in 2024, on behalf of the CEBS Group and Group B, driven by a firm belief in the urgent need to address the devastating consequences of the war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and in particular its impact on the latter's innovation and creativity sector and IP system. The decision, approved by the Assemblies in 2024, reflected the gravity of the situation in the opinion of the majority of WIPO Member States and showed solidarity with Ukraine. In no way did it discriminate against any Member State, nor did it undermine the principle of equal distribution of resources. In such extremely challenging times, WIPO support for the IP ecosystem of Ukraine was critical. Ongoing efforts by WIPO in those difficult circumstances were appreciated. Although the improvements noted in the Secretariat's report were positive, it also clearly highlighted the continuing negative impact of the war on Ukraine's IP ecosystem. As a neighboring country, the Republic of Moldova fully understood the urgency of the situation and emphasized the fact that technical assistance remained critical for recovery and resilience in Ukraine. Several statements delivered during the current discussion, that by the Delegation of Ukraine and the statement delivered by the United Kingdom on behalf of LMCs, highlighted well-founded concerns with regard to WIPO publications and platforms. The Secretariat's responses in that regard would be welcome. The Republic of Moldova applied the existing legal framework in the manner that upheld the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity in relation to Ukraine. Specifically,

applications filed through and examined by its national IP office ensured that no registration were granted where its content contravened the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity in relation to Ukraine. That approach affirmed the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to the rules-based international order and the integrity of the IP system. The same approach should be taken at the international level. All WIPO platforms and publications must comply fully with international law and the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Enhanced vigilance and coordinated efforts across all aspects of IP administration were therefore required at all stages, be it filing, registration or publication. The Republic of Moldova reiterated its unwavering support for Ukraine and called on WIPO to continue its vital technical and institutional support.

158. The Delegation of Nicaragua stated that WIPO was established to promote the use, protection and benefit of IP as a tool contributing to economic and social development. Technical cooperation offered by WIPO to its Member States was, therefore, much needed. Nevertheless, Nicaragua recalled its rejection, expressed during the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions, regarding the agenda item on support for Ukraine and did not consider it as normal technical assistance. The reports and previous decision on the subject were approved in an unprecedented manner with the support of only a minority. Moreover, matters relating to the provision of technical assistance were usually submitted to the CDIP and PBC for consideration; in the case at hand, that did not happen. The technical assistance needs of several other Member States, in particular developing countries undergoing major economic crises, were ignored. That contradicted the principle of equality on which the Organization was founded. The work of WIPO and WIPO Assemblies must not be artificially politicized, but rather should be based on consensus and must respect the Organization's aims and founding principles. The Delegation reiterated its rejection of the report and reaffirmed its wish that the item in question should be removed from the agenda of the Assemblies.

159. The Delegation of Zimbabwe reaffirmed its support for the provision of assistance to WIPO Member States in distress, especially given that the global community was not on track to meet the SDGs. The Delegation reiterated its position expressed since the sixty-third Series of Assemblies in 2022 that such valuable assistance must be expanded to a broader spectrum of Member States. Many were grappling with compounded challenges ranging from climate change and natural disasters to public health crises and rising geopolitical and trade tensions, all of which undermined peace and sustainability, which were essential to a flourishing global IP environment. What appeared to be the selective and arbitrary prioritization of support for one Member State over others equally in need was a source of deep concern. The Delegation firmly opposed to any form of selectivity and discrimination in the treatment of WIPO Member States. All Member States should be afforded equal access to support in line with the principles of fairness, inclusivity and solidarity that underpinned the Organization. The Delegation expressed regret that the agenda item under discussion was a departure from the longstanding WIPO tradition of decision-making by consensus. All Member States should reflect on whether they wished to foster an inclusive and transparent IP system or one that risked being viewed as politicized and exclusionary. The Delegation believed that WIPO must remain a technical body focused on innovation and IP, distinct from political platforms that were better suited to addressing such highly sensitive geopolitical matters.

160. The Delegation of Latvia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group, of Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its member States, and of the United Kingdom on behalf of the group of LMCs. It stated that Latvia would always extend its unwavering support to Ukraine. The devastating impact of the Russian Federation's war on Ukraine was undeniable. The damage inflicted was profound, which clearly continued to have a negative impact on the innovation and creativity sector and IP ecosystem. That was not merely an unfortunate circumstance. It constituted a deliberate and shameful act of destructive nature by one WIPO Member State upon another. The Delegation noted with appreciation the continued assistance provided by WIPO to Ukraine and was grateful for the

provided report on assistance to support for the Ukraine innovation and creative sector and IP system. The fact that the Russian Federation already for many years was waging unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war against Ukraine and its people and consequently damaging the IP creative and innovation ecosystem only further underscored the urgent need for continued long-term and amplified support by WIPO. It was imperative that WIPO maintained the support to Ukraine and that WIPO continued to report on that issue annually as long as needed. It was also important that the previous year's decision of the Assemblies (document A/65/11, paragraph 201) was fully implemented and followed. Concerns were raised on that matter, in particular with regard to subparagraph (c) that was not fully implemented. Despite the clear mandate and the continuous discussions with Ukraine, incorrect publications being made in WIPO systems were still an issue of concern, in breach of the sovereignty and internationally recognized borders of Ukraine. The Secretariat should, therefore, make known the steps that it explored and took in order to implement the decision. Referring to the statements made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of LMCs, as well as other delegations, the Delegation was of the view that a disclaimer was not sufficient. WIPO was to be commended for its readiness to continue supporting Ukraine but the Delegation urged WIPO to reevaluate its steps and find constructive and adequate solutions to ensure that the decision was implemented effectively and in full. WIPO should pursue constructive dialogue with Ukraine and other Member States on the matter. The agenda item under discussion was most certainly not a matter of singling out a particular country. On the contrary, it was a demonstration that support could be provided to any Member State in need. The circumstances in the case at hand were extraordinary: an unprovoked, unjustified full-scale war had been underway for several years. The Delegation stated that the matter was not one of politics, and the message for other Member States was one of the importance of a global and inclusive IP system that prioritized unity and support for countries in desperate need, which was fully in line with WIPO values.

161. The Delegation of Lithuania aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group, of Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its member States, of the United Kingdom on behalf of the group of LMCs, and of Ukraine. It reiterated its strong support for the Government and people of Ukraine and its condemnation of the brutal war of aggression being waged by the Russian Federation. According to the Delegation, the agenda item under discussion was crucial to upholding international law and reaffirming the collective commitment to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the rules-based international order. Those principles were important to all responsible international community members. Addressing ongoing acts of aggression was essential; such violations must not be ignored and the war must not be accepted as the new normal. The Delegation acknowledged WIPO's work on the assistance and support to Ukraine and last year's relevant decision. While encouraging the Secretariat to continue its efforts to support the innovation and creativity sector and IP system in Ukraine, it noted that the disclaimer introduced in response to subparagraph (c) of the decision adopted the previous year did not fully address the issues raised. The Secretariat should take all necessary measures to identify and implement effective solutions to ensure that the decision was fully implemented and that all publications on WIPO platforms and in WIPO resources fully complied with the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. A clear and comprehensive response from the Secretariat to the questions raised in the statement delivered on behalf of the group of LMCs would be appreciated.

162. The Delegation of China stated that its position on crisis in Ukraine remained unchanged. It favored a political solution through dialogue and negotiation. China stood ready to work constructively with the international community towards a swift and peaceful resolution. The mandate of WIPO was to promote international cooperation on IP, and the core mandate of the Assemblies was to advance the development of the global IP framework. All parties should respect and focus on that mandate, and strive to ensure that the Organization remained professional, technical, objective and neutral, including with regard to the impartial provision of

support to Member States, in particular developing countries. The politicization of the Organization's operations must be avoided.

163. The Delegation of Cuba reiterated its opposition to the politicization of the Organization's discussions, which instead should focus on technical matters, in line with its mandate. All developing countries, including those subjected to unilateral measures taken against them, had the right to receive technical assistance in an inclusive manner.

164. The Director General affirmed that the Secretariat listened carefully to all comments made by Member States on the matter. He reiterated the International Bureau's commitment to fully implementing the decision taken the previous year by the Assemblies in that regard. He thanked Member States and partners that worked with the Secretariat to provide support to Ukraine, including FIT South Korea and the EUIPO. With regard to subparagraph (c), the International Bureau worked hard to implement it, as demonstrated by the strengthening of the disclaimers. Those were adjusted to be stronger, and even more evident. Nevertheless, the International Bureau operated within a framework that was laid out by the different rules under which the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems operated. Should Member States feel that those frameworks required revision, the International Bureau stood ready to facilitate, support and discuss. He reaffirmed that the International Bureau, depending on the results of the discussions and final decisions, was ready to continue to examine how to further implement the decision. The DG reassured and reiterated that WIPO was duty-bound and ready to help and support all Member States. He invited any Member States in situations of conflict, distress or difficulty to reach out to WIPO for support.

165. As there were no other requests for the floor the Chair noted that all statements under the agenda item were recorded, and considered the discussion on the agenda item concluded.

#### ITEM 21 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

166. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/84/2).

#### ITEM 22 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### RENEWAL OF THE TERMS OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE WIPO APPEAL BOARD

167. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/84/2).

#### ITEM 23 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

##### ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

168. Discussions were based on document A/66/10.

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

(i) adopted the present Summary Report (document A/66/10); and

- (ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by August 14, 2025. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by September 11, 2025, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by September 25, 2025.

## ITEM 24 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

170. Delegations taking the floor thanked the Director General, Chair, Secretariat, interpreters and translators for their work during the Assemblies.

171. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the APG, welcomed the consensus-based decisions taken in the course of the Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the WIPO. The APG always advocated dialogue and encouraged Member States to bridge gaps in a spirit of multilateralism. Member States should strive to achieve the goals set forth in the WIPO DA and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The composition of the Coordination Committee had been agreed upon on an exceptional basis at the current session. Nonetheless, equitable geographical representation in the governing bodies of WIPO was important and would enhance the credibility of its decision-making; indeed, it should be mainstreamed across all WIPO activities and its workforce. The decision to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/27 biennium meant that Member States could pursue text-based negotiations and build on that Committee's work. The APG looked forward to continuing the work of the SCCR on limitations and exceptions and to advancing the DA at future sessions.

172. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, paid tribute to the Delegation of Switzerland for having steered informal consultations on the program of work and budget to a successful conclusion. All decisions taken at the current Assemblies were adopted by consensus and WIPO was heading into the forthcoming biennium in a position of strength and unity. Side events organized by Member States were thought-provoking and entertaining.

173. The Delegation of China welcomed the decisions taken at the Assemblies and commended all parties on their flexibility and constructive attitude, in particular in reaching consensus on the budget for the next biennium and the composition of the next PBC and Coordination Committee. Consensus was key to the Organization's smooth and effective operation. China would follow closely the implementation and performance evaluation of the program of work and budget. It looked forward to further progress in audit and oversight and reporting to Member States, as well as enhanced transparency in budget implementation. China would also monitor ongoing efforts to enhance WIPO global service systems, in particular the reform of language regimes in the Madrid and Hague systems. That included the introduction of new languages.

174. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, welcomed strengthened WIPO cooperation with Ukraine, based on the decision that was adopted by the WIPO Assemblies the previous year (document A/65/11, paragraph 201), including with regard to subparagraph (c) of that decision on ensuring that publications on WIPO resources and platforms complied with the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The CEBS Group looked forward to further collaboration on that matter. It welcomed the adoption of the program of work and budget for 2026/27, which resulted from the flexibility shown by delegations and regional groups, and the renewal of the mandate of the IGC.

175. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that the Group's primary goal was to strengthen the global IP ecosystem, make it more inclusive and representative, and to align it more fully with the DA. Specific tools should be designed and implemented to ensure that the benefits of IP helped to address common challenges and contributed to inclusive growth and development. In particular, it should help business people and SMEs to become more competitive. The Organization's collective decisions and future actions should always be guided by the principles of justice and inclusion.

176. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the adoption of the program of work and budget for 2026/27 and the spirit of cooperation shown by all Member States in that regard. It encouraged them to sign and ratify the GRATK Treaty in order to ensure its swift entry into force and effective implementation. The African Group welcomed the decision to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/27 biennium and remained committed to advancing negotiations on a legally binding international instrument on TK and TCE. Capacity-building, technology transfer and technical assistance for developing countries in line with their national and regional priorities should be the focus of WIPO programs.

177. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the participants of the Local Roots Global Reach side event, which showcased Indonesian IP. The initiative reflected the country's vision of empowering local creative talents to gain global recognition through the effective use of IP. That showed how IP could turn creativity into economic value, while preserving and celebrating cultural identity. Culture and creative works were at the heart of the country's national strategy to make IP a driver of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. IP should be an incentive, not a barrier, for creators and entrepreneurs. Indonesia was completing a DA project on the creative industry in the digital era, the aim of which was to build awareness of and capacity to use IP strategically. Indonesia was committed to strengthening an inclusive, balanced and development-oriented global IP system.

178. The Delegation of India commended the delegations for upholding the WIPO principle of consensus, thanks to the spirit of accommodation that they showed during the Assemblies. It thanked the Delegation of Switzerland for facilitating informal consultations, the outcome of which enabled consensual adoption of the program of work and budget. The budget plan reinforced the Organization's commitment to a balanced and inclusive DA. The participation in the Assemblies of more than 40 Ministers and 92 heads of IP offices underscored the growing role of WIPO as the lynchpin of global innovation and entrepreneurship. Meetings held on the sidelines enabled discussions on bilateral IP cooperation and emerging areas of mutual interest. India deposited its instrument of accession to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the IPC during the Assemblies. WIPO and India were celebrating 50 years of partnership, a milestone that reflected a shared desire to promote innovation through IP.

179. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, underlined that the success of the Assemblies, in particular with regard to the Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, was a result of the collaborative spirit shown by regional groups and delegations. The European Union and its member States welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for 2026/27, the adoption of the RDLT and ongoing WIPO assistance to the innovation and creativity sector and IP system of Ukraine.

180. The Delegation of Egypt said that the success in reaching agreement by consensus on all agenda items at the Assemblies reflected a shared commitment to multilateral cooperation. Multilateralism worked. Egypt looked forward to continuing its cooperation with WIPO in the same vein, advancing a more effective and balanced international IP system that fostered innovation and creativity, contributed to national development and made progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

181. The Delegation of Algeria welcomed the fact that agreement was reached by consensus on all agenda items and the constructive spirit in which they were negotiated. Many tangible results were obtained over the previous year in advancing the global IP system, particularly in developing countries through development initiatives and efforts to achieve the SDGs. The decisions reached during the Assemblies would provide a road map for the Organization's work in the coming biennium.

182. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia hailed the fruitful and constructive cooperation among Member States that characterized the Assemblies. The positive results obtained reflected their collective commitment to strengthen the global IP system. The Delegation reaffirmed its support for the Organization and its various bodies and would work with all partners to promote innovation and protect IPRs. Those efforts were in line with the SDGs and the Vision 2030 program in Saudi Arabia.

183. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire said that 2024 was a pivotal year for WIPO, with the adoption of the RDLT and the GRATK Treaty, which the Government planned to ratify shortly. Côte d'Ivoire was delighted to be elected to the Coordination Committee and to the Hague Union Assembly as Vice-Chair and pledged to contribute constructively and collaboratively to WIPO governance. It would continue to implement reforms in the areas of copyright and technological innovation and to leverage local know-how, including through geographical indications and collective marks.

184. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted with satisfaction the progress achieved during the meetings, as well as the consensus-based adoption of decisions in a spirit of healthy multilateral cooperation. It welcomed the outcomes of the two Diplomatic Conferences held in 2024 and highlighted the importance of further work to promote multilingualism policy, including introduction of at least all official UN languages in the Madrid and Hague systems. The Delegation also noted the need to preserve and further strengthen the architecture of multilateral relations in the field of IP. At the same time, it categorically deemed absolutely unacceptable discrimination based on national and linguistic grounds with regard to the registration and granting of legal protection for IP rights, as well as the groundless, unsubstantiated accusations against the Russian Federation which, in its turn, had strictly fulfilled, was fulfilling, and would continue to strictly fulfill its international obligations. The Delegation emphasized that it advocated for a non-politicized nature of the global IP system and open, constructive multilateral cooperation without a selective approach and double standards, as well as attempts to distort concepts and artificially politicize the work, including in the area of technical assistance. It stressed that the global IP system should encourage innovation and creativity, not become a barrier to realizing human potential and the comprehensive development of all people worldwide.

185. The Delegation of Jamaica, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, said that the discussions held during the Assemblies reaffirmed the vital role of multilateral dialogue in advancing and protecting IP. For Jamaica and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), multilateral commitments were critical to building resilience and positioning IP as a driver of sustainable economic growth, particularly through support for micro-, and SMEs, creators and innovators. Jamaica therefore welcomed the ongoing efforts to enhance IP awareness, education and accessibility so as to ensure that the benefits of the IP system were widely shared.

186. The Delegation of Kazakhstan reaffirmed its commitment to the goals of WIPO and to strengthening international cooperation on IP protection and development. It greatly appreciated the efforts of WIPO to ensure an inclusive, sustainable and technologically oriented future, and the support it provided to Member States in their pursuit of national priorities. Kazakhstan would strive, through constructive dialogue, the exchange of best practices and the effective use of WIPO tools, to contribute to innovative growth, digitalization and improved legal

protection for IPRs. It looked forward to continuing to work in the same constructive manner that characterized the current Assemblies.

187. The Delegation of El Salvador said that the successful conclusion of the Assemblies contributed to strengthening multilateralism. The Organization's work was helping to build a more balanced and inclusive IP system that promoted innovation, creativity, development and sustainable growth. The Delegation thanked the Delegation of Switzerland, which served as an honest broker and bridge builder in facilitating negotiations on the program of work and budget for 2026/27.

188. The Delegation of Guatemala thanked Member States that shared information about their cultural identity at exhibitions held on the fringes of the Assemblies. The exhibited cultural expressions not only helped to foster mutual understanding but had also illustrated the close connection between IP and cultural diversity.

189. The Delegation of Samoa said that it was optimistic that the GRATK Treaty would be in force by the time the next Assemblies would be convened. Negotiations and discussions within WIPO were becoming increasingly political and business-focused, rather than technical and human-rights-based. Vigilance was required to ensure that the Organization's work did not end up making the rich richer and the poor poorer. Innovation should always have a human development aspect and should relieve human suffering and prevent global crises rather than intensifying them. As a UN agency, WIPO should be guided first and foremost by UN doctrines and principles.

190. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago aligned itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. It thanked the Delegation of Switzerland for facilitating negotiations on the program of work and budget. The successful and early conclusion of the Assemblies was the result of consensus-based decision-making and multilateralism. The decisions taken underlined the role of WIPO in enabling developing countries to leverage innovation and creativity for economic growth and sustainable development. The Director General's deep-dive initiative, which brought together heads of IP offices, was particularly welcome.

191. The Delegation of Niger, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Delegation of Switzerland for facilitating the informal consultations on the program of work and budget. Its adoption by consensus was the result of the engagement and flexibility of all the delegations concerned. Such consensus-based decision-making was the cornerstone of multilateralism.

192. The Delegation of Nigeria said that the Assemblies illustrated the strength of multilateral cooperation when it was grounded in inclusivity, transparency and a genuine commitment to development. Nigeria welcomed the decision to advance the work of the IGC, in particular with regard to finalizing an instrument on TK and TCEs, and the adoption of the program of work and budget with clearer linkages to development. IP should catalyze economic diversification and job creation and protect the rich cultural and biological heritage of Africa. Nigeria was committed to fostering a balanced and development-oriented global IP system that left no country or community behind.

193. The Delegation of Sudan commended all parties for the constructive spirit that had prevailed during the Assemblies and which led to the adoption of all decisions by consensus. WIPO should preserve the technical and developmental nature of its work and refrain from politicizing it or applying selective standards. Greater coordination was needed between WIPO and other UN bodies to achieve the SDGs, in line with the principle of "leaving no one behind". Such an approach should be reflected in effective partnership under the Tripartite Agreement

and in humanitarian and development work. That was especially so in fragile and conflict-affected countries or regions, such as the Sudan.

194. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said that IP played an increasingly important role not only in innovation but also in social development globally. Trusting that WIPO would fulfill its mandate, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would strengthen its relationships with WIPO and other Member States and actively engage in efforts to promote the IP ecosystem.

195. The Delegation of Zimbabwe aligned itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It expressed appreciation for the spirit of collaboration and dedication demonstrated by Member States throughout the Assemblies and welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC. Over the previous 10 years, Member States made considerable progress on key issues that would shape the future of IP globally. The decisions taken at the Assemblies reflected a shared vision for a robust, inclusive and forward-looking IP system.

196. The Delegation of Colombia, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, welcomed the decision to renew the mandate of the IGC and the adoption of the program of work and budget for 2026/27. It appreciated the consensus reached on recognizing innovation, creativity, productivity and legality as the guiding principles of the Organization's work. The Delegation would continue to bring its experience and perspective to the table as a Latin American and Southern Andean country in an effort to strengthen multilateralism and create a more robust and inclusive IP system.

197. The Delegation of Eswatini, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the constructive engagement, collaborative spirit and commitment to consensus that characterized the Assemblies. The outcome of their work reflected a shared desire to strengthen the global IP system in a way that was inclusive, balanced and responsive to the needs of all. The progress made in advancing the DA and aligning the program of work and budget with the SDGs was especially satisfying.

198. The Delegation of Panama, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, commended all delegations on their constructive participation in the Assemblies, in particular during parallel meetings. Member States must join forces to promote innovative and effective solutions to global challenges and to harness the transformative potential of IP as a tool for more equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. Multilateralism lay at the heart of the Organization's work, thanks largely to the collaborative spirit of its Member States.

199. The Delegation of Cameroon aligned itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The successful outcome of the Assemblies demonstrated the Member States' ability to set aside their differences and engage with one another constructively to identify solutions to common problems. That was the essence of multilateralism, to which Cameroon was fully committed.

200. The Delegation of Canada said that it appreciated the collaboration, progress and consensus-based decision-making that was the hallmark of the current Assemblies. The failure to reach consensus on a funding proposal for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the IGC was regrettable. That proposal was valuable, creative and capable of meeting the needs of all stakeholders. However, the progress and decisions made on all other items of the agenda of the PBC, and at the Assemblies in general, stood the Member States in good stead for the next biennium.

201. The Delegation of Botswana, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, said that it valued the Member States' spirit of cooperation and unity and their constructive contributions to discussions at the Assemblies, reflecting their shared desire for a harmonized global IP system. WIPO should promote ratification and implementation of the GRATK Treaty and the RDLT to benefit all Member States.

202. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and said that it appreciated the collective engagement by all Member States throughout the Assemblies. In its written submission, the Delegation stated that Organization's resources must be used to advance its mandate, which was to promote the protection of IP throughout the world. The United States wanted to take the opportunity to underscore principles that it deemed essential to the future success of that Organization, and it underlined its commitment to strong and effective systems that served the interests of stakeholders in the global IP ecosystem. A key focus for WIPO's work and its resource expenditures should be improving and streamlining its international filing and registration systems, in order to yield benefits for the users of these services. Those systems must facilitate IP protection in a cost-efficient manner, free from burdensome requirements that discouraged innovation. All registration systems must become solvent and financially self-sufficient, and financial sustainability must remain at the core of WIPO's operations. Much remained to be done in that area, particularly for the Lisbon and Hague systems. It was unfair to continue to burden Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and Madrid System filers with fees that funded other systems that were neither solvent nor moving towards financial sustainability. Applicants should only be paying for the services that they received. With regard to GRs, TK and TCE, related work should remain the exclusive purview of the IGC, as set forth in its renewed mandate. The Delegation added that this new IGC mandate dictated that any discussion and work relating to GRs, TK, and TCE had to take place in that singular WIPO body. Attempts to discuss those subjects, including "biopiracy", in other Committees amounted to a bid to overextend the IGC mandate and undermine the work of those other Committees. Moreover, it was important to maintain the integrity and efficiency of the PCT system as a tool allowing patent applicants, including SMEs, to pursue global patent protection. New requirements, such as disclosure and origin of GRs and associated TK, which did not relate to the patentability of inventions, should not be incorporated into the PCT. Such a step would fundamentally alter its nature as a filing mechanism and impose substantial burdens on applicants. That would, in turn, undermine incentives for innovation, interject uncertainty into the patent system and make it less attractive for inventors. For the abovementioned reasons, the United States did not support burdening PCT applicants with additional requirements. The Delegation reiterated that WIPO, in accordance with its mandate, had to focus on services pertaining to the protection of IP, such as patents, trademarks, copyright, and industrial designs. It further noted that, as it had previously highlighted during the Assemblies, the United States believed it was time to intensify and refocus its energy, time, and resources on more fully realizing the Organization's mandate. Moreover, it looked forward to more discussion on the intersection of artificial intelligence and patent policies, and on trade secrets, which were a low-cost but impactful tool for protecting valuable assets. The Madrid System needed to become more attractive to businesses seeking to protect their trademarks and compete in global markets. With regard to designs, digital designs now dominated industrial design filings and WIPO had an important role to play in guiding Member States in updating their practices through issuance of a joint recommendation on the protection of designs for GUIs. The United States would continue to engage with other Member States to make progress in that regard. It looked forward to continuing more focused discussions on broadcasting issues and to advancing copyright discussions that enhance recognized copyright protections and norms. The Delegation underlined that it had to be realistic about expectations for the work of WIPO's various Committees. Moreover, it called upon all Member States to ensure that WIPO's work fostered and promoted the protection of IP throughout the world. The United States would watch closely and engage constructively to ensure renewed emphasis on core IP matters –

patents, trademarks, copyright, designs and trade secrets – as mandated by the WIPO Convention. Lastly, the United States stated that it would be watching closely and engaging constructively to ensure that WIPO's work moved forward pursuant to its mandate.

203. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea said that the Assemblies reaffirmed the Member States' desire to build a more inclusive, innovative and sustainable global IP system for the benefit of all. The speed and flexibility with which consensus was reached on a number of agenda items was particularly laudable. WIPO must continue to strengthen multilateral cooperation, mutual support and knowledge-sharing among all Member States. The Delegation remained fully committed to working hand-in-hand with WIPO and fellow Member States to establish a balanced, equitable and future-oriented IP framework.

204. The Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the closing statements delivered by the Delegations of Estonia and Denmark on behalf of the CEBS Group and the European Union and its member States, respectively. Ukraine welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/27 biennium, the work of the SCCR on the draft broadcasting organizations treaty, discussions on generative AI (GenAI), the wide-ranging work of the CDIP, and user-focused developments across the Organization's global IP systems. It also welcomed the work of the WIPO governing bodies, including the PBC and Coordination Committee. It was regrettable that the Russian Federation was participating in those bodies, even as it continued to wage war and systematically misused WIPO platforms, in flagrant disregard of the Organization's principles. Nonetheless, Ukraine welcomed the Organization's continued support and looked forward to further cooperation under the MoU that it signed with WIPO a few days earlier. The Delegation of Ukraine expressed its gratitude to the WIPO Secretariat for the preparation of the report A/66/8 and considered the continued support extended to Ukraine as both timely and necessary as Ukraine endured the consequences of Russia's ongoing war of aggression. The Delegation welcomed the WIPO Secretariat's commitment for taking all necessary measures to find solutions for the effective implementation of last year's General Assembly decision, contained in document A/65/11. Furthermore, it appreciated the Secretariat's pledge to take all necessary measures to ensure that publications on WIPO resources and platforms complied with the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Delegation of Ukraine concluded its statement with sincere appreciation to all Member States that continued to demonstrate principled position and adherence to basic principles on which that Organization stood, reiterating that the position meant standing in solidarity with Ukraine.

205. The Delegation of Cambodia said that it welcomed the constructive spirit and solidarity demonstrated by the Member States throughout the Assemblies, which enabled considerable progress to be made on key issues, including the promotion of inclusive innovation. Cambodia was particularly encouraged by the Member States' commitment to addressing the needs of developing countries and LDCs. It backed the efforts of WIPO to build Member States' capacities, modernize IP offices and protect GRs, TK and folklore.

206. The Delegation of Sri Lanka welcomed the detailed discussions held at the Assemblies and the decisions reached as a result. It appreciated the constructive engagement of Member States on issues of vital importance to developing countries, such as protecting IPRs and capacity-building. Sri Lanka would continue to harness IP as a tool for innovation, creativity and sustainable development.

207. The Delegation of South Africa, aligning itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, said that it appreciated the efforts made by the Delegation of Switzerland to facilitate informal meetings, especially those of the PBC, which once again demonstrated flexibility in making consensus-based decisions. The early conclusion of the Assemblies was the result of the spirit of cooperation and adaptability that

Member States showed. South Africa welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and the RDLT and looked forward to their swift implementation.

208. The Delegation of France, aligning itself with the closing statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark on behalf of Group B and the European Union and its member States, respectively, welcomed the constructive and collaborative spirit demonstrated by Member States in making consensus-based decisions. However, steps must be taken to reach consensus on other texts that were under discussion for many years. Decisions in the Organization must continue to be made on the basis of consensus.

209. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran aligned itself with the closing statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and observed that the Assemblies reaffirmed the importance of a constructive approach and mutual respect in discussing challenges and opportunities relating to global IP. The Islamic Republic of Iran remained committed to establishing a balanced and inclusive IP system that fostered innovation and creativity and contributed to development in all regions, and valued the continued efforts of WIPO to implement the DA.

210. The Delegation of Cuba said that it appreciated the collaborative spirit demonstrated by the Member States in reaching decisions at the Assemblies, and underlined the importance of including a development dimension in all WIPO activities.

211. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and said that the results of the Assemblies showed that multilateralism had prevailed.

212. The Delegation of Italy, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the Assemblies provided an exceptional opportunity for dialogue, exchange and cooperation. Differing views were expressed, but, more importantly, a concerted effort was made to find common ground. Once again, multilateralism yielded tangible results.

213. The Delegation of Singapore lauded Member States for their continued commitment to multilateralism for the benefit of all. The Assemblies had again demonstrated that cooperation was the cornerstone of progress, and an increasing number of countries, stakeholders and innovators were recognizing the power of IP to transform lives and drive development.

214. The Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic said that the outcome of the Assemblies was testament to the ability of the Director General of WIPO to lead the Organization with integrity and empathy and to act decisively.

215. The Delegation of Japan, speaking in its national capacity, said that, in a complex international context, the advancement of the IP system based on multilateralism was more important than ever. WIPO was a key organization for international cooperation, and Japan remained committed to contributing to the development of a fair and effective international IP system for the well-being of all.

216. The Representative of the HEP remarked that, although some issues addressed at the Assemblies were highly controversial, the discussions had been conducted with the dignity befitting an international organization. However, WIPO might wish to consider allowing NGOs to participate fully in informal meetings.

217. The closing remarks of the Director General are recorded as follows:

“Dear Chair,

“Distinguished Delegates

“Colleagues, Friends,

“As we draw this year’s Assemblies to a close, allow me to share some reflections on this year’s General Assembly.

“First, it was our biggest GA ever, with Micronesia joining us as our 194th Member State, and with 1,600 persons attending. We can all see how our hall was really packed, vibrant and noisy – in a good way! This is a testament to how interest in the work of WIPO, interest in the work of IP, is growing.

“I should also mention that participation by global leaders is also increasing. This year, we had 94 Heads of IP Office join us and 40 Ministers attending – the highest number ever. I, myself, had nearly 100 bilateral meetings. All this is to say that we are very honored by the increasing interest we are seeing from all of you, from your capital-based experts and from your missions in our work.

“We are also seeing increased interest at the political level, which is important strategically, and for each of you who are Heads of IP Office, in getting the resources needed to deliver what we discuss. I would say that, as someone who has attended WIPO Assemblies for 12 or 13 years, this level of engagement is quite a change from what we have seen previously. This shows that IP is becoming of greater strategic importance for all countries.

“My second reflection is that, while very important matters are discussed and decisions made in this hall based on the formal agenda of the GA, we also know that the value of the GA is in the gathering of the world’s IP community and leaders in one place.

“This is, therefore, a once-a-year opportunity for the world to meet, connect and network. And it has been a longstanding tradition that many Heads of IP Office and delegations take advantage of this to meet with their partners for bilaterals or regional meetings.

“One of the innovations we introduced this year was the Deep Dive dinner and the Breakfast sharing for all Heads of IP Office, to focus on issues relating to the management and administration of IP offices. We didn’t discuss policy issues or formal items, but the practical issues of running IP offices effectively. The feedback has been very positive from around the world, with many Heads commenting that this allowed them to get to know IP offices from regions that they would otherwise not meet. This supported a sense of family – with many Heads of Office commenting that they found fellow Heads facing the same challenges, which led to a renewed sense of purpose, really enhancing the feeling of being a global IP community.

“Third, the GA is an opportunity to share best practices, insights, trends and other areas connected to IP policymaking. These are the reports and launches that we do – including a very interesting one on investment in intangible assets – and many others as well. But what’s interesting is that the GA has also become a place where Member States showcase their IP. Walking through WIPO at the GA is literally like taking a tour around the world, with countries using this as an opportunity to share, celebrate and promote their culture, creativity, innovations, cuisine and how IP comes alive for them.

“And I think making IP come alive is very closely connected to our collective mission that we share. Our work is really about making IP a catalyst for jobs, investments, entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity. Our job is really about bringing IP to the grassroots, making IP closer to women, youth, small and medium enterprises, Indigenous Peoples, local communities; and helping us to address global challenges and making

WIPO a place where multilateralism works and delivers results – so that IP accompanies the journey of innovators and creators, bringing their ideas to the world.

“We will continue working hard with you to get your feedback and make the GA a place where we address the important issues on our agenda and a place where people come together to be a community.

“In terms of the different agenda items, thank you for your appreciation for the work I and my colleagues are doing. I have listened very closely to your views, guidance and directions, and we will continue doing so. This is your Organization and we are proud to serve you as the Secretariat, always working in a way that is efficient, professional, transparent, open and impactful.

“Now, delivering WIPO’s largest-ever Assemblies is a serious undertaking, and one only possible because of the commitment of many, many people.

“Let me start by thanking our dear Chair, Ambassador Suescum, for once again guiding our discussions with patience, experience, wisdom, skill and calmness. Your patient guidance has been invaluable in helping us to navigate complex discussions and to reach important decisions. This is also one of the first times in the history of the GA that we’ve ended before lunch, so I think we need to give the Chair a round of applause for that. I also believe Trinidad and Tobago may have started a new tradition for the GA Chair – replacing the closing gavel with a musical instrument, which is quite befitting the UN agency for creativity!

“I also would like to thank the Group Coordinators. It is tough work shepherding very large groups of countries and I know this work starts very far in advance of the Assemblies. I also thank our dear Member States. It is really through your constructive, pragmatic approach that the spirit of multilateralism comes alive in this Organization time and again. We really appreciate your willingness to find the flexibility and spirit of accommodation that has allowed us to arrive at these decisions and keep the work of this Organization moving forward. To the observers as well, we thank you for your many contributions that enrich our work.

“Heartfelt thanks must also go to WIPO colleagues who have worked tirelessly to prepare for and support these meetings. Whether up here on the podium or dotted around the hall, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I should also mention those in the Diplomatic Engagement and Assemblies Affairs Division, the Office of Legal Counsel and beyond.

“I’d also like to pay tribute to all those working behind the scenes. From document preparation and agenda coordination to interpretation, translation, audio-visual, IT, security, catering, cleaning and many more – this is truly a team effort and I am grateful to you all. On a personal note, special thanks to my front office team. Coordinating all my bilaterals is a lot of work and I thank you for your support in this.

“Dear Colleagues, Friends,

“Dear WIPO Family,

“Thank you for your commitment to WIPO, the global IP ecosystem and the innovators and creators we are all so deeply privileged to serve. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you very closely to make sure that the power of IP is felt throughout the world. I wish you safe travels and a restful summer ahead.

“Thank you.”

218. In his closing remarks, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly said that much preparatory work was done in the months leading up to the Assemblies. Their successful conclusion was due to the efforts of many, including the entire Secretariat, delegations and observers. The human element was key: flexibility and willingness to find compromises and areas of agreement to take difficult decisions was on show in abundance. A touch of color was added to the arduous weeks of work through side events organized by the delegations.

219. A short video presentation of highlights from the current Assemblies, prepared by the Secretariat, was shown.

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

[Annex follows]

## ITEM 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 141 States (including 11 on behalf of groups of States), eight intergovernmental organizations and 29 non-governmental organizations provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao (People's Democratic Republic of), Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, European Union, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Eurasian Patent Office, League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), South Centre (CS), Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN), European Commercial Patent Services Group (PatCom), Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights (User Rights Network), Latin American Intellectual Property School (ELAPI), Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Incomindios), International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA), International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC), MALOCA *Internationale*, Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (ORIGIN), Third World Network Berhad (TWN), All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA), American Arab Intellectual Property Association (AAIPA), Bahrain Intellectual Property Society (BIPS), Brand Owners' Protection Group (Gulf BPG), China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Egyptian Council for Innovation, Creativity and Intellectual Property Protection (ECCIPP), Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA), Emirates Reprographic Rights Management Association (ERRA), Emirates Science Club, German Association for Intellectual Property Law (GRUR), Health and Environment Program (HEP), Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ), Intellectual Property Protection Association (IPPA), Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) and Knowledge Ecology International (KEI).
2. Delegations and Representatives commended the Director General and the Secretariat on their work over the previous year, including with regard to the preparation of documentation and arrangements for the Assemblies.
3. The Delegation of Tajikistan, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), said that the intellectual property (IP) system was a key mechanism for generating innovative and scientific ideas and fostering creative activity.

The Group's member countries were active users of the global services provided by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and were striving to improve their national IP infrastructure and services. The scope of projects already underway should be broadened and successful experiences replicated in order to boost the region's potential. The principles of geographical representation should be observed: many countries in the CACEEC region were underrepresented in the Secretariat. Multilingualism was also a priority, and the language regimes of the Madrid and Hague systems, and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System, should be expanded to include Russian. Adherence to the principles of openness, inclusivity and the equal participation of all parties would contribute to balanced decision-making based on consensus. In the current circumstances, it was more important than ever to foster multilateral dialogue, involve new categories of users and strengthen international cooperation on IP in order to ensure that the system worked effectively. WIPO should remain a platform for constructive dialogue with a view to fulfilling its specific mandate.

4. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), welcomed the Organization's tailored programs and development-oriented support, as reflected in its proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27, and the alignment of its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its own Development Agenda (DA) Recommendations. The allocation of more funds to DA projects and the proposal to establish the Development Acceleration Fund were welcome. Support for inclusive IP development was critical to bolstering fledgling national IP ecosystems and empowering developing economies and countries in transition. The adoption of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (GRATK Treaty) and the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT) in 2024 had been a testament to the significance of multilateralism and solidarity among Member States. Renewal of the mandate of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) for the 2026/27 biennium would allow the Committee to continue its work on an international legal instrument to prevent the misappropriation of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). The Group's member countries were underrepresented in key WIPO governing bodies, in particular in the Coordination Committee, and in the Organization's workforce in general. That was a source of grave concern. The lack of balanced geographical representation stifled progress and undermined legitimacy in the governance of a multilateral organization. The APG looked forward to finding consensus-based solutions to those matters.

5. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group, hailed the adoption of the landmark GRATK Treaty and the Riyadh DLT as a testament to the effectiveness of multilateralism. In that vein, the CEBS Group was strongly in favor of concluding a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations promptly. It also stood ready to continue working constructively with the IGC, to join international efforts to strengthen the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and its Act (Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications) and to unlock new economic opportunities through the broader promotion and use of geographical indications. IP was no longer a purely legal or technical matter, but also a driver of economic development, and CEBS Group member countries, which had unique economic and digital transition experience, could contribute much in that regard. The Secretariat's Report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System (document A/66/8) showed that the unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression being waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine was continuing to have a major impact on that country's innovation and creativity ecosystem. In some cases, the damage was irreversible. Ukrainian institutions and stakeholders had maintained essential functions, adapted operations and continued to develop services, including high-quality digital services in key sectors. Nonetheless, continued international support remained essential for the creative sector in Ukraine. The Organization's sustained and close cooperation with that country and its IP sector had been invaluable. That

assistance must remain aligned with the evolving realities on the ground and continue to deliver tangible benefits to creators, innovators and the wider IP community. A forward-looking approach was needed to mitigate the long-term consequences of the war and rebuild the innovation and creativity ecosystem. The support of WIPO and other international organizations would be crucial to recovery. Hosting WIPO external offices was a privilege, not a right, and their work had to be transparent and aligned with the goals and vision of WIPO. They should produce measurable results to the benefit of IP users. The operations of the WIPO Office in the Russian Federation were, therefore, a subject of grave concern for most CEBS Group members. The Group also awaited a tangible and positive outcome from discussions on the issue of underrepresentation in WIPO recruitment.

6. The Delegation of China said that the Chinese Government attaches great importance to IP, and was continuing to work towards making the country an IP powerhouse and thereby supporting high-quality development. In 2024, the Third Belt and Road High-Level Conference on IP had been held in Beijing. China expressed its appreciation to the Member States for their support and participation in the event, which achieved tangible results. China welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT and remained committed to upholding the multilateral IP system with WIPO as its main platform. China was of the view that the efficiency of global IP service systems needed to be further improved by constantly enhancing the operational management efficiency of global IP service systems and promoting the inclusion of Chinese and other United Nations (UN) official languages in the Madrid and the Hague systems, so as to better meet the needs of innovators worldwide. WIPO could do more to support Member States in promoting sustainable development by leveraging IP. It should also play a greater role in facilitating cooperation on AI and other frontier technologies, promoting the application of large language models (LLMs) in IP-related work and fostering the symbiotic development and synergy of IP and AI. Hong Kong SAR, China expected the preparatory work to open a Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) to be completed by the end of 2025. The TISC should begin operations soon thereafter, providing the technology industry in Hong Kong with services relating to IP rights (IPRs). Hong Kong SAR operated under the common law system, with bilingual proceedings in Chinese and English, and was preparing to join the WIPO Lex Judgements database to share important IP rulings from its local courts, thereby contributing to the development of global IP jurisprudence.

7. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, which simplified design protection procedures. Member States should continue to adhere to the successful practice of decision-making by consensus that had led to its adoption. Convening the WIPO Assemblies in summer, especially in budget years, was problematic. They should therefore be held, as had been previously the case, in autumn. That would allow delegations more time to prepare for the Assemblies and sessions of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC). The Organization's positive financial results in 2024, recording a surplus of 140 million Swiss francs, was welcome news. The fees paid to WIPO by users of its global IP filing and registration system, in particular users of the PCT and Madrid systems, accounted for 95 per cent of its income and constituted its financial backbone. Continued prudent and effective financial management was necessary given the Organization's exposure to economic fluctuations. Efforts to improve efficiency at WIPO by using artificial intelligence (AI) technologies were laudable and the WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies forum was attracting large audiences. Ongoing initiatives to accelerate the Organization's digital transformation and to provide Member States and other stakeholders with a platform to discuss IP-related frontier technologies, including AI, were welcome. Such discussions should also continue in its Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). WIPO should not lose sight of its core mandate, as set forth in the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Convention): to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among States.

8. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), said that the IP system must be sensitive to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries, and protect the rights of knowledge holders in order to promote innovation, culture and technology, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Improved quality in WIPO services had boosted demand and generated a solid financial surplus. GRULAC welcomed the work done by WIPO in Latin American and Caribbean countries and the proposed establishment of the Development Acceleration Fund, which would facilitate the alignment of IP with development priorities defined by national IP offices. The program of work and budget for 2026/27 should include guidelines to foster transparent and strategic resource allocation, empower rights holders and stimulate inclusive innovation and sustainable development. A decision on opening an external office in Colombia should be taken as a matter of urgency in line with principles agreed upon in 2015. GRULAC welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT.
9. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that it was committed to the Organization's DA as a means of leveraging IP for socioeconomic development and welcomed the proposal to establish the Development Acceleration Fund. Efforts by WIPO to assist in achieving the SDGs should be reflected in all its activities and in the program of work and budget for 2026/27. The Group backed the work program on patents and health, the aim of which was to support national licensing flexibility and promote regional pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, which were crucial for pandemic preparedness. That point had been highlighted at an international conference on the role of IP and innovation in addressing global public health challenges in May 2025. WIPO technical assistance must be demand-driven, transparent and tailored to national development strategies. More support was needed in the areas of institutional capacity-building, legislative reform, the digitization of IP offices and human capital development. South-South and triangular cooperation could nurture peer learning among developing countries. More discussion was needed on copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives and educational and research institutions for persons with disabilities. Education and research fostered innovation, competition and economic development. They could also contribute to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). The long-standing imbalance in geographical representation in the Organization's workforce, and in particular the underrepresentation of African nationals, was a source of grave concern.
10. The Delegation of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, welcomed the Organization's healthy financial situation, recent progress in terms of project implementation and the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. It fully supported renewal of the mandate of the IGC and the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27, in particular with regard to development initiatives, the Development Acceleration Fund and projects for achieving the SDGs. There was a need to adopt legally binding provisions on exceptions and limitations, in order to maintain a balance between the interests of rights holders and public access to knowledge. WIPO had a key role to play in creating a favorable environment for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, especially for young people, women, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups. In that regard, capacity-building and training activities should be expanded to foster socioeconomic development. Arab countries had a rich pool of young inventors and creators who could contribute to global development and innovation. The Group attached great importance to the use of the Arabic language in publications, information materials and protection systems. It appreciated the fact that the PBC had given priority to multilingualism. There was a need to achieve geographical balance in the recruitment of staff, particularly in leadership positions, which would enable the Organization to meet the needs of all Member States more effectively. Israel was continuing its attacks on the Palestinian people and on their tangible and intangible heritage, and thereby threatening their IP system.

11. The Delegation of El Salvador, speaking in its capacity as Secretary *pro tempore* of the Ministerial Forum for IP in Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic, said that the high-level political dialogue enabled by the Ministerial Forum and the shared vision of its member countries had fostered the use of IPRs as a key tool for economic, social and cultural development, encouraged policies for comprehensive IP management across the subregion, and made it possible to adapt good international practices to local realities. A coordinated regional approach had boosted the enforcement of IPRs and generated synergies between member countries. At a roundtable discussion on IP and gastronomic tourism held in June 2025 in El Salvador, WIPO experts had helped to shape regional and national strategies to protect, promote and enhance the value of local culinary traditions and products through appellations of origin, geographical indications and collective marks. Other recent projects had included an initiative for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and businesspeople on how to leverage IP assets to obtain financing. Forthcoming projects supported by WIPO included the creation of an online platform for information exchange between members of the Forum, campaigns to raise awareness among young businesspeople of the importance of IPRs and capacity-building for Forum members with regard to the Global Innovation Index (GII).

12. The Delegation of Cambodia, speaking on behalf of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC), said that IP was fundamental to achieving the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026–2030 goal of building an enterprising, bold and innovative community. The ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan 2026–2030 formed the core of the region's IP strategy. WIPO had helped ASEAN to formulate a range of strategic measures, which included harmonizing IP regulatory frameworks and advancing regional platforms and institutions; facilitating IP asset creation, management and marketing; fostering a culture of respect for IP and enforcement of IPRs; and promoting IP for sustainable and inclusive growth. ASEAN was keen to build its relationship with WIPO and learn from other Member States. WIPO had facilitated the first meeting of the ASEAN TISC Network, connecting nearly 250 TISCs from the region, and helped to enhance the ASEAN IP Register, making IP data more transparent and useful for stakeholders. Cooperation between ASEAN and WIPO would grow stronger under their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with 23 joint activities already planned.

13. The Delegation of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group (LDCs Group), underscored that WIPO was uniquely placed to assist in advancing the 2030 Agenda. Its work aligned directly with a number of the SDGs, including those relating to innovation and technological capacity, good health through access to medicines, quality education through knowledge transfer, and partnership for development. WIPO should strengthen its contribution to meeting those goals. LDCs faced multidimensional vulnerabilities marked by fragile productive capacity and weak innovation ecosystems. Only three LDCs had met the graduation criteria in line with the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031, and none had met the gross national income (GNI) per capita threshold. The Organization's focus on the LDCs, in particular those in Africa, was appreciated. Support through the WIPO Graduation Support Package was essential. The first WIPO Training Session for Geneva-based Delegates of the LDCs, which had been held in May 2025, and the new LDC Graduation Toolkit on Patent and Technology Law for LDCs were welcome developments. WIPO had also played a remarkable role in supporting LDCs in the implementation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). The Group urged WIPO to continue mainstreaming considerations relating to the LDCs throughout its mechanisms and to maintain support for LDCs. More should be done to implement the DA Recommendations. It was hoped that the program of work and budget for 2026/27 would better reflect the DA, to the benefit of LDCs. The success of multilateral work was key to their sustainable advancement.

14. The Delegation of Albania, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group, reaffirmed its support for and solidarity with Ukraine. The Riyadh DLT was a major step forward in enabling designers to protect their work. The appointment of the Director of the Albanian Copyright Directorate as Vice-Chair of the seventeenth session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) underscored the country's role in the international IP arena. The national copyright law had been amended to regulate key stakeholders in the digital domain, while ensuring that rights were protected. WIPO had helped to draft legislative amendments and supplements, emphasizing collective rights management and enforcement, and alignment with international best practices. In addition to making efforts to align with the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, Albania had worked with WIPO to develop a methodology for setting tariffs and copyright fees; further cooperation would include initiatives on innovation, knowledge transfer and capacity-building in the field of copyright. To modernize the industrial property legal framework in accordance with European Commission recommendations and the European Union (EU) acquis, specific laws on trademarks, patents, service marks, utility models, industrial designs, geographical indications and appellations of origin had been drafted and, in some cases, adopted. In October 2024, in coordination with the WIPO Academy, the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) had hosted a lecture on IPRs. In November 2024, a workshop on the establishment of a technology transfer office (TTO) had been organized in Tirana by WIPO and GDIP. Albania had participated in WIPO training on the Nice Classification System for CEBS Group countries, and, during Global Entrepreneurship Week, WIPO and GDIP had organized an IP workshop for startups in Tirana. An online module on IP law for judges and prosecutors, provided by the WIPO Academy, was set to be launched. Under the WIPO Build Back Fund, two of the country's registered geographical indications would benefit from technical assistance, promotion, IP portfolio development and participation in international fairs.

15. The Delegation of Algeria, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and by itself on behalf of the Arab Group. WIPO should continue to integrate development into its policy and programs. Algeria supported the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27, in particular with regard to development initiatives, and welcomed the proposed renewal of the mandate of the IGC. The issue of limitations and exceptions relating to copyright should be addressed through a legally binding text. WIPO and Algeria were cooperating closely, in particular through the WIPO Algeria Office. Projects included one with the WIPO Academy on an IP education and training center, and others on incubators for creative industries; IP and tourism; trademarks through mobile applications in the Arab region (for which Algeria had been selected as a model in the Maghreb area); and protecting and marketing local products through geographical indications and collective marks. The Government had launched initiatives to develop a business incubator system for startups; adopt digital transformation as a key means of protecting IP; set up a student inventor body; equip universities with TISCs (of which there were already 131); launch a model IP policy on scientific research and SME support clinics, such as Moubadar'Art and a "success initiative" to support businesses; and finalize the national IP strategy. Algeria had been elected Chair of the Standing Technical Committee on Intellectual Property of the League of Arab States (LAS) to host a regional meeting of copyright offices in Arab countries by the end of 2025. It stood ready this year to host similar regional IP-related events.

16. The Delegation of Angola, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, said that Angola was working to diversify its economy and guarantee IPRs, including by raising awareness of IP. It had launched activities under the WIPO Graduation Support Package for LDCs, implemented the Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS), and launched the IP for Youth Innovation Project in 2024. Angola had acceded to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the

PCT, was about to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty, and was working towards accession to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol), the GRATK Treaty, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Angola welcomed the decision to approve the joint project on Empowering Young Lusophone Musicians in the Era of Music Streaming. It was also increasingly availing itself of opportunities provided through the WIPO Academy. Strategies could be adopted by WIPO on employing staff from underrepresented States and on broader access to Master's courses, the WIPO Young Experts Program (YEP) and internships. Angola was considering the option of enrolling candidates for the WIPO Intellectual Property Training Program for Diplomats and Trade Officials. The Luanda Science and Technology Park was being built to promote innovation and strengthen the national science, technology and innovation (STI) system, which would have a positive impact on the country's ranking in the GII.

17. The Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and commended WIPO on its vital administrative and technical support, particularly its Build Back Fund. The Fund had contributed to the registration of the country's first three collective marks, for honey products, in 2024 and to the marketing of those products in 2025. The Government had taken steps to foster a pro-IP culture across ministries and departments. In late 2024, it had worked with WIPO to host a workshop for young people on manga and copyright. Other activities were planned to build respect for IP among young people. WIPO had supported the Intellectual Property and Commerce Office of Antigua and Barbuda in its efforts to adopt e-filing and had helped to train trademark and patent staff in the use of IPAS 4.0. Following the launch of the latest version of eMadrid, the country was improving its e-filing procedures. The Intellectual Property and Commerce Office had hosted an online webinar on the theme of IP and music, highlighting the innovative and creative spirit of its people, to mark World IP Day in April 2025.

18. The Delegation of Argentina said that a strong and predictable IP system was vital to attract investment, facilitate trade, strengthen competitiveness and stimulate innovation. Various WIPO divisions had contributed to institutional development and public policymaking. However, the governance of WIPO cooperation activities should be more transparent. Laudable progress had been achieved with the TISC program and the organization of a seminar by WIPO and the National Industrial Property Institute (INPI) on IP management and marketing in universities. Argentina had participated in the WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project for Latin America since its inception in 2019 and, in that context, was currently working on providing tangible technological solutions to producers of grapes, pears, apples and red fruits. It was also actively engaged in technical cooperation, regulatory assistance and human resource training activities, including by hosting a Master's program in IP jointly organized by WIPO, INPI and the University of San Andrés.

19. The Delegation of Armenia said that, in partnership with the WIPO Academy, the country was establishing a national IP training center. The national IP strategy, drafted with WIPO support, had been submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It contained measures to strengthen enforcement, raise awareness and integrate IP into national policy frameworks. The Armenian wine sector remained a strategic priority for the development of geographical indications. The aim of the "IP as a driver for a sustainable Armenian wine industry" project, organized with WIPO, was to strengthen the global positioning of Armenian wine with geographical indications and branding strategies. As a result of productive cooperation with international partners, Armenia had also improved its ranking in the GII in 2024.

20. The Delegation of Australia welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, which demonstrated how constructive collaboration could deliver benefits for creatives. Australia maintained its support for Ukraine and its condemnation of the illegal Russian invasion. IP systems were universally beneficial and Australia continued to encourage IPR development. As

part of the Australia Funds-in-Trust for IP, the country was working with Indo-Pacific partners to build IP capabilities. It would fund a workshop in the Pacific on acceding to the GRATK Treaty, to foster a better understanding of the Treaty and support the engagement of Pacific Island countries with the IP system. Australia would contribute 20,000 Australian dollars to the WIPO Voluntary Fund to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in the IGC. WIPO Member States should accede to the Marrakesh Treaty. Australia supported work on drafting a broadcasting organizations treaty, and welcomed the sharing of information on generative AI (GenAI) and copyright issues.

21. The Delegation of Austria aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Japan on behalf of the EU and its member States and Group B, respectively. It said that it backed the position of the EU and its member States concerning WIPO technical assistance for Ukraine, and welcomed the successful outcome of the two Diplomatic Conferences held by WIPO in 2024. As the Austrian Patent Office celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its focus was on the green and digital transition. The Office was considering how to help universities to translate their inventions into market-ready innovations, and a 2025 study on IP use in Austrian universities would highlight best practices in value addition. It was essential to strengthen the link between research and application to unlock the full potential of public science for societal and economic impact. With intangible assets increasingly forming the backbone of the global economy, the initiatives of WIPO, especially in respect of IP finance, were commendable. The Government of Austria had identified the framework for IP-backed financing as a lever for growth.

22. The Delegation of Azerbaijan said that the focus of domestic reforms, as reflected in the country's socioeconomic development strategy for 2022-2026, was on supporting IP innovation, encouraging creative entrepreneurship and fostering a competitive market. The digitization of administrative procedures through the Panah platform, which had been integrated with the IPAS, was nearing completion. The platform would enable virtual, contactless communication between applicants and the patent office in a single ecosystem. Progress had also been made on the introduction of open registries, support for 3D formats, advanced patent analytics, reduced review times and the potential use of AI in application procedures. Increased inventive and patent activity played a crucial role in developing smart cities and villages on territory that had been liberated from occupation.

23. The Delegation of the Bahamas aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. Like many small island developing States (SIDS), the Bahamas faced capacity and resource challenges that limited its development potential in areas such as IP protection. WIPO technical assistance had made it possible to amend primary and subsidiary legislation on trademarks, patents, copyright and industrial designs, and electronic applications in the Bahamas. With further WIPO support, the country had established an independent IP office and acceded to the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks, the Trademark Law Treaty, the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. The DA remained particularly significant to the Bahamas and the innovative projects supported by WIPO were an example for Member States to follow. Its training and capacity-building was vital for resource-challenged countries to comply with WIPO treaties and expand local IP protection.

24. The Delegation of Bahrain aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Algeria on behalf of the Arab Group and hailed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. Bahrain had stepped up efforts to amend and develop IP laws and regulations to keep pace with developments in technology and in its own economy. IPRs were embedded in the country's national sustainable development strategy. Bahrain had signed a series of MoUs on

accelerating patent application processes with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration, the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). It was promoting a culture of innovation and creativity and public awareness of the importance of IP, and encouraged cooperation between the public and private sectors to support creators and innovators. To mark World IP Day in 2025, a number of IP rights holders had been honored for their role in nurturing innovation and creativity. Bahrain was preparing to accede to the Singapore Treaty, the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs and the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs. Various cooperation projects between Bahrain and WIPO dovetailed with the former's Economic Vision 2030. They included projects for young people and IP, and on IP support for SMEs. The project to draft a national IP strategy and a number of related initiatives had been completed. The legal assistance and technical support provided by WIPO over the years had greatly contributed to building the country's IP services. Bahrain supported the use of Arabic in all areas of the Organization's work.

25. The Delegation of Bangladesh aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. Noting the critical role of IP in driving sustainable economic growth, fostering innovation, and ensuring equitable access to knowledge and technology, it said that the IP system must also respond to developing countries' unique and evolving development needs, capacities and aspirations. WIPO should continue to champion IP for development, ensuring that the IP system bridged technological divides. Bangladesh looked forward to implementation of the WIPO Graduation Support Package for LDCs in that country. The trilateral initiative of WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on TRIPS flexibilities should be further strengthened to ensure that IP regimes supported the production and fair distribution of life-saving medicines and technologies. WIPO should also scale up its technical assistance and capacity-building programs on geographical indications, women-led SMEs, and IP literacy for young professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators. The adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT demonstrated the importance of multilateralism and solidarity among WIPO Member States. They should spur further efforts to establish a balanced global IP framework. Bangladesh was committed to working for a balanced and development-oriented global IP system that fostered inclusive growth and contributed to the achievement of the SDGs.

26. The Delegation of Belarus said that IP was a powerful instrument for sustainable development, economic growth and cultural exchange and hailed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. The country was working to nurture conditions conducive to innovation and creativity and to develop IP service provision in line with international standards. The Government was seeking international depository authority status for its national organizations under the Budapest Treaty and planned to join WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS) for priority documents. Strengthening the expert IP community was in the interests of all users. Unfortunately, certain Member States were implementing destructive policies, including the imposition of sanctions and attempts to politicize the work of international organizations. Discriminatory policies targeting specific nationalities were unacceptable and were eroding applicants' trust in the IP system. The politicization of IP should cease in order to foster the innovation potential of all Member States.

27. The Delegation of Belize, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, stated that it had hosted a national workshop on leveraging IP for national growth in conjunction with the Belize American Chamber of Commerce, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Belize IP Office (BELIPO). With WIPO support, Belize had hosted an IP enforcement seminar for the judiciary and law enforcement agencies to strengthen IP protection through interagency collaboration. It had also joined the eMadrid system. Alongside Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize had participated in a WIPO project on IP for businesswomen. BELIPO had engaged the public through national

events, including the MSME road show, trade fairs and outreach events at the University of Belize. World IP Day activities in the country had included a musical showcase, a music industry roundtable discussion and an educational webinar. Belize was committed to developing a national IP strategy and welcomed continued WIPO technical assistance.

28. The Delegation of Bhutan reiterated the country's commitment to strengthening the role of IP in driving sustainable development, cultural preservation and innovation. Over the previous year, Bhutan had reviewed its IP legislation, enacting a regulation on geographical indications, proposing accession to additional IP treaties and intensifying public outreach for young people and the creative sector. Bhutan wished to ensure that IPRs were properly valued and have its IP adequately represented worldwide. It therefore looked forward to further WIPO support and had begun work on a national IP strategy.

29. The Delegation of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT and GRATK Treaty, to which it had acceded in 2025. It was important to focus on developing a balanced and inclusive IP system that fostered development, and to encourage the participation in those efforts of population groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, that historically had long been excluded and exploited. Respecting, preserving and promoting Indigenous cultures and knowledge were priorities and WIPO had taken meaningful action in that regard. The Plurinational State of Bolivia had worked with WIPO on TK-focused IP training workshops for civil servants from various institutions, with a view to strengthening national regulations in that regard. A capacity-building project for cultural festival organizations on using IP tools strategically had been adopted and would be held for organizers of the Oruro Carnival. The Government would continue to ensure that IP benefited people, in particular women, young people and small-scale entrepreneurs.

30. The Delegation of Botswana, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the Africa Group, said that it was working to develop its IP system and related policy and laws, build diverse human capacities and put in place technological solutions. The adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT was a significant achievement and Member States would need capacity-building programs to ensure their effective implementation. WIPO had worked with Botswana on IP projects that would produce meaningful results. It had also facilitated the provision of online IP services, which were more user-friendly and efficient, and would generate more revenue. Support had been received for projects with SMEs and microenterprises using IP in traditional medicines. Progress in the work of several WIPO committees had generally been slow. Efforts to promote careers in IP were welcome, but WIPO should do more to redress the underrepresentation of Africans in its workforce.

31. The Delegation of Brazil said that WIPO activities should be aligned with the SDGs. It welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT and GRATK Treaty. The latter was the first WIPO-administered treaty to acknowledge the contribution of IPLCs to innovation. It represented a victory for multilateralism and the capacity of Member States to forge consensus. The proposed renewal of the mandate of the IGC was welcome. Member States should engage constructively in negotiations on a treaty on TK and TCEs. Brazil would shortly accede to the Budapest Treaty. WIPO ought to mainstream the DA across all its areas of work and those of its committees, which should report on its implementation. The geographical distribution of resources, programs and workforce, including in the Secretariat, should be improved. Portuguese should be used across WIPO. At the BRICS Summit held in Brazil in July 2025, leaders had underscored the need to protect the rights of creators in the digital environment. That required a deeper understanding of the implications of AI for IP to ensure that rights holders were fairly remunerated and to respond to the needs and priorities of developing countries. Without regulation, AI use could lead to mass misappropriation of rights and misrepresentation of knowledge, heritage and cultural values, thereby threatening the integrity of the IP system and undermining its capacity to function.

32. The Delegation of Burkina Faso aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and stated that it had intensified efforts to promote regional products using geographical indications. It was seeking international recognition for the Saponé hat, an emblem of the country's craft heritage. It was also working to improve collective rights management and extending its network of regional copyright offices. Further technical and financial assistance was needed to implement its national IP strategy, which had been drafted with the support of WIPO, and in particular to digitalize its processes and raise IP awareness among SMEs and local inventors. Progress had been made in the area of e-filing of IP titles, in spite of the country's lack of digital infrastructure and human resources. The adoption of the GRATK Treaty was a major achievement for the Global South. The adoption of the Riyadh DLT was equally welcome. Burkina Faso had hosted the International Conference on the Promotion of Designs in October 2024.

33. The Delegation of Cabo Verde said that the country was striving to strengthen its IP ecosystem as a tool to foster innovation, stimulate creativity and boost economic growth and sustainable development. Cabo Verde, a SIDS, was a member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It was in the process of ratifying the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and the Kampala Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights. A new industrial property code would be approved shortly and two technology parks had been inaugurated to foster innovation, creativity and the digital economy. Key areas of interest for the country included disseminating knowledge of IP; its strategic use by MSMEs and young entrepreneurs; promoting geographical indications; protecting copyright in the digital environment; developing creative industries; and enforcing IPRs. Technical support from WIPO would continue to be key for implementing the country's national IP policy and strategy. Cabo Verde backed efforts by the CPLP to have Portuguese recognized as an official language of WIPO.

34. The Delegation of Cambodia, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Pakistan and Nepal on behalf of the APG and the LDCs Group, respectively, and itself on behalf of the AWGIPC. At the national level, Cambodia had strengthened its legal and institutional IP framework, modernized its IP services, raised public awareness and integrated IP into its economic development agenda. The aim of its National IP Policy 2023–2028 was to make IP a driving force for economic growth, trade, culture, tourism and agriculture, in line with national goals for digital transformation and innovation. Efforts by WIPO in support of capacity-building, technical cooperation, strengthening IP use among MSMEs and the creative industries, enhancing enforcement and expanding access to international IP systems was welcome. It should continue to support developing countries and LDCs in narrowing the innovation gap and integrating into the global IP ecosystem, and strive for a balanced, inclusive and development-oriented international IP system that benefited all through knowledge-sharing, technology transfer and innovation. Emerging IP issues relating to genetic resources (GRs), TK and TCEs were vital to rural livelihoods and identities. As Chair of the AWGIPC, Cambodia was committed to deepening regional collaboration, harmonizing IP systems and enhancing ASEAN engagement with WIPO and global partners. Priorities included capacity-building, digitalization, regional IP asset development and support for innovation ecosystems. Stronger ASEAN-WIPO cooperation would help to build a resilient IP landscape in southeast Asia, in line with the ASEAN IP Action Plans for the periods 2021–2025 and 2026–2030.

35. The Delegation of Cameroon aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and reiterated its support for a strong multilateral governance framework for IP. It also supported the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27 and the Development Acceleration Fund provided for therein. WIPO had helped Cameroon to build a robust IP ecosystem that would contribute to attaining its development goals and foster innovation. The libraries project under discussion should be implemented

swiftly. The Marrakesh Treaty was key to inclusive policies and the adoption in 2024 of the Riyadh DLT and GRATK Treaty was welcome. Nonetheless, an instrument on TK and TCEs was still necessary. Text-based negotiations on the adoption of a long-overdue international instrument on limitations and exceptions in copyright should be an immediate priority.

36. The Delegation of Canada urged Member States to adopt the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27 and commended WIPO on the support it had provided to Ukraine, given the ongoing impact of the war of aggression being waged by the Russian Federation against that country. The Canadian Intellectual Property Office had launched its new patent IT system and was working on a similar system for trademarks, which would include more efficient trademark examination and expanded support for underrepresented groups. Canada welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. Unfortunately, it had not proven possible to convene the Assembly of the PCT Union during the 2025 Assemblies. The work of WIPO must continue in a spirit of consensus, mutual respect and constructive engagement through multilateral dialogue, in order to ensure that WIPO remained an inclusive forum for negotiating consensus-based outcomes. Steady leadership had given innovators in the global IP community the necessary tools, technical assistance and support for success. Continued collaboration on the thoughtful integration of AI and other emerging technologies into the IP system would be crucial to ensure that Member States were well equipped for innovation in the twenty-first century.

37. The Delegation of Chile said that it aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. Chile favored a balanced and effective IP system to promote culture, innovation and technology and to resolve major social, environmental and economic issues. It backed the implementation of DA Recommendations and noted the important work being done by the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), IGC and SCCR. The recently adopted GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT complemented existing international instruments. WIPO-administered IP registration systems generated substantial benefits, especially for Member States and users. Chile welcomed WIPO cooperation and assistance, especially through the National Industrial Property Institute (INAPI), with initiatives such as the INAPI Academy, WIPO GREEN, the Magallanes yarn project and the Latin American Network on IP and Gender. WIPO had provided support for the meeting of heads of Latin American IP offices in Santiago in May 2025.

38. The Delegation of Colombia said that the Assemblies provided an opportunity to address topics of interest to all Member States, while taking into consideration the circumstances and interests of the Global South. Work on GRs, TK and TCEs should continue, and the connections between the GRATK Treaty and other international agreements should be explored. Colombia intended to promote innovation to protect its biocultural heritage while fostering a balanced bioeconomy. Developing countries and LDCs should leverage ongoing discussions in the SCP, especially by analyzing the impact of patents on public health and the universal enjoyment of fundamental rights. WIPO efforts to implement initiatives and programs that contributed to the achievement of the SDGs were commendable. Chile remained ready to implement projects that promoted IP as a tool to strengthen socioeconomic development through tourism and culture. Member States should work to implement the decision taken at the WIPO Assemblies in 2019 on opening an external office in Colombia.

39. The Delegation of Congo aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and expressed its appreciation for WIPO assistance with technical capacity-building. Congo would begin the process of ratifying the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT shortly.

40. The Delegation of Costa Rica welcomed ongoing negotiations on a broadcasting organizations treaty and discussions in the SCCR on exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives and teaching and research institutions. There was a need to analyze copyright in the digital environment and issues relating to AI. The latter called for a balanced legal response

that fostered creativity and yielded opportunities without undermining the rights of creators and users. Costa Rica welcomed updates on publicly accessible databases that disclosed the patent status of medicines and vaccines, and on issues relating to the confidentiality of communications between patent advisors and their clients. Discussions should continue in the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) on the trademark aspects of the domain name system, the proposed joint recommendation on the protection of graphical user interface designs as industrial designs and country brand protection at the international level. Costa Rica would continue to promote the strategic use of IP for SMEs, women innovators and young entrepreneurs.

41. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire commended WIPO on its contribution efforts to achieve the SDGs. Nonetheless, it should intensify work to build the capacities of developing countries, which should have equitable access to knowledge and technology. In that vein, WIPO should promote mechanisms to broaden access to copyright-protected works and essential technologies. Côte d'Ivoire was pursuing reforms in relation to literary and artistic property, and the restructuring of the Ivorian Copyright Office, to ensure fair and equitable remuneration for creators. In the area of industrial property, priority was going to innovation and the promotion of local products, including through the use of geographical indications and collective marks. The country's IP Office was working to develop the innovation capacities of national stakeholders through targeted training and technical workshops. WIPO support had been received for projects that included the formulation of a national IP policy and the certification of shea butter.

42. The Delegation of Croatia endorsed the commitment of WIPO to making IP more user-friendly and a catalyst for innovation, creativity and growth. Equally commendable was the focus on SMEs, individual innovators and creators. Croatia supported moving IP finance from the margins to the mainstream and the Organization's work on frontier technologies such as AI, in particular the WIPO Conversation. It welcomed the WIPO ICT (information and communication technology) Leadership Dialogue (WILD) on harnessing ICT for efficient and high-quality IP services. The adoption of two multilateral treaties in 2024 demonstrated the power of multilateral, rules-based cooperation. Member States could contribute to preserving the rules-based global order by supporting the suspension of operations of the WIPO Office in the Russian Federation. WIPO should continue to manage its finances prudently in order to maintain its excellent performance. Cooperation within WIPO should continue to shape a future in which IP fostered prosperity and sustainability for all.

43. The Delegation of Cuba said that STI must be harnessed for development. Faced with economic difficulties that stemmed in part from the blockade imposed on it by the United States, Cuba was drafting a law on STI, creating new science and technology parks, establishing technology-based and high-tech companies in the biotechnology sector and promoting governance based on science and innovation. It was also improving the governance of its STI system and indicators. IP management was a key development tool. Cuba welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, and the DA focus on the role of women in knowledge development and IPR use. It supported renewal of the mandate of the IGC and urged the SCP to continue examining limitations and exceptions to industrial property rights, with periodic updates in publicly accessible databases on the status of medicine and vaccine patents. There was also a need to exchange information on the use of AI to determine the patentability of inventions and conduct patent examinations.

44. The Delegation of Cyprus, aligning itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark on behalf of Group B and the EU and its member States, respectively, said that a balanced and effective international IP system was essential to foster sustainable development, enable cultural diversity and support global cooperation. Efforts by WIPO to enhance inclusivity, support SMEs and facilitate the digital transformation of IP services were laudable. In Cyprus, work was being done to strengthen the national IP framework to promote entrepreneurship, incentivize research and development (R&D), and protect the rights of

creators and innovators. Cyprus was becoming a regional hub for research, innovation and digital entrepreneurship. As technology advanced, IP systems must remain adaptable, accessible and fair. International cooperation on IP challenges was essential.

45. The Delegation of the Czech Republic aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Estonia on behalf of the EU and its member States and the CEBS Group. It stated that the Czech Republic continued to support Ukraine in the face of the war of aggression being waged against it by the Russian Federation and condemned the Russian military action, whose impact was being felt even beyond Ukraine. WIPO should continue to provide assistance to Ukraine in line with the decision adopted by Member States at the 2024 Assemblies. The Czech Republic supported WIPO in its role as the global platform for IP services, policymaking, information exchanges and international cooperation, and in enhancing IP protection systems. Recent accessions to the Lisbon Union, which had doubled the membership of the Lisbon System within five years, had strengthened geographical indication protection under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The new eLisbon platform had been key to membership growth, which required sustained and targeted promotional activity. The Riyadh DLT would simplify and streamline industrial design protection procedures and help designers around the world to protect their works. The Czech Republic remained committed to reaching consensus on a broadcasting organizations treaty. The SCCR should continue to discuss the artist's resale right. The Czech Republic looked forward to further information exchanges on copyright and AI through WIPO information sessions. The SCP should soon initiate technical discussions on harmonizing substantive patent law. Ongoing discussions on AI from the perspective of IP were salutary, as was the increased focus on the patentability of AI-related inventions. WIPO technical assistance through the CDIP was welcome, as was the proposal to renew the mandate of the IGC, for which a balanced and effective work program was needed. ACE was a valuable platform for exchanging best practices on enforcement issues and the increasing involvement of Member States in its work was welcome. IP education and raising awareness of the protection and marketing of IPRs was particularly important. Cooperation with WIPO on mediation had enhanced efforts to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the Czech Republic, which welcomed WIPO technical assistance and the latter's participation in the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Czech Patent Office.

46. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, which demonstrated a growing interest in IP protection. The AI-based modernization of the international registration system had accelerated, increasing the number of users. IP protection fostered economic development and provided safety and prosperity. To fulfil its mission to protect IP, WIPO should develop a sound and ethical IP protection system. It should also lead the drafting of rules for AI development and use, to ensure that the results of human intellectual activity remained ethical. The COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated that patent protection should not hinder the protection of human life. WIPO should therefore work to close the IP protection gap between countries. Developing countries often lacked protection for their IP assets. A fair IP protection system required more technology transfer and capacity-building in developing countries. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was keenly interested in IP protection and considered science and technology key to achieving national prosperity. It had established a national IP administration mechanism and fostered an organic relationship between relevant sectors. It also intended to intensify efforts to promote creativity and to protect, circulate and utilize IP assets for national development. The country was organizing awareness-raising activities, regular exhibitions, and IP seminars and workshops. The Government was striving for economic, scientific, technological and cultural development by improving its IP protection system.

47. The Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo said that WIPO played a strategic role in transforming economies and promoting research local knowledge. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, rich in natural resources and human potential, wished to use IP to drive economic diversification, sustainable growth and industrialization. It had launched

initiatives to promote the work of national innovators, including two forums in 2023 and 2024 and the third edition of the Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum, which would be held in August 2025. The Government supported the protection of local innovations, trademarks, geographical indications and cultural heritage. The country would soon accede to the PCT, the Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement. It welcomed WIPO support with regard to TISCs and WIPO Academy training courses, and its offer to provide technical assistance for efforts to create an enabling environment for IP in the country. The Democratic Republic of the Congo sought support with technology transfer, access to scientific and technical information, and protection for TK, particularly in the field of herbal medicine, given that the country had one of the richest reservoirs of biodiversity in the world. It supported discussions on issues relating to AI, GRs and the rights of local communities.

48. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Ecuador and El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC and as the *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Subregional Forum of Ministers of Central America and the Dominican Republic, respectively. The country's IP system had been developed to boost innovation and creativity and to shape a favorable environment for investment. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and MSMEs had taken steps to strengthen the IP institutional framework, including by promoting the adoption of best practices in communication and coordination by the Interministerial Council on Intellectual Property. As a result, and for the second year running, the Dominican Republic had not appeared on the United States Trade Representative's Watch List or Priority Watch List for failing to adequately and effectively protect IPRs. WIPO technical support had been invaluable in that regard, and the Dominican Republic had settled its long-standing financial obligations to WIPO. With the assistance of WIPO, the Government was updating its national IP strategy.

49. The Delegation of Ecuador said that it was committed to building a strong and modern IP system that was aligned with the SDGs. The Government of Ecuador was striving to make the country more productive, competitive and innovative. IP was not only a legal tool but also a strategic pillar for promoting creativity, research, entrepreneurship and economic growth. A strong IP system must balance the protection of creators' rights with serving the public interest. Innovation should benefit society as a whole and help to bridge structural gaps. Ecuador was building an innovation ecosystem that included universities, research centers, businesspeople, SMEs and productive sectors that contributed to national development. It valued the technical cooperation of WIPO and wished to improve institutional capacities, increase access to technology and implement policies to promote local innovation.

50. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Namibia on behalf of the Arab Group and the African Group, respectively. Egypt welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and the Riyadh DLT, and the Organization's financial and administrative performance over the previous year. The proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27 would enhance the capacity of WIPO to implement the DA Recommendations and to assist Member States in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. Cooperation between Egypt and WIPO had intensified since the launch in 2022 of the country's national IP strategy and numerous cooperation programs and projects had been undertaken. The Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority had begun operations in 2024 with the appointment of its head. Staff from seven IP offices were now being transferred to the new Authority and working methods and practices were being harmonized to promote a common institutional culture. The Authority was establishing links with the IP community of innovators, academics, businesspeople and SMEs, paying particular attention to young people and women. It was also rolling out public IP awareness-raising programs and would work towards meeting the goals of the national IP strategy.

51. The Delegation of El Salvador, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and welcomed the

adoption of the Riyadh DLT. IP was a powerful tool for promoting economic growth, creativity and sustainable development. However, it required the ability to use IP tools strategically. Therefore, WIPO technical assistance and capacity-building were essential. In line with the country's digitalization agenda, the national IP system had been transformed through a new IP law and the establishment of the Salvadoran Intellectual Property Institute (ISPI). Support was also being provided to MSMEs and students in the form of discounts on IP procedures. The country had become a regional benchmark for IP matters by working to automate services and improve response times. It had also enhanced its TISCs and the School of Intellectual Property. WIPO had provided support for key projects, including on the national IP strategy, data systematization and the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms of the CDIP.

52. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking in its national capacity, welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. Estonia supported WIPO activities to promote the smart use of IPRs among SMEs and startups and to make IP more accessible. It wished to expand cooperation with WIPO. Fast-developing technologies, such as AI, offered opportunities and challenges for the IP system. Given the regulatory gaps and risks associated with emerging AI tools, Estonia welcomed the proactive engagement of WIPO and discussions to shape balanced IP frameworks in the AI age. Estonia supported AI developments that presented opportunities and stood ready to explore the technology with other Member States. The war being waged by the Russian Federation on Ukraine had been raging for more than three years, causing unprecedented damage to the national IP ecosystem in Ukraine. In the light of the brutal violation of international law by the Russian Federation and its disregard for its obligations as a member of WIPO, the activities of the WIPO external office in Moscow were a source of deep concern and incomprehension. Estonia condemned the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and called for the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from the latter's internationally recognized borders and a swift end to the war.

53. The Delegation of Eswatini aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the Africa Group. IP should be inclusive and Eswatini had made efforts to ascertain the extent to which IP had generated socioeconomic progress. It welcomed WIPO programs to measure the contribution of the copyright and creative sectors to the national economy, to assess return on investments in trademarks, and to measure the value of intangible assets and related capacity-building activities. Eswatini was in the final stages of acceding to WIPO and other IP treaties, which would align domestic law with international best practices.

54. The Delegation of Ethiopia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the Africa Group and the LDCs Group, respectively. The Government of Ethiopia was determined to strengthen its relationship with WIPO, enhance its innovation capacity, promote and protect IP, and leverage it for development. It had, therefore, ratified the Paris Convention and was in the process of ratifying the Madrid Protocol. IP knowledge and skills were vital to the country's innovative and creative industries, including SMEs, tourism and the sports sector. WIPO had supported efforts to raise public IP awareness, in particular by organizing IP Week events and the Conference on Geographical Indications, which had been held in Addis Ababa. The Government looked forward to further WIPO support.

55. The Delegation of Finland, aligning itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Japan on behalf of the EU and its member States and Group B, respectively, said that the need to share best practices was more urgent than ever in the light of the rapid transformation of industries by GenAI and the evolving interaction between IP offices, applicants and IP users. Finland welcomed the work of WIPO in that regard and encouraged Member States to attend the AI Infrastructure Interchange (AIII) forum in December 2025. It recommended raising awareness of how IP stakeholders could benefit from more effectively sharing data relating to industrial property and copyright infrastructure. It welcomed the work done by the SCCR on a broadcasting organizations treaty and progress made by the IGC, the

renewal of whose mandate it backed. Better communication was needed between Member States and the beneficiaries of any international legal instrument to protect GRs, TK and folklore, and thus to ensure the participation of IPLCs in the work of the IGC.

56. The Delegation of France aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark on behalf of Group B and the EU and its member States, respectively. WIPO was essential for strengthening IP to drive economic competitiveness. The adoption by consensus of the Riyadh DLT had been a victory for multilateralism. Consensus decision-making lent WIPO legitimacy and stability. International IP systems must be administered fairly, to allow new systems to achieve their full potential. WIPO played a vital role in support of the creative economy. France commended the SCCR, in particular on its work to achieve a balanced international broadcasting organizations treaty. The Lisbon System was attracting growing interest. Geographical indications were more than an IPR; they were a driver of local development, promoting know-how and preserving resources. The Lisbon System should be consolidated over time to fully accomplish its mission. WIPO was contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, for example, through specific projects to support SMEs and promote green innovation. IP was instrumental for cooperation to build a sustainable and inclusive environment.

57. The Delegation of Gabon aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and the Riyadh DLT. WIPO continued to pool efforts to find inclusive solutions in the interests of Member States. A greater sense of multilateralism was needed in ongoing treaty negotiations. Gabon would continue to work with WIPO, because promoting IP through innovation, creation and technology transfer was essential to developing African countries' industrial fabric. Against the backdrop of the 2021 agreement on establishing a TISC in Gabon, WIPO had organized training on TISCs in 2024. Gabon would continue discussions with WIPO on support for the development of a national industrialization strategy and was also collaborating with the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) to register its first geographical indication, the Mbigou soapstone.

58. The Delegation of the Gambia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. WIPO support to the Gambia had been timely and impactful. That included guidance on updating the IPAS, which was critical to enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the country's IP administration. In early 2025, WIPO had hosted a workshop on patents, trade secrets and the PCT in the Gambia, which had enriched national stakeholders' skills. It had also helped authorities to finalize the new national IP bill, which positioned the Gambia as a more robust and responsive IP jurisdiction. The Gambia would continue to advance IP as a pillar of national development and to work with WIPO and its Member States to promote an accessible, dynamic and inclusive IP system.

59. The Delegation of Georgia commended WIPO on offering equal opportunities to all nations; its support had played a significant role in IP reforms in Georgia. In 2024, the country had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. An international Master's degree on IP, innovation and entrepreneurship, unprecedented in the region, had been launched under the memorandum of cooperation between the National IP Center of Georgia (Sakpatenti), WIPO and Kutaisi International University. A new high-technology center was being built to host a Sakpatenti education and training center and to develop the national innovation system. Sakpatenti had prepared amendments to the law on copyright and related rights, which concerned intermediary service providers, and to the law on design, which were currently before the Georgian Parliament. Work had begun to digitize archival materials and upgrade software for the electronic case management system.

60. The Delegation of Germany aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark delivered on behalf of Group B and the EU and its member States,

respectively, and reiterated its solidarity with the people of Ukraine. It said that IP was a pivotal instrument for addressing global challenges, including digital transformation, climate change, global health and sustainable development. WIPO played a leading role in encouraging a positive culture of IP and Member States had a collective responsibility to ensure that it could continue to deliver its crucial mandate. The continuing unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine had had a significant impact on the innovation and creativity ecosystem in Ukraine. WIPO should, therefore, expand its technical cooperation with Ukraine. The Organization should engage in the ongoing debate on IPRs and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The work of the SCCR on international harmonization and exchange of legal concepts was significant, especially regarding AI. WIPO was the ideal forum in which to address the issues and conflicts arising between stakeholders and IP experts on AI, although not yet with a view to adopting binding instruments. Its IP and Frontier Technologies program and AI information sessions run by the SCCR were welcome initiatives. The draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations was a good basis for further discussion and the convening of a diplomatic conference. The SCP decision to continue addressing issues relating to AI was welcome. WIPO should provide a forum for discussions on technical and legal questions arising from the interface between AI and IP. Work should continue on patent quality, including opposition systems, and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors. The Organization had done laudable work with regard to patents and health. Good-quality services for innovators were in high global demand and must therefore be well resourced, both technologically and through skilled staffing, to be effective, reliable and responsive. The PCT system remained successful and Member States should use it to their full advantage. Germany welcomed the proposed renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026-2027 biennium. Much remained to be done to achieve consensus on an instrument that took account of the interests of holders of TK and TCEs, while maintaining the functioning of the international IP system. Germany supported WIPO GREEN and the voluntary transfer of green technology. With the successful conclusion of two diplomatic conferences in 2024, WIPO had demonstrated that multilateralism could produce results. It was crucial to ensure, through technology (including AI where appropriate) and adequate staffing, that WIPO could continue to provide efficient and good-quality services. Regarding the Geographical Diversity Action Plan (GDAP), while a diverse staff was valuable, hiring decisions should always be merit-based. The German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) had continued its successful cooperation with WIPO, other IP-related organizations and national IP offices, in particular regarding WIPO Translate, WIPO DAS and the study on protection strategies among German start-ups. The DPMA was due to publish a study on the innovation strategies used by young technology companies in Germany. The results would help to tailor IP services to the needs of SMEs.

61. The Delegation of Ghana aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. IP was critical for economic growth, technological advancement and cultural achievement. Ghana would continue to invest in its national IP infrastructure, increasing public awareness and fostering innovation in all sectors. The Government had launched a program to teach coding skills to at least 1 million young Ghanaians. As computer program source codes were protected by IP, Ghana was obligated to ensure sufficient IP protection regimes. WIPO support for the coding program was appreciated. Ghana looked forward to working with the WIPO Academy to host a summer IP school. WIPO had also supported local capacity-building activities, such as PCT training in Accra for IP offices in the subregion, and initiatives to protect and promote cultural heritage. Ghana welcomed the proposed Development Acceleration Fund as a tool for further enhancing regional efforts to advance innovation.

62. The Delegation of Greece aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark on behalf of Group B and the EU and its member States, respectively. It welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, and the Organization's positive

financial performance. Reiterating its condemnation of the war being waged by the Russian Federation on Ukraine, it underscored the importance of the Organization's support for Ukraine. Greece had developed an AI neural network to facilitate the management of patent applications and accelerate the patent search process. Patent and design filings in Greece had tapered off recently, but the number of trademark filings had risen. An innovation agency had been launched to link research with production, facilitate investment in innovative businesses and improve the country's innovation performance. New services were available to the public, such as validation and freedom to conduct searches. Various activities and educational programs had contributed to raising awareness of the importance of IPRs and enforcing them. Lastly, a national system of geographical indications for crafts and industrial products would be established to support the attractiveness of local products. The Hellenic Copyright Organization (HCO), which had recently marked its thirtieth anniversary with an international conference, had implemented projects to improve protection for holders of copyright and related rights. It had also conducted awareness-raising campaigns and training programs through MoUs with universities and cooperation agreements with research and cultural institutions and the National Judiciary Academy. The Administrative Committee for Combatting Online Piracy continued to address online infringements and had issued 370 decisions to block access to multiple Internet service providers and domain names. HCO was involved in the Dedicated network of administrative authorities, established in follow-up to the European Commission's Recommendation on Combating Online Piracy of Live Events, and contributed to WIPO ALERT. Lastly, HCO had drafted legislative amendments to simplify the notification procedure for the lawful operation of collective management organizations (CMOs) and to tackle infringements of copyright and related rights more efficiently.

63. The Delegation of Grenada said that, in line with its workplan for 2025 and alongside the WIPO Madrid Legal Division, Grenada had hosted a mission to assess its readiness to implement the Madrid Protocol. Following successful stakeholder consultations, a Madrid Protocol policy had been developed, and the Cabinet of Ministers would consider it for approval shortly. In 2024, Grenada had successfully implemented IPAS 4.0 and IPAS Cloud, significantly advancing the digitization of its industrial property records. That process, with support from the Caribbean Community, would be completed in 2025. Grenada wished to develop the legal and regulatory framework for a system of geographical indications. WIPO had supported the first phase of the marketing of Grenadian cocoa, nutmeg and rum. Grenada continued to celebrate the appointment of V'ghn, a *soca* artist, as the Organization's first IP youth ambassador for music and the first IP youth ambassador from the Caribbean. His appointment had increased the visibility of Grenadian music internationally and renewed awareness of IP and its importance to ordinary Grenadians. Grenada was hosting an event at the current Assemblies to commemorate 50 years of national independence.

64. The Delegation of Guatemala aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Ecuador and El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC and as the *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Ministerial Forum for IP in Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic, respectively. It stated that the commitment of WIPO to inclusive international cooperation had enabled developing countries to access effective IP capacity-building tools. WIPO technical assistance, training programs and discussion forums had been vital to the country. That support had helped Guatemala to make progress in developing a more dynamic and accessible IP system tailored to national priorities. IP played a strategic role in the creative industries, generating employment and income. Those industries served as a powerful expression of Guatemalan cultural identity and diversity. Cases such as Isabella Springmühl, Yahaira Tubac, honey from the "land of eternal spring" and the launch of the Quetzal 1 satellite demonstrated how Guatemalan talent went hand in hand with IP. Guatemala had begun to update its national IP strategy with WIPO support. The strategy would guide coordinated policymaking, promote the strategic use of IPRs in various sectors, and make IP systems more accessible to businesspeople, artists, researchers, women, young people and Indigenous

communities. The overall aim was to ensure that the IP ecosystem was modern, inclusive and accessible, and that it incentivized innovation, protected creativity and facilitated the entry of Guatemala into the knowledge economy.

65. The Delegation of Guinea aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, respectively. It said that, with the cooperation of WIPO, steps had been taken to develop IP in Guinea. In March 2025, a tripartite agreement had been signed between various institutions in Guinea to accelerate IP awareness-raising for businesspeople. Guinea sought support from WIPO to leverage patent documents in order to promote the creation of innovative SMEs and micro-enterprises, implementing its national IP strategy, building its capacity for technology transfer, and incorporating IP into the national curriculum. It would also welcome assistance with its accession to the Marrakesh Treaty, Riyadh DLT, GRATK Treaty and Lisbon Agreement.

66. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, respectively. It said that the national seminar held in June 2025 on the establishment of TISCs and their development, which had been followed by training sessions for trainers, had been well received in Guinea-Bissau. The country's research institutions, universities, training colleges and innovation promotion associations were of the view that such events contributed to the pursuit of their activities, such as facilitating access to specialized databases and technical training on patents. Recently, the country's traditional *pano de pente* fabrics had been registered as industrial designs and models with OAPI.

67. The Delegation of the Holy See said that the Organization's balanced and effective IP systems had stimulated innovation and creativity, facilitated the exchange of knowledge and technical expertise between and within countries, and contributed to the achievement of sustainable development models. The reliability and resilience of WIPO registries for trademarks, industrial designs and patents, which had shown continued growth in 2024, demonstrated how international cooperation could yield agreements to the benefit of all. The adoption of the Riyadh DLT had also resulted from a willingness to foster multilateral cooperation. AI raised questions about authorship, inventorship and the protection of human creativity. It must function as a tool for the good of human beings, not to diminish or replace them. In times of war and violence, innovation and creativity could keep the essence of beauty alive; to beautify the world was to build peace. Never had it been more urgent to become peacemakers working for the common good, not just for the few.

68. The Delegation of Honduras said that the country was committed to promoting a strategic agenda focused on positioning science, technology and IP as drivers of national productive transformation. Honduras said that its national STI plan – the slogan of which was “science for freedom, research as a driver of development, inclusive innovation, ancestral knowledge, sustainable futures” – had been coordinated between the public, private, academic and governmental sectors. Honduras had prioritized strengthening scientific research through national competitions for funds for research and development projects, training in strategic areas and the enhancement of regional technological research centers. Outstanding initiatives by the National Secretariat of Science, Innovation and Technology included a national STI fund, which had helped to finance projects in the sustainable agriculture, energy and digital technology sectors. The aim of such efforts was to respond to national needs, especially in rural areas inhabited by the Garifuna, an Indigenous People traditionally and historically excluded from scientific and technological development. Honduras wished to implement the IPAS with WIPO technical support in order to modernize trademark registrations, and to build capacity in the area of copyright. Moreover, Honduras was planning a new user-centered national IP operating system for 2026, and it had promoted gastronomic tourism projects through collective trademarks, geographical indications and technical assistance programs for SMEs. The multilateral system should be reinforced to eliminate the structural causes of

inequality within and between countries. International cooperation and multilateral mechanisms must not deepen existing inequalities; on the contrary, they should serve to promote equity, inclusion and well-being. In that regard, Honduras renewed its support for the DA as a roadmap ensuring that IP not only generated economic value but also social and environmental justice. Honduras advocated strengthening North-South and South-South cooperation, which was central to ensuring that the global IP system fostered development and effective cooperation for all countries.

69. The Delegation of Hungary commended WIPO on the delivery of high-level services and the efficient running of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon registration systems. It also acknowledged the positive financial performance of the Organization and welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. Hungary supported efforts aimed at adopting a broadcasting organizations treaty. The Government of Hungary backed the work of WIPO standing committees and working groups, and the renewal of the mandate of the IGC. IP financing would be a key to the success of IP systems in the future. A methodology should therefore be developed and made available nationally and regionally, through which IP-backed financing could become widely accepted. The lead role being taken by WIPO on the matter was appreciated, as was the publication of the Journey of the Visegrad Countries report, as part of the Unlocking IP-backed Financing – Country Perspectives series.

70. The Delegation of Iceland said that businesses in that country took a keen interest in international IP filing systems and that the Icelandic Intellectual Property Office had improved its trademark examination process. Simplified access to global networks and IP services was vital for small countries. Iceland welcomed the focus by WIPO on women inventors and innovators, its efforts to harness AI for enhanced efficiency, the provision of a platform for Member States to discuss AI-related IP topics, and the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. The Organization's ongoing support for the innovation and creative sector and IP in Ukraine was commendable. The Government of Iceland continued to engage actively with the SCT, in particular on the subject of protecting country names as trademarks. The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) Grand Board had already decided that the country name "Iceland" was descriptive and thus not registrable, and a decision by the EU Court of Justice was pending. The scope of Article 6<sup>ter</sup> of the Paris Convention ought to be reconsidered in view of evolving views on the significance of country names. The GII helped policymakers in Iceland to set strategic goals for IP and allocate resources to enhance global competitiveness. The Government of Iceland was proud that an Icelandic SME had been nominated for the WIPO Global Awards in 2025 and had marked World IP Day in April 2025 with an event to discuss the branding of music and musicians and the growing importance of IP in the music industry. The theme chosen for World IP Day in 2026, IP and sport, was equally inspiring.

71. The Delegation of India said that it was celebrating 50 years of partnership with WIPO. It welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, noting that the latter would help to make design protection more accessible and effective for MSMEs, startups and independent designers. The recognition of TK and TCEs in the Treaty reflected a progressive and inclusive approach to design protection. India was advancing its IP ecosystem through legal reforms, administrative enhancements and innovative policies; a focus on digitalization and process optimization had improved efficiency and reduced delays. As a result, there had been a significant rise in IP filings and approvals in India; in 2023-2024, the national IP office had granted more than 100,000 patents and, in 2024, it had received more than 100,000 patent applications for the first time. The technical workforce for patent and trademark examinations had been increased by more than 30 per cent and 50 per cent respectively. Member States should work constructively and creatively to resolve the impasse on opening WIPO external offices. While it was important to evaluate the work of existing external offices, the decision to open new ones should not be delayed. External offices should be recognized as strategic investments in the future of IP in growing economies. It was hoped that meaningful progress

could be made on all pending issues, including the finalization of a balanced treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations.

72. The Delegation of Indonesia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and by the Delegation of Cambodia on behalf of AWGIPC. In support of local designers and to foster international collaboration and strengthen its national design ecosystem, Indonesia intended to sign the Riyadh DLT. The Government was prioritizing digital transformation, especially in the IP ecosystem; the national legal framework was being modernized with a new patent law and industrial design and copyright legislation was being updated. The Government was exploring means of providing businesses and the public with quicker, more inclusive and easier access to IP services. Indonesia hoped for fruitful cooperation with other nations to strengthen the IP ecosystem. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for vital capacity-building and technical assistance provided by WIPO, particularly for marketing IP, developing SMEs and branding geographical indications.

73. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) said that on June 13, 2025, Israel had conducted an unlawful, unprovoked and deliberate armed attack against the country. Cities, densely populated residential areas and critical infrastructure had been targeted in an act of aggression. The attacks posed a direct and long-term threat to the country's innovation and IP ecosystems. WIPO and its Member States should condemn that act of aggression, which had violated the fundamental rules and principles of international law. The National IP Center had taken steps to promote the role of IP in advancing economic and social objectives, including by modernizing relevant laws and regulations, acceding to IP treaties, using innovative models to enhance IP asset registration systems and investing in human resources. Supporting inventors, entrepreneurs, producers, business owners, knowledge-based companies, industrial designers, artists and SMEs was a priority for the National IP Center.

74. The Delegation of Iraq underscored its full support for WIPO in its efforts to build a balanced and effective global ecosystem for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, taking into account the needs of all States, especially developing countries, and helping to achieve the SDGs. IP had become an essential pillar of economic growth, the advancement of society and stimulation of investment in knowledge and technology. It was important to assist Member States with capacity-building assistance, technical support and technology transfer. The Government of Iraq was finalizing legislation to protect and promote IPRs and to facilitate the acquisition of those rights by businesswomen, SMEs and startups. It was also working to establish a national system for registering geographical indications. Iraq looked forward to benefitting from still more support from WIPO. That included support for SMEs through WIPO entrepreneurship programs and projects, and for its IP offices through capacity-building, also with a view to helping the country to enter the GII.

75. The Delegation of Israel aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and noted that the Government of Israel had introduced a bill including substantial amendments to the national patent law with the aim of streamlining procedures and enhancing accessibility and efficiency for domestic and international applicants. WIPO efforts to utilize AI technologies to improve efficiency were appreciated. Israel was building on its existing framework to enhance the consistency, clarity and professional standards of examinations. Such measures reflected its commitment to maintaining a modern, robust and innovation-oriented IP system that ensured the effective protection of creative assets.

76. The Delegation of Italy aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Denmark on behalf of the EU and its member States and by the Delegation of Ukraine. It welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT and supported endeavors to finalize a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. The aim of adopting such an anti-piracy instrument should be to enhance the international protection of broadcasting

organizations' IP content and thereby contribute to strengthening the principle of territorial exclusivity. Efforts by WIPO to broaden access to IP instruments in order to usher SMEs and startups into the knowledge economy were laudable. IP could generate considerable economic, social and cultural benefits, and advance global progress towards achieving the SDGs, if used strategically by governments, businesses, entrepreneurs, non-profit entities and the intellectual and creative community. Italy commended the Organization on its solid financial performance in 2024, noting that strategic financial planning and robust reporting frameworks would help WIPO to navigate economic fluctuations and scarce public financial resources. Given the country's important role in promoting and protecting appellations of origin and geographical indications, Italy expected to see a rise in Italian registrations as a result of a new EU regulation, aimed at protecting craft goods, that was set to enter into force in 2025. The country's economic, social and cultural model, based on geographical indications, could serve as an example to other countries and emerging and developing economies of how to harness their TK and significantly contribute to sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection and a healthier environment. Italy therefore welcomed any new accession to the Lisbon Agreement and its Geneva Act, and, while already subject to the Act as an EU member State, planned to ratify it in its national capacity.

77. The Delegation of Jamaica aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, and commended the Organization on its accomplishments during the previous year in terms of digitalization, capacity-building and inclusive governance. IP was a catalyst for economic transformation, as reflected in the country's dynamic entrepreneurs and the global resonance of its reggae and dancehall music. In April 2025, Jamaica had marked World IP Day with an event that had enabled artists, young people, industry stakeholders and policymakers to explore the role of IP in empowering creators and safeguarding the country's musical and cultural heritage. The appointment of the Executive Director of the Jamaica IP Office to chair the forty-ninth session of the SCT underscored the engagement of Jamaica in shaping global IP norms to the benefit of all. IP generated economic opportunities that were intrinsically linked to the country's national development goals and closely aligned with the SDGs.

78. The Delegation of Japan, speaking in its national capacity, said that the country was focusing on supporting SMEs, startups and entrepreneurs. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) welcomed WIPO initiatives such as the Global Entrepreneur Empowerment Program and the IP management clinics. It would strengthen collaboration with WIPO to support SMEs in developing countries and continue to cooperate on global initiatives. Given the transformative impact of frontier technologies – especially AI – on IP systems, Japan was conducting consultations on such technologies. It would share its experiences in the appropriate WIPO discussions. IP was crucial to addressing global challenges, such as climate change, and achieving the SDGs. Japan contributed the most partners to WIPO GREEN and worked closely with WIPO to expand initiatives, including through the Funds-In-Trust Japan Industrial Property Global (FIT/Japan IP Global). In conjunction with Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, the JPO would host an international forum focusing on WIPO GREEN and on women and young people with a view to promoting IP use to tackle social issues. Progress made in efficiency, digitalization, transparency and customer centricity at WIPO was commendable.

79. The Delegation of Jordan emphasized the role of WIPO in supporting innovation, scientific research and global excellence. Jordan was carrying out its 10-year vision for economic modernization, Unleashing Potential to Build the Future. The vision was an ambitious plan to achieve economic growth, improve quality of life and focus on sustainability as a key element of the country's future economy. That dovetailed with the Organization's vision of expanding the circle of those who benefitted tangibly from its services, programs and projects. Cooperation between Jordan and WIPO ran deep and covered a multitude of sectors and social groups. There was a need to move towards a sustainable methodology to ensure lasting impact by training local staff, consolidating and transferring knowledge, and expanding partnerships.

Jordan appreciated the efforts being made by WIPO to improve geographical representation in the Organization and to foster transparency and accountability.

80. The Delegation of Kazakhstan welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, which would simplify the international protection of design. As IP was becoming the link between innovation, culture, education and international cooperation, approaches must be updated and the practical relevance of the work of WIPO must be strengthened. In Kazakhstan, significant institutional reforms had been conducted, including the establishment of a committee on IPRs under the Ministry of Justice, which had enabled the provision of a more comprehensive support system for applicants. A full set of measures had been implemented to digitally transform the justice system. A new digital copyright management platform was being developed to remove administrative barriers and minimize the risks of corruption. In January 2025, the President signed a bill to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty. Legislative work was underway to simplify registration procedures and reduce examination time. Kazakhstan was also working at the regional level. In June 2025, the second meeting of IP departments from Central Asian countries and China had taken place in Astana, on the theme of strengthening cooperation, developing digital solutions and simplifying cross-border procedures. Kazakhstan was paid particular attention to human capital. Together with WIPO, it had established a Master's (LLM) in IP law. The first cohort of students from the program would graduate in June 2025 with Master's degrees valid at home and abroad. With regard to technological transformation and IP, an international forum had been held in Astana to discuss global challenges and opportunities relating to AI. The Government of Kazakhstan was ready to take part in international discussions on that topic, including on approaches to possible co-authorship between humans and algorithms. IP was an important instrument for sustainable development, economic integration and international cooperation and Kazakhstan stood ready to support the efforts of WIPO to modernize the global IP system in ways that reflected the interests of all Member States.

81. The Delegation of Kenya, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, acknowledged the ongoing cooperation between WIPO and its national IP offices and practitioners. IP could be a powerful catalyst for growth and development. Kenya deeply appreciated WIPO activities, including help to update the IPAS, improve online filing and access to technological information, and develop the country's national IP policy and strategy. The support provided to Kenyan SMEs under the Inventor Assistance Program was particularly welcome. Kenya was striving to improve its competitiveness, boost export-led industrialization and support the growth of its MSMEs. IP played a critical role in unlocking the potential of the latter and of young entrepreneurs and helping them to integrate into regional and global value chains. Kenya looked forward to further support for its IP offices, young entrepreneurs and other stakeholders.

82. The Delegation of Kuwait aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Pakistan on behalf of the Arab Group and the APG, respectively, and welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. Kuwait had marked World IP Day in 2025 with a meeting of IP offices on how to support innovation and inventors. Earlier in the year, it had hosted the fifteenth International Invention Fair of the Middle East, which had attracted more than 180 inventors from 42 countries, featuring 230 inventions in various fields.

83. The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan said that the country was transforming its national IP system and building an innovation ecosystem. The newly opened Bilim Bishkek Innovation Center would support school-age inventors, startups, creative initiatives and research projects. Under the national IP and innovation development program, work to improve legislation and support creative industries and initiatives continued. Local communities were being engaged in innovation activities and, with WIPO support, two distance learning courses on IP had been translated into Kyrgyz. In 2024, applications for trademarks, utility models and new plant

varieties had increased significantly. The country was working with WIPO on a joint project to implement the Creative Economy Data Model.

84. The Delegation of Lao (People's Democratic Republic of) said that, as an LDC, the country was working to align its national IP system with development goals and further integrate it with the global economy. With WIPO support, the country was strengthening its institutional framework, revising its IP law, modernizing its IP office and conducting capacity-building initiatives to promote and protect IPRs. WIPO had provided support for Lao businesses and developments, in particular through its program to empower local entrepreneurs, SMEs, universities and creators to benefit from their innovations and cultural expressions. The Organization had also helped to develop the country's IP strategy, which was aligned with the ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan 2026-2030. The country looked forward to deepening cooperation with the Organization, particularly in the areas of digital transformation, TK, cultural heritage and the use of IP for sustainable development.

85. The Delegation of Latvia said aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Estonia and Denmark on behalf of the CEBS Group and the EU and its member States, respectively. It commended WIPO for working alongside Members States to address issues relating to the role of AI in IP, IP valuation, IP-backed financing and user-centric initiatives. The fruitful cooperation between WIPO and Latvia was helping to empower IP users in all Baltic States. In Latvia, progress had been made in providing support for technology transfer organizations, improving IP knowledge among judges and law enforcement officers and nurturing future IP professionals. With the support of WIPO, Latvia had initiated much-needed high-level discussions on the role of IP in the national innovation ecosystem and would be hosting its first ever IP youth camp in August 2025. The WIPO Secretariat was to be lauded for its ongoing support for the innovation and creativity sector and IP system of Ukraine, which had been devastated by the unjustified and brutal war waged against it by the Russian Federation. Latvia urged WIPO to continue supporting the sector's long-term recovery, while fully respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. The operation of a WIPO external office in a country that had clearly violated the UN Charter and international law was especially troubling.

86. The Delegation of Lebanon aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Pakistan on behalf of the Arab Group and the APG, respectively, and welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. In recent years, WIPO had adopted a strategic vision based on inclusiveness and transparency. It had proven able to navigate major global transformations and challenges, ranging from technological advances to the changed geopolitical situation, which had led to setbacks for the multilateral system and aggravated economic and financial uncertainty. In the face of emerging and overlapping challenges, Lebanon valued the support provided by WIPO to its Member States through technical cooperation programs, and its contribution to the creation of an enabling environment for innovation and creativity that linked IP to efforts to achieve the SDGs. Lebanon was keen to strengthen its strategic partnership with WIPO and was determined to activate cooperation in areas such as capacity-building, the development of SMEs, legislation, and the promotion of a culture of IP and innovation among judges, young people, women and businesspeople. It looked forward to assistance from WIPO in drafting modern and integrated national policies together with the National IP Office, the relevant ministries and the judiciary. Lebanon urged WIPO to redouble its programs and activities so as to put IP at the center of national, international and multilateral strategies and policies for sustainable and inclusive development.

87. The Delegation of Lesotho aligned itself with the statement delivered by Namibia on behalf of the African Group and stated that WIPO had sponsored the country's participation in key committee meetings, enabling it to contribute meaningfully to norm-setting processes. WIPO had also supported a water-harvesting technology project in Lesotho, demonstrating how practical, needs-based innovation supported by IP could help to address challenges relating to climate resilience, rural livelihoods and food security. With WIPO assistance, Lesotho had

organized an IP week to provide R&D institutions, young businesspeople and women-led local businesses with the IP tools they needed to succeed. The Organization was currently helping Lesotho to review its IP legislative framework to ensure that it responded to national challenges and aligned with national policies and the international treaties to which the country was party. Furthermore, WIPO and Lesotho had co-organized a subregional seminar on the Madrid and PCT systems to unlock the country's innovation potential and improve the competitiveness of SMEs in the global market. Lesotho urged WIPO to continue to align its programs and budgetary decisions with the SDGs.

88. The Delegation of Lithuania aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Estonia on behalf of the EU and its member States and the CEBS Group, respectively. Lithuania was determined to promote innovation through a strong and balanced IP framework. Over the previous year, it had provided extensive support for startups, researchers and SMEs to help them to navigate IP more effectively. As a result of such efforts, Lithuania had been ranked among the 35 most innovative countries worldwide in the GII in 2024. A mentoring program run by the WIPO Baltic TTO Network had strengthened cooperation between Baltic universities and innovation ecosystems. Alongside WIPO, Lithuania had hosted an event for startups and IP experts to discuss IP asset management solutions. The event had been an opportunity to present the publication *Enterprising Ideas* and the IP Diagnostic Tool, which had been adapted to Lithuanian enterprises with WIPO support. Over the summer of 2025, the first regional WIPO youth camp for Baltic students would provide hands-on training on IP and technology transfer. The country's achievements reflected effective cooperation between WIPO and Lithuanian institutions. Ukraine depended on continued international support, including for its national IP ecosystem, as it continued to suffer the effects of the illegal and unjustified full-scale war being waged on it by the Russian Federation. The Organization's close cooperation with that country was appreciated.

89. The Delegation of Madagascar aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and the LDCs Group, respectively. It noted that WIPO had supported its work to overhaul IP legislation, which was central to the country's industrialization. Madagascar had identified a number of local products with high added value and economic potential and had taken steps to promote and protect them, including through geographical indications. The Malagasy Industrial Property Office had discussed with WIPO how best to exploit the country's existing IP tools and was planning to improve infrastructure for industrial property administration.

90. The Delegation of Malawi, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, particularly at a time when multilateralism appeared to be under threat. The GRATK Treaty was an important step towards creating a more balanced, inclusive and transparent global IP system that acknowledged and respected the contributions of IPLCs. Malawi had been the first Member State to ratify the Treaty, reflecting the importance that it attached to recognizing and rewarding holders of TK, who for too long had been marginalized by the IP system. The Treaty would help to instrumentalize IP in achieving the SDGs and enable local communities to derive benefits from their knowledge and resources, while contributing to global innovation. Malawi called on other Member States to ratify the Treaty and ensure its swift entry into force so as to provide tangible benefits to IPLCs. Efforts should be made to finalize negotiations on the remaining instruments for the protection of TK and TCEs. The National IP Office had been designated as a semi-autonomous agency under the Ministry of Justice, in line with the Malawi 2063 National Vision, which placed creativity, innovation and scientific advancement at the heart of the country's development agenda. The Government supported all initiatives to promote access to knowledge, protect TCEs and harness frontier technologies for inclusive growth. Capacity-building programs were particularly important for empowering developing nations to leverage IP for economic transformation. Lastly, the

underrepresentation of African nationals among WIPO staff must be redressed so that the Organization's work reflected the diversity of its membership.

91. The Delegation of Malaysia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Pakistan and Cambodia on behalf of the APG and the AWGIPC, respectively, and observed that the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging technologies had led to a growing awareness of the value and role of IP in shaping global trade and healthcare. The country's participation in WIPO programs had contributed to the growth of local industries through IP-based assets. It was to be hoped that WIPO would continue to offer practical programs with a focus on marketing IP. Further work on copyright and related rights, as well as on a treaty on TK and TCEs, would benefit Member States and enhance the broader IP landscape.

92. The Delegation of Mali, aligning itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, said that it was grateful for the support of WIPO in revising its national IP development strategy and mentoring its women entrepreneurs. Mali had vibrant research institutions but lacked the formal structures required to derive tangible benefits from its local innovations. Therefore, it would appreciate the Organization's assistance in establishing a national innovation ecosystem to transform its IP potential into marketable assets. WIPO should continue promoting local products through geographical indications and collective marks and thereby help LDCs to participate fully in the international trade of local products with high added value.

93. The Delegation of Mexico said that it set great store by dialogue and multilateral cooperation and believed that WIPO should better reflect the balance between its members' interests. The progress made in the previous year, including the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, demonstrated that the Organization could achieve tangible results and strengthen multilateralism. For WIPO to be effective, both its governance and its vision for the future must be inclusive. Mexico was determined to develop a fairer and more inclusive IP system that made knowledge more accessible, especially for women, young people and historically excluded communities, and had therefore set fostering STI as a national priority. Member States were duty bound to work towards an international instrument that effectively protected Indigenous Peoples' rights over their TK and TCEs. Given the challenges posed by AI, IP should protect creators and guarantee equitable access to emerging technologies. Mexico appreciated the spaces created by WIPO for discussing such topics and the actions it had taken to tap the development potential of AI and to include people with disabilities in the IP ecosystem.

94. The Delegation of Mongolia welcomed the Organization's positive financial performance in 2024 and the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. Mongolia was committed to fostering growth for SMEs, women entrepreneurs and young innovators, and to that end had implemented capacity-building initiatives for local businesses and creators. Through the WIPO Intellectual Property Management Clinic for SMEs Program, SMEs in Mongolia had acquired the knowledge and tools needed to manage and harness their IP assets. Mongolia was integrating IP into university curricula and engaging young people through innovation competitions and awareness-raising programs. There was a particular focus on empowering women and rural communities to benefit from the IP system.

95. The Delegation of Morocco hailed the recent MoU that it had signed with WIPO. Morocco had been ranked first in the GII 2024 for industrial designs and had seen an increase in industrial design filing activity. Noting the rapid changes brought about by AI, it encouraged WIPO to lead an in-depth international dialogue on the legal, ethical and political implications of emerging technologies. In addition, emphasis should be placed on South-South, regional and interregional cooperation and capacity-building to enable developing countries to benefit fully from the global IP system. Morocco welcomed collaboration with the Organization on initiatives such as WIPO Connect and the IP and Gastronomic Tourism project.

96. The Delegation of Mozambique said that the IP system served as a catalyst in Mozambique for private enterprise, which was made up for the most part of young businesspeople, local cooperatives and MSMEs. As it worked to transform its economy, Mozambique was striving to strengthen the IP system. Assisted by WIPO, the country was reviewing its national strategy and drafting a national IP policy and other legal instruments. IPAS was being implemented to digitize services and a system of geographical indications was being rolled out in order to boost the value of local products. Distortions in the global economy were affecting trade and IP. Mozambique, therefore, supported efforts by WIPO to modernize the IP system, in particular in LDCs. The opportunities created by preferential markets, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), required a robust, straightforward, comprehensive and accessible IP system. IP would remain key to the country's economic transformation, characterized by industrialization based on advanced technology, the promotion of local products and economic diversification at home and abroad. The sixtieth edition of the Maputo International Trade Fair, which would be held in August 2025, would coincide with celebrations to mark 50 years of the country's independence and serve as a showcase for its creative industries and its goods and services. WIPO technical assistance should have as its goal a stable and balanced global IP system, which would enhance the business environment, thereby attracting higher quality investment and having a positive impact on young businesspeople and MSMEs.

97. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking in its national capacity, said that it welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. Namibia was grateful to WIPO for steadfastly supporting businesswomen in the country and making a tangible difference to people's lives. It also highly appreciated the WIPO Academy program to provide IP training for Namibian diplomats. Namibia remained committed to strengthening its national IP system through capacity-building, legislative reform and policy development. With the valuable support of WIPO, it was currently developing a new national IP policy to bring the IP legislative framework into line with its national development agenda. However, Namibia also required the Organization's assistance in effectively implementing that policy to ensure that it had a real, transformative impact and improved lives and livelihoods.

98. The Delegation of Nepal, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. The WIPO Graduation Support Package for LDCs remained key for countries, such as Nepal, that were on the path to graduation. An innovation-conducive ecosystem was fundamental to ensuring that the graduation process was smooth, irreversible and sustainable. WIPO efforts to simplify mechanisms with a view to facilitating access for developing countries and LDCs were commendable. Regional and subregional cooperation should be fostered to harmonize IP rules. WIPO should continue its normative and analytical work to bring developing countries and LDCs into the mainstream. It was necessary to strengthen data systems, cross-sectoral coordination, R&D infrastructure and the capacity to harness TK.

99. The Delegation of New Zealand said that its Government had recently launched the Going for Growth strategy, which was focused on developing talent; providing a predictable business environment that promoted competition; stimulating global trade and investment; leveraging STI; and investing in infrastructure. It was integrating the Business Support Services team into the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in order to, alongside the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ), foster collaboration and unlock the commercial potential of the research and education sectors. New Zealand had established a Māori plant varieties committee, which was working with Māori advisory committees on trademarks and patents and would ensure that guardianship relationships were respected in plant variety rights. The country had patent prosecution highway agreements with China and the EPO and was examining its exchanges with Singapore and Australia. IPONZ was modernizing its IT system with a view to launching a new design functionality and fully upgrading all IP domains.

100. The Delegation of Niger aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, respectively. Niger set great store by the Lisbon Agreement and encouraged the Secretariat to strengthen the role of geographical indications and collective marks as drivers of economic, social and cultural development. The Secretariat should also take further steps to help Member States to attain the SDGs and to continue implementing activities geared to building the capacities of national IP offices. With WIPO support, Niger had held two workshops in 2025 to provide businesses with the tools that they needed to harness their IP assets and boost their competitiveness. It was important to build on the adoption of the GRATK Treaty by driving discussions on IP related to TK and TCEs, whose genuine recognition and protection in the global IP system was long overdue.

101. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It stated that IP was a lever for microeconomic reform, private sector growth and regional integration and that it lay at the heart of its national development plan. WIPO had provided valuable assistance to Nigeria in modernizing its copyright registry and IP legislation. The country sought further support for marketing IP and establishing technology transfer hubs and innovation infrastructure for SMEs, women-led businesses and young entrepreneurs. Rapid implementation of the GRATK Treaty was essential to ensure the due recognition and protection of GRs and TCEs. Nigeria needed support in building the capacity of its national authorities and local custodians to implement the Treaty. WIPO must intensify cooperation on health innovation, particularly in the areas of local vaccine production and antimicrobial resistance, and on agriculture, geographical indications, plant variety protection and food security. Such cooperation depended on good governance. Nigeria called for the development of a dashboard to enable Member States to monitor the implementation of the budget in real time and to track development spending and impacts, especially in under-resourced regions. Conflict and displacement threatened innovation and access to knowledge. WIPO should expand programs that improved livelihoods, protected cultural heritage and provided education for displaced populations. Nigeria wished to see stronger African representation in WIPO leadership. It hoped that discussions within the SCCR on limitations and exceptions for education and research would be concluded swiftly, and supported the proposal to renew the mandate of the IGC. Any international legal instrument on patents or designs should afford developing countries flexibility and robust technical assistance. Lastly, as Nigeria digitalized its IP registry, it would welcome the Organization's support in the areas of e-governance, data security and AI.

102. The Delegation of Norway commended WIPO on its efforts to improve oversight by Member States of its administration and finances and to ensure prudent financial management. Norway was committed to strengthening global IP services, in the interests of their users. The International Bureau's dedication to simplifying and enhancing services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems was welcome. Smooth systems and reduced costs for users were key to nurturing their continued and growing use. The working groups under those systems continued to make progress on improving regulations, guidelines and practices. Norway welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT and supported the work of the SCCR on a treaty to protect broadcasting organizations. Decision-making by consensus lay at the heart of the Organization's success.

103. The Delegation of Oman aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Pakistan on behalf of the Arab Group and the APG, respectively. Support provided by WIPO had helped to strengthen IP services in Oman. Oman was developing its digital infrastructure, modernizing legislation, building national capacity, and working to raise IP awareness and nurture an IP culture. Oman had acceded to numerous international IP conventions and had implemented a series of projects, of which the most important had been its support project for Omani frankincense producers. In conjunction with WIPO, Oman was finalizing its draft national IP strategy, the aim of which was to establish a sustainable national

IP system. That system should serve to protect creativity and innovation, improve the country's economic competitiveness, foster an IP culture and develop that sector further.

104. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking in its national capacity, said that it aligned itself with the statement it had delivered on behalf of the APG. The sustained focus of WIPO on the DA and its alignment with the 2030 Agenda were commendable. Project-based and demand-driven support were practical means of enhancing IP awareness and strengthening ecosystems to drive innovation and economic growth. Pakistan welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT and was continuing national consultations on accession to the GRATK Treaty. Institutional reforms and capacity-building carried out by Pakistan with WIPO support included participating in the Inventor Assistance Program, completing the IP Training Institutions (IPTI) project and undertaking copyright reforms, such as strengthening the music sector CMO to promote transparent rights management and royalties distribution. IP awareness and advocacy were priorities for Pakistan: outreach in business and academia had been expanded to instill the values of innovation, enterprise and enforcement in younger generations. IP training modules had been launched for policymakers and diplomats to increase their understanding of global IP issues. To enhance enforcement, two additional IP tribunals had been established, bringing the total to seven. The expansion of WIPO external offices should be guided by diagnostic evaluations that addressed all Member State concerns. The country's roadmap included adopting a national IP strategy, operationalizing the IPTI, launching a Master's degree in IP law and fully digitalizing the national IP office.

105. The Delegation of Panama aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador and El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC and as the *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Subregional Forum of Ministers of Central America and the Dominican Republic, respectively. With the help of WIPO, Panama had made considerable progress in the use of IPAS for trademarks, which would enable Panama to share its trademark database in the WIPO Global Brand Database. It was preparing to introduce IPAS for patents and planned to offer online patent filing by the end of 2025. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry would submit a bill to the National Assembly on establishing a regulatory framework for technology transfer, innovation and IPR management. Once enacted, the law would provide for the capacity-building of universities and research centers. Panama was taking steps to adapt its IP policy – developed with the support of WIPO and Central American countries – to its national context. It was participating in the IP and Gastronomic Tourism project and other initiatives geared to harnessing IP as a source of funding for entrepreneurs and SMEs. Under an MoU between Panama and the WIPO Academy, due to be finalized soon, IP training would be provided for judges, enabling them to make consistent and well-informed decisions on IP matters.

106. The Delegation of Paraguay said that the National Intellectual Property Directorate (DINAPI) had begun issuing digital trademark registration certificates and had launched a digital public consultation system to facilitate access to information on industrial property records. As a result of such measures, it had granted a record number of trademarks in 2024 and expected to grant still more in 2025. Paraguay was proud to have participated in the first ever WIPO WILD event, which had provided Member States with a valuable opportunity to share experiences and best practices. Following the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, Paraguay had taken steps to bring its design law into line with international requirements. DINAPI had intensified its efforts to combat counterfeiting and piracy domestically, in coordination with other national institutions, and as part of regional and international operations. Paraguay was grateful to the other Member States for appointing it as Vice-Chair of ACE. With regard to the promotion and dissemination of copyright and related rights, Paraguay was continuing to create spaces for training and collaboration to help it to learn about the realities of its creative industries, and would be hosting the Regional Meeting of Heads of Copyright Offices of Latin America in September 2025. WIPO had provided invaluable support in the areas of development and innovation, including through training scholarships awarded to DINAPI staff members and the development of the Careers in IP pilot plan as part of the GDAP.

107. The Delegation of Peru said that WIPO had supported initiatives allowing the country's IP system to reach more people, communities and territories. In particular, one project had been designed to empower Aguaruna children to protect their cultural identity. WIPO was providing support for two new projects: one in Puno for businesswomen developing brands with a local identity; and one in Chulucanas to strengthen an appellation of origin of direct benefit to the community. WIPO had assisted with the incorporation of the country's IP office as a donor office to the WIPO International Cooperation for Examination (ICE) service, through which it would collaborate on technical reports with the Dominican Republic and thereby contribute to capacity-building in Central America and the Caribbean. Peru was making progress in its internal processes to ratify the GRATK Treaty and had contributed to the adoption of the Riyadh DLT by organizing a preparatory meeting in Paracas.

108. The Delegation of the Philippines said that the adoption of the Riyadh DLT would make it easier for MSMEs to protect their designs. The Philippines was determined to contribute to regional economic growth in its capacity as chair of the newly established ASEAN TISC Network Task Force, and to complete its accession to the GRATK Treaty. The Philippines supported the endeavors of the SCCR with regard to finalizing a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, which had been under discussion since 1997. The SCCR had carried out substantial work but advances in ICT had led to an increase in piracy, the use of illegal signals and irresponsible AI use. IP measures to outpace those developments were needed in order to ensure adequate copyright protection.

109. The Delegation of Poland, aligning itself with the statements made by the Delegations of Denmark and Estonia on behalf of the EU and its member States and the CEBS Group, respectively, congratulated WIPO on its financial performance in a challenging economic and geopolitical context. Measures to broaden the Organization's work beyond its core registration function were appreciated. Poland was interested in exploring frontier technologies, such as AI, and the patentability of inventions involving AI. It welcomed the continued focus of WIPO on those issues and on programs to increase the participation of young people and women in the IP ecosystem and commended the Organization on its initiatives for SMEs, startups and entrepreneurs, including those focused on IP-backed financing, IP valuation and marketing of IP. The Government of Poland continued to stand in solidarity with Ukraine and fully supported ongoing efforts to rebuild that country's IP infrastructure and capacity. It condemned the unjustified and unprovoked war being waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

110. The Delegation of Portugal, aligning itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Japan on behalf of the EU and its member States and Group B, respectively, noted that the aim of the MoU signed between WIPO and Portugal in 2022 was to strengthen IP and the enforcement of IPRs in that country. The Lisbon System was essential for protecting appellations of origin and geographical indications internationally. The mapping of geographical indications in Portugal by WIPO would help to preserve national knowledge and traditions and could serve as a model for other partners. Portugal was working towards ratification of the Vienna Agreement and the Locarno Agreement, would continue to advocate the use of Portuguese at WIPO, and reaffirmed its support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and European vocation of Ukraine and the Organization's ongoing assistance to the Ukrainian IP system. Portugal would continue to contribute to the WIPO mission of promoting innovation and creativity and thereby fostering job creation, generating wealth, boosting economic growth and helping to achieve the SDGs.

111. The Delegation of Qatar aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Pakistan on behalf of the Arab Group and the APG, respectively. It said that the work of WIPO had grown in importance with the remarkable development of technology. The strategic relationship between Qatar and WIPO had deepened over the previous five years, as underlined by the International Mediation and Arbitration Conference, which had taken place in Qatar in 2024 and had been the first of its kind to be held jointly by the two parties. The second

edition of that conference was planned for September 2025. It would include workshops on arbitration and mediation, and on IP for business. The Conference was being organized in conjunction with various national bodies. They included the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Center, which thereby was fulfilling the terms of its MoU with WIPO, and the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council. One of the Council's core mandates was the transfer of international expertise to Qatar and its dissemination among SMEs. Qatar looked forward to working more closely with WIPO in the areas of culture, the creative industries, technology and education in a way that served the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 – development and a knowledge-based economy. WIPO had made an invaluable contribution to follow-up on development of the country's national strategy and IP institute. Qatar supported ongoing negotiations in various WIPO committees and the use of Arabic across all WIPO activities, in particular in the Madrid System, as had been proposed by the Arab Group.

112. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT and observed that the steady rise in the number of PCT applications demonstrated that global uncertainty had not hindered IP activity and innovation. A strong IP ecosystem was key to overcoming economic challenges, and advancing discussions on new WIPO external offices was timely in that regard. Rapid digital developments were reshaping the IP ecosystem and posed new challenges, including technology leakage and the proliferation of counterfeit products. In response, the Republic of Korea was integrating AI into all areas of IP administration, hiring private sector experts to strengthen examinations, and using AI-based tools to enhance enforcement and detect counterfeit products online. It had also issued guidelines on registering copyright for AI-generated content and avoiding legal disputes. The engagement of WIPO through its development programs would be essential as the AI transition widened the IP gap between developed and developing countries. Since 2004, the Republic of Korea had supported capacity-building initiatives for young people, women and SMEs through its Funds-in-Trust (FIT/Korea); expansion of those initiatives would be welcome.

113. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group, reaffirmed its staunch support for Ukraine and welcomed the continued cooperation between WIPO and the institutions of that country. It also welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, and was proud to have contributed to the success of the Diplomatic Conference on the latter. The Republic of Moldova was aligning its IP legislation with EU and international standards as part of its EU accession process, in which regard it was grateful for the support of WIPO. It looked forward to hosting the Regional Conference on IP and Creative Industries in September 2025 and the INFOINVENT exhibition in November 2025.

114. The Delegation of Romania aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Estonia on behalf of the EU and its member States and the CEBS Group, respectively. Romania welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, which illustrated the importance of international cooperation in the field of IP. It was committed to strengthening its national IP ecosystem and planned to roll out more initiatives to raise IP awareness among young people, researchers and entrepreneurs. In line with its digitalization agenda, Romania planned to invest in enhanced IP administration systems and services to support efficient IP protection. WIPO had helped to implement local projects on the protection and promotion of TK and TCEs, and on enhancing IP education to foster creativity. Romania reiterated its wish to host a WIPO external office in Bucharest, which would promote WIPO services in Central and Eastern Europe and contribute to the broader economic, social and cultural advancement of the region.

115. The Delegation of the Russian Federation said that it condemned the illegitimate measures taken by the EU concerning Russian IP applicants and rights holders. Discrimination on grounds of nationality that targeted ordinary citizens set a dangerous precedent for the entire

international community, which could lead to a loss of faith in IP as an institution. The common goals of WIPO Member States – the protection of IP assets, the accessibility of services for users and the stable functioning of the global IP system – could only be achieved by balancing the interests of consumers, society and the State. IP played an important role in the modern Russian economy, ensuring technological independence for key sectors, competitive advantages and investment attractiveness. The Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent) had been tasked with making IP a liquid asset. Fiscal and financial instruments had therefore been put in place to accelerate commercialization and provide comprehensive support for SMEs, the creative industries and small technology companies. Measures had also been taken to enhance IP protection instruments and support the implementation of national technological leadership projects. The Russian Federation paid particular attention to IT patenting and enhancing IP regulation in the platform economy and would continue its constructive cooperation with WIPO on the development of the global IP system. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT and noted the importance of the multilingualism policy, including the use of all UN official languages in the work of the Madrid and Hague systems. The Russian Federation remained open to further constructive dialogue for the benefit of users of the international IP system from all countries.

116. The Delegation of Rwanda aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, respectively. Rwanda was considering accession to the Riyadh DLT and the GRATK Treaty, in view of their potential impact on its innovation ecosystem and national development. Rwanda had adopted a revised IP law in July 2024, with a view to incorporating into national law key provisions of the PCT, Madrid Protocol and Hague Agreement. The Government was drafting a five-year IP strategy, which would place particular emphasis on empowering young businesspeople, women-led businesses and start-ups. With the support of WIPO, Rwanda had improved its GII ranking.

117. The Delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis said that the country had joined Trinidad and Tobago as the first two WIPO Member States to pilot an IP and sports diagnostic review. It welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. WIPO had helped to enhance the efficiency of the country's IP office, including through upgrades to its IPAS. Saint Kitts and Nevis had hosted colleagues from Grenada and Saint Lucia during IPAS training in October 2024. The Delegation commended WIPO for supporting young people through comic book drawing and storytelling workshops, which nurtured their creative talents and instilled an appreciation for IPRs. SMEs had benefited from WIPO initiatives focused on AI, IP management and mentorship. The technical support of WIPO had facilitated the country's accession to the Hague Agreement in 2024.

118. The Delegation of Samoa welcomed the accession of the Federated States of Micronesia to WIPO, the adoption of the Riyadh DLT and the strong development focus reflected in the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27. Samoa supported renewal of the mandate of the IGC, which was key to implementing the GRATK Treaty and concluding an international legal instrument to protect TK and TCEs from misappropriation and exploitation. The Riyadh DLT would help Samoa and other Pacific countries to preserve identity and innovations through the sharing of required information about TK and TCEs relevant to design applications. The Heads of Intellectual Property Office Conference (HIPOC) for Pacific Island Countries, which had been hosted by Tonga in 2025, had the potential to strengthen Pacific regional coordination and deepen engagement with WIPO. Every effort must be made to ensure that Pacific perspectives, priorities and unique cultural contexts were reflected in the global IP system. The accession of Samoa to key WIPO-administered treaties and legal instruments had facilitated the development of its IP legal framework, improved its access to international IP systems and strengthened protection for rights holders. Capacity constraints remained, however, and targeted capacity-building and technical assistance were needed. Samoa welcomed Vanuatu as the newest party to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. WIPO and the governments of Australia, Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Singapore, among others, had

helped Samoa to improve its IP ecosystem. A plan to upgrade IPAS to the cloud would make diagnostics and system updates more affordable. Senior IP staff had benefited from scholarships to attend the WIPO-Harvard Law School PatentX Course. Samoa had benefited from a WIPO gap analysis of the national IP Act (2011) and another with regard to copyright. Discussions were under way on acceding to the Marrakesh Treaty. Samoa had attended the Regional Workshop of Intellectual Property Office Officials Responsible for the Madrid System for Selected Asia and Pacific Countries, which had been hosted by the Philippines in early 2025. The Mentorship Program for the Music Sector that had taken place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, had inspired Samoan musicians to form the Samoa Association of Musicians. A CMO would be established to generate revenue for local musicians.

119. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT. Some 151 Member States had attended the Diplomatic Conference to conclude the Treaty, which had been held in Riyadh in November 2024. The spirit of cooperation that had reigned during the Conference was reflected in the final draft of the Treaty. Saudi Arabia had acceded to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement in January 2025. In December 2024, SAIP had begun to operate as a PCT International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority. In conjunction with the Conciliation Center of the Ministry of Justice, SAIP had set up a conciliation and conflict resolution service as an amicable alternative to litigation. The service had helped to settle many disputes. The Saudi Fund-in-Trust (SAFIT) at WIPO had begun operations to assist countries with IP capacity-building as part of the country's broader development efforts. Saudi Arabia welcomed the adoption by the CDIP of its proposal to set aside a day annually to empower and celebrate world IP examiners. It had since submitted another proposal on issuing ethics guidelines for examiners. Saudi Arabia underscored the importance of including Arabic as a working language of the Madrid and Hague systems. That would serve the cause of multilingualism and enable Arab countries to implement those systems more effectively.

120. The Delegation of Serbia said that, given the growing importance of IPRs globally, it was crucial to foster IP education and strengthen agencies responsible for IP enforcement. Building an efficient and functional IP system was complex and expensive; countries must develop their national IP systems in accordance with their unique needs and capabilities. With WIPO support, Serbia was developing an IP strategy designed to address key IP protection challenges. Valuable WIPO assistance had included help with organizing the forthcoming celebration of the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Serbian IP Office.

121. The Delegation of Seychelles said that, with WIPO support, the country was finalizing a comprehensive review of its IP legal framework to modernize and strengthen enforcement and administration and align it with best practices. The industrial property law had been revised to reflect the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, with a view to the country's potential accession to those treaties. Given its limited resources and capacities, Seychelles looked forward to continued collaboration with WIPO and other partner organizations. A national IP strategy was being developed with the support of ARIPO.

122. The Delegation of Sierra Leone welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, noting that reaching agreement by consensus at a time of such global uncertainty demonstrated the value and resilience of multilateralism. Sierra Leone would sign and implement the two treaties as part of its efforts to protect TK, support biodiversity governance, and grow the design and creative sectors. Sierra Leone saw IP as a legal tool and catalyst for innovation, job creation and socioeconomic transformation. The launch of the LDC Graduation Toolkit in Patent and Technology Law was welcome and WIPO efforts to align support with the needs of Member States were commendable. The increased focus at WIPO on businesswomen and claims concerning traditional products was encouraging. Sierra Leone was prioritizing support for young people, women, SMEs and Indigenous knowledge holders. It

would engage with the evolving WIPO platform, which included IP diagnostic tools for SMEs and customized capacity-building, in order to amplify the impact of its innovation strategies. Sierra Leone supported the Organization's inclusive vision and transformative agenda.

123. The Delegation of Singapore aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Cambodia and Pakistan on behalf of the AWGIPC and APG, respectively. It welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, which proved that WIPO remained able to deliver concrete consensus-based results. The Organization's sound finances had facilitated the implementation of programs to improve the accessibility of IP, such as MTSP 2022-26, which provided a road map for delivering programs that would benefit women, young people and MSMEs. WIPO continued to fulfill its mandate to serve innovators and creators, as illustrated by the steady number of patent and trademark applications filed, regardless of the adverse global economic circumstances. The significant expansion of WIPO support for developing and least developed Member States was noteworthy. Singapore was glad to be partnering with WIPO and the Singapore Office of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center to implement the WIPO-ASEAN Mediation Program and IP management clinics.

124. The Delegation of Slovakia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Estonia and Denmark on behalf of the CEBS Group and the EU and its member States, respectively. It stated that it attached great importance to improving the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems, as well as other user services. Sustained and targeted efforts were required to increase membership of and registration in the Lisbon System. Slovakia supported efforts to strengthen the outcomes of the Lisbon Agreement and its Geneva Act, and to create business opportunities arising from the broader promotion and protection of geographical indications, which continued to be a key area of interest. Slovakia welcomed the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/27 biennium and supported efforts to conclude a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, which should be adapted to technological realities. It also welcomed the progress made by various WIPO committees and the inclusive and constructive dialogue on complex topics, such as ongoing discussions on AI from an IP perspective. However, Member States would benefit from the regular sharing of knowledge and information on the use of AI in IP examination procedures at national IP offices. Slovakia supported the work of ACE and welcomed the growing engagement of Member States from all regions in its activities. Slovakia commended the Organization on its responsiveness to global challenges, including climate change, technological advances and the increasing demand for equitable participation in the knowledge economy. Slovakia appreciated the assistance that it had received from WIPO and looked forward to deepening cooperation. In 2024, the Organization had helped to implement the "PCT for Visegrad 4" (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) initiative with universities in the region, which had proved to be an enriching and productive experience.

125. The Delegation of Slovenia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Denmark and Estonia on behalf of the EU and its member States, and the CEBS Group, respectively. Slovenia welcomed the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27, in particular its focus on SMEs, young people, women and sustainability. Efforts to strengthen the Lisbon System were commendable. The successful conclusion of two diplomatic conferences in 2024, and in particular the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, constituted real progress in international cooperation on designs. The previous year, Slovenia had adopted its first national IP strategy, which it had developed with WIPO support; one year later, it had adopted the accompanying action plan. Slovenia had also received assistance from WIPO in hosting an international conference on the relevance of geographical indications and collective marks to sustainable tourism, local identity and regional development. Some 230 people from 15 countries had attended. Slovenia had released national editions of the WIPO IP Diagnostic Tool and the Guide to IP for Startups and had recently hosted a three-day event on IP valuation, which was a key priority for the country. Slovenia appreciated cooperation in that regard and welcomed the continuation of the IP Finance Dialogue and Action Plan to support progress in

intangible asset finance. Given the uncertain economic and geopolitical outlook, WIPO should continue to address emerging challenges and harness the power of IP to foster creativity, innovation and inclusive growth.

126. The Delegation of South Africa stated that the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT was a demonstration of the core values and ethos of WIPO and testament to the effectiveness of multilateralism and consensus-based decision-making. That spirit must continue to prevail in the work of the WIPO committees, in particular with regard to negotiations on a treaty concerning TK and TCEs. The Government of South Africa hailed the involvement of IPLCs in the IP system, specifically with regard to IP, GRs and associated TK. Innovation, creativity and technological advancement were reshaping societies with unprecedented speed. The global IP system must not only reward invention and creativity but also advance human development, equity and resilience. South Africa believed in a balanced and development-oriented IP system, in which the need for both protection and access was acknowledged. There was a need to strengthen the DA and ensure that IP contributed to the achievement of the SDGs. IP should be an enabler, not a barrier to public health, education, food security, industrial development and climate resilience. South Africa commended WIPO for providing capacity-building support and technical assistance tailored to national and regional needs. Work was underway to operationalize the AfCFTA IP Protocol and regional cooperation on IP would be critical in that regard. WIPO and its partners should support the African vision of regional integration, innovation-led growth and shared prosperity.

127. The Delegation of Spain, aligning itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark on behalf of Group B and the EU and its member States, respectively, said that it was firmly committed to multilateralism. International cooperation was essential for IP to continue as a key driver of innovation, creativity and sustainable development. The adoption of the Riyadh DLT demonstrated that, through goodwill and commitment, it was possible to reach agreements that improved harmonization, efficiency and legal certainty for all. That success, one hoped, would serve as an example for other areas, such as copyright. The WIPO-administered international IP systems were the cornerstone of a global ecosystem that enabled innovators, enterprises and creators to protect and benefit from their intangible assets across borders. The forecast drop in the number of applications for the 2026/27 biennium was a troubling, and underlined the need to keep adapting IP systems to rapidly changing circumstances and make them more inclusive and accessible, especially for SMEs, women, young people and groups facing barriers to entry. WIPO should work in a spirit of dialogue and on the basis of consensus, especially when adopting the program of work and budget for 2026/27. Spain thanked WIPO for its continued collaboration, in particular with regard to the Spanish Fund-in-Trust (FIT/ES), which served to strengthen the country's commitment to the Organization and its objectives.

128. The Delegation of Sri Lanka, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG, said that the Riyadh DLT was a milestone in streamlining global design registration. In 2025, Sri Lanka had signed an MoU with WIPO to enhance IP services through digitization, system upgrades and capacity-building. The digitization of IP documents would improve services such as online filing and searches. Progress was being made towards ratification of the Madrid Protocol. In copyright, a voluntary registration and deposit system was being introduced, and CMOs were being strengthened to better serve rights holders. Legislation on the registration of geographical indications, providing stronger protection for Sri Lankan products, had been enacted. Sri Lanka would continue to foster innovation, expand its TISC network and work with WIPO to improve its GII ranking. The country was drafting a national policy and legal framework for TK.

129. The Delegation of the Sudan aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Namibia on behalf of the Arab Group and the African Group, respectively. It said that IP played a key role in developing the economy, and protecting local

goods, building competitiveness for agricultural and animal product exports and for Sudanese handicrafts. The Sudan had begun to draft a national IP strategy. It was also benefitting from a project on geographical indications for local, high-quality products, and from others on establishing a national IP training center and TISCs. All of those efforts had been set back by the war being waged by an outlaw terrorist militia, backed by a regional sponsor, against the Sudanese State and its people. Precious resources had also been destroyed in the fighting. The militia had committed widespread terrorist and subversive acts, including the forced displacement of Indigenous Peoples and agricultural communities, and the vandalization and destruction of research centers. Members of the country's educated and professional classes had been forced to flee the country, dealing a severe blow to its creativity and innovation sector. The Sudan welcomed the efforts of WIPO to contribute to attainment of the SDGs and the proposed Development Acceleration Fund. The Sudan hoped that support for rebuilding the country's innovation and creativity sector, which had been hard hit by the war, would figure among the Organization's priorities in the future. WIPO should redouble efforts to build partnerships with other UN agencies in order to coordinate resources and enhance cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, especially in view of the funding crisis facing humanitarian organizations. Technical assistance should be tailored to the specificities of each country, without the imposition of one-size-fits-all models. The Sudan looked forward to seeing tangible results from the project to support crisis-affected countries and urged the Organization to pay particular attention to the situation in the Sudan.

130. The Delegation of Sweden aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Japan and Denmark on behalf of Group B and the EU and its member States, respectively. A well-functioning IP system was essential in a knowledge-based economy. Full potential could only be reached when creative and innovative minds, regardless of gender, social and ethnic background, physical ability, religious belief or sexual orientation, met, collaborated and innovated together. WIPO and Member States should pursue their efforts focused on women inventors and innovators. WIPO should revert to holding the Assemblies in autumn.

131. The Delegation of Switzerland said that the proper development of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems was a priority; sufficient financial and human resources must be allocated to all four systems to enable them to meet user demand and provide quality services. The Delegation was confident that Member States would reach consensus on the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27. Another priority area was the impact of AI on IP. WIPO should intensify its already welcome efforts in that regard. The Delegation was pleased to be able to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement at the current Assemblies and noted that Switzerland planned to sign the Riyadh DLT in July 2025.

132. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that it represented a new Syria, free of sanctions and coercive measures. The firm support of WIPO was key to the country's efforts to rebuild. The Delegation aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Algeria and Pakistan on behalf of the Arab Group and the APG, respectively, and welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT. The country was going through a historical transformation, working to rebuild its legal, economic and institutional system, in which a free economy and the protection of IPRs would sustain economic growth and encourage innovation, investment and sustainable development. Under an IP roadmap designed to transform the country into a digital economy, the Government planned to pass a new trademark and patent law that would simplify registration procedures and encourage SMEs to register local and international patents; run awareness-raising campaigns for businesspeople and investors; draft curricula for universities and technical institutes on IP protection; build infrastructure for e-registration systems; protect national heritage and identity; establish specialized IP courts; and train judges in how to handle digital IP cases. It would also support women engaged in traditional handicrafts, businesswomen and women owners of SMEs. Capacity-building would be provided in the country's institutions in areas such as AI, IP protection in the digital economy,

rights enforcement and combating counterfeiting. The Government was also preparing a national strategy for protecting commercial and industrial IP. Early signs of success included a 50 per cent rise in the number of trademark applications in the previous two months compared with the same period in 2024. Protecting IP was not just an international obligation, but also an investment in the country's economy and its people's prosperity, a means of integrating into the global economy and a tool for achieving economic justice. With the help of WIPO, the new Syria would create a model to inspire other countries emerging from crises.

133. The Delegation of Tajikistan, speaking in its national capacity, welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT and noted that the country was improving its national IP legislation with the help of WIPO. The national patent office had drafted a law on legal protection for geographical indications, and the country stood ready to accede to the Lisbon Agreement. Digitization was a priority for the patent office so as to reduce registration times and improve service quality. TISCs were being set up under the MoU which the country had signed with WIPO. IP education had been a priority in recent years; the WIPO Academy had provided vital support, including in the translation of distance learning materials into Tajik. Tajikistan hoped to expand its cooperation with WIPO in implementation of the PCT and IPAS.

134. The Delegation of Thailand said that that country's Government had adopted a national soft power policy, in line with its belief in the transformative potential of the creative industries. To drive success in that area, Thailand had a comprehensive strategy to strengthen its IP ecosystem, which included the modernization of national IP laws in line with international best practices, the development of digital infrastructure for IP administration and enforcement, and the implementation of capacity-building programs. Thailand valued the role of WIPO in fostering global IP cooperation, promoting innovation, empowering MSMEs and enhancing the IP system worldwide. It strongly supported the Organization's efforts to align its work with its DA and encouraged Member States to conclude initial negotiations on a TK and TCEs instrument.

135. The Delegation of Timor-Leste said that the country was establishing its first national IP office, which was being built with a digital-by-design approach. The IP office would reflect global best practices, leverage modern digital tools and provide accessible, efficient and transparent services to enable young entrepreneurs, traditional artisans, researchers and small businesses to harness IP for growth and inclusion. Timor-Leste was working with WIPO and international partners to ensure that it had solid legislative, institutional and technical foundations in the field of IP. Technical assistance was needed to digitize and automate IP services; develop human resources; train examiners; and accede to international IP treaties. The use of the DA to align the IP system with Member States' needs was valued. Timor-Leste welcomed deeper cooperation with WIPO, CPLP, GRULAC and other regional groupings.

136. The Delegation of Togo aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, respectively. Togo was grateful for the support of WIPO in leveraging IP for its national development. It had placed IP at the heart of its development road map for 2020–2025 and had recently registered its first geographical indication. LDCs required greater international cooperation on IP for them to make the best possible use of IP systems.

137. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. It said that the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office had partnered with WIPO, KIPO and the University of the West Indies to host the third Appropriate Technology Competition in 2025. Several entries presented at the competition were poised for national implementation. The country had also hosted a WIPO workshop on IP and competition policy for Caribbean competition agencies. The steelpan – the only musical instrument invented during the twentieth century – had been registered as a geographical indication and Trinidad and Tobago planned to register other products, including Trinitario cocoa. Through the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

(UPOV), 11 cocoa plant varieties were under examination. The Copyright Act was being amended to extend the term of copyright and related rights protection from 50 to 70 years and to include regulations for CMOs. National CMOs had successfully used WIPO mediation services, greatly benefitting soca, calypso and chutney artists. Trinidad and Tobago planned to accede to the Hague Agreement and the Riyadh DLT. The national IP strategy, developed with WIPO support, had been updated and the IP and sport strategy – the first of its kind in the Caribbean – had been launched jointly with Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Riyadh DLT would ensure more efficient and affordable protection for the country's carnival designers. The country remained committed to concluding a treaty protecting broadcasting organizations. It would begin work on the Creative Economy Data Model to assess the strengths, challenges and impact of creative industries. It had also introduced IP to the educational syllabus through the National IP Training Center and the Accessible Books Consortium, which had made the syllabus accessible to people with visual impairments. The country continued to cooperate with the Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States for patent examinations.

138. The Delegation of Tunisia aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Algeria on behalf of the African Group and Arab Group, respectively. Tunisia was working to adapt its IP-related laws to the highest international standards. In 2024, it had signed the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT, both of which it planned to ratify. In 2025, the Director General had visited Tunisia to discuss emerging IP issues. Specific assistance programs for the country had been agreed upon, including on the development of the national IP strategy, encouragement for rural women and young people to innovate and promote their creative endeavors, and the modernization of the Tunisian IP Academy.

139. The Delegation of Türkiye said that the country had introduced comprehensive reforms to enhance its innovation and IP landscape. The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office and the Directorate General for Copyright had worked to improve accessibility, market IPRs, support startups, SMEs and CMOs, and integrate IP into broader national strategies. Those efforts had resulted in the country being ranked first in trademarks and industrial designs by origin, and sixteenth in creative outputs in the 2024 GII. Türkiye appreciated WIPO assistance in projects to market IP in academic spheres, brand and market geographical indications and promote the use of IP tools to empower SMEs, CMOs and businesspeople. Türkiye had continued to benefit from the WIPO Academy's support on projects including the joint Master of Laws program at the University of Ankara and the National IP Academy. The country stood ready to share its experiences, engage in meaningful dialogue and work towards a more balanced, transparent and forward-looking global IP system. The Delegation drew attention to the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. It condemned Israel for its deliberate strategy of destabilizing the region and stood in firm support of a just and lasting peace.

140. The Delegation of Uganda, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the Africa Group, reaffirmed its commitment to an IP system that facilitated equity, access and innovation. Since IP would never be depleted, it offered hope that the Global South could overcome poverty. Developing countries must be represented effectively in WIPO governance structures and standard-setting processes to ensure that outcomes reflected the aspirations of the Global South. Africa was not asking for handouts but rather for a hand up. Acknowledging the support provided through DA programs, Uganda called for enhanced funding and technical assistance, especially for building innovation ecosystems, supporting SMEs, strengthening IP education, facilitating technology transfer and empowering local creators. Africa must be able to participate meaningfully in global discussions on emerging technologies, such as AI and biotechnology, and on digital trade. Africa needed capacity-building support from WIPO in order for it to play an active role in shaping future IP frameworks. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, WIPO initiatives to bring rural communities into the global economy, in particular through the use of geographical indications, were appreciated. The Uganda Registration Services Bureau was fast becoming an IP center of excellence and pacesetter in Africa. The strength of Africa lay in agriculture, which employed the majority of the

population. Africa was a source of organic food, which went straight from farm to plate. WIPO support for the Lisbon System and geographical indications ensured that the value generated by IP reached farmers and producers in Africa.

141. The Delegation of Ukraine said that the unprovoked war of aggression being waged by the Russian Federation on Ukraine was disrupting the international IP ecosystem and challenged core principles of international law. The scale of the destruction was staggering. According to an assessment by the UN, US\$524 billion would be needed for the country's recovery and reconstruction. Since 2022, more than 2,200 cultural sites had been damaged or destroyed; hundreds of artists had been killed and millions of archival and museum items had been stolen or destroyed. The previous month, the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, had been damaged in a Russian attack. The Russian Federation was engaged in a policy of erasing the cultural identity of Ukraine through systematic IP theft. The Delegation named the misappropriation by Russia of the Ukrainian geographical indication *Melitopol Cherry* as the blatant example, also exposed during previous WIPO Assemblies. Many other Member States had also been victims of State-backed IP theft by the Russian Federation, which undermines the integrity of the global IP system and WIPO's very mandate. A country that implemented such policies did not deserve a seat at the Assemblies or the privilege of hosting a WIPO external office. Ukraine had continued to work on its national IP system and delivered numerous IP-related reforms in spite of the war. The Government was grateful to WIPO for its assistance in drafting a national IP strategy and with projects for affected Ukrainian institutions and communities. The International Bureau should focus on assistance to mitigate the war's effects and foster recovery. Ukraine was fighting not only for its sovereignty but for the fundamental values of freedom, culture and creativity. IP was not just a technical issue, but a pillar of identity, innovation and resilience. The Organization's support helped to protect what the Russian Federation sought to erase. WIPO and its Member States must remain steadfast, act decisively and ensure that IP continued to serve development, not destruction.

142. The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates stated that the country was continuing to grow as an environment conducive to creativity, innovation and the protection of IPRs. The Ministry of Economy and Tourism had launched an integrated national system to streamline IP services. As of May 2025, more than 385,000 trademarks had been registered. Applications for patents and utility certificates had recorded growth of some 20 per cent from January to May 2025, compared with the same period in the previous year, and more than 1,200 applications for industrial designs had been received in 2024. The Government had recently launched a new Green IP track, with a six-month average examination period, to accelerate the registration of patents relating to sustainable technologies. The strategic idea behind it was to encourage innovators and inventors to develop IP that would support the transition to a green economy. The United Arab Emirates was working towards accession to the Lisbon Agreement, the Budapest Treaty and the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification. In that context, it welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT and looked forward to further progress in negotiations on other proposed treaties. A project on innovation in universities was currently being conducted with the WIPO Academy. A training program had been launched in conjunction with the Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA) to train qualified and accredited trademark agents at the Dhahi Khalfan IP Training Center. The United Arab Emirates had launched its national cultural and creative industries strategy, the aim of which was to lift that vital sector's contribution to the economy to 5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2031. A system for registering products linked to a specific geographical location had been launched and four products had been singled out in the plan for the initial stage. WIPO was to be commended for its efforts to stay abreast of technological advances such as AI and the Internet of Things, which the United Arab Emirates fully supported.

143. The Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland said that the PCT, Hague and Madrid systems provided cost-effective global IP protection for businesses across the United Kingdom. The responsible and prudent financial management of WIPO was commendable. The WIPO General Assembly had challenging issues to discuss, including the proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27, and delegations should strive for consensus. The adoption of the Riyadh DLT, which the United Kingdom would sign shortly, and the GRATK Treaty was proof that multilateralism and IP could deliver meaningful progress. The United Kingdom backed a more inclusive IP system, especially programs for women, young people and underrepresented groups. The expansion of WIPO GREEN and growing recognition of the role of IP in tackling climate change were welcome developments. The Government of the United Kingdom had signed an MoU with WIPO GREEN in 2024 and had since joined its Board in a quest for closer collaboration. The work done by WIPO on IP and frontier technologies was welcome; cooperation in that area should be strengthened with Geneva-based partners and global initiatives in that area. Ukraine had demonstrated commendable resilience in the face of the unprecedented attacks by the Russian Federation that were affecting its people and creative industries. The report of the Secretariat on assistance to that country's innovation and creativity sector was therefore welcome, as was the ongoing WIPO support itself.

144. The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and the LDCs Group, respectively. Inclusive, equitable and responsive IP systems were necessary to address the unique challenges facing developing countries and LDCs. WIPO should continue to strengthen capacity-building initiatives, technology transfer and the use of flexibilities under international IP agreements to ensure that systems supported sustainable development. The United Republic of Tanzania had been selected for three key projects: the IP management clinic for SMEs and startups, which had concluded in May 2025; the establishment of the WIPO-ARIPO Eastern Africa IP hub and a WIPO training center, the cooperation agreement on which was due to be signed at the current Assemblies; and a WIPO study on the contribution of copyright-based industries to the economy. Over the previous year, WIPO had assisted the country in its efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, modernize IP administration and promote effective IP use. It continued to improve its IP services and enforcement through legal reforms, capacity-building, awareness-raising campaigns and tougher protection mechanisms.

145. The Delegation of the United States of America said that the work of WIPO should be guided by its mandate to promote the protection of IP worldwide. International filing and registration services administered by WIPO must continue to be improved and streamlined, allowing applicants to pursue cost-efficient and straightforward protection. The PCT System, for instance, could not remain effective if more requirements unrelated to the patentability of inventions were added, such as those on the disclosure of TK and GRs. All registration systems should be solvent and financially self-sufficient. Filers with the PCT and the Madrid System should not be burdened with fees to fund other systems that were neither solvent nor even approaching financial sustainability. IP was key to economic prosperity in all countries; the mandates of WIPO committees must therefore contribute to fostering and promoting IP protection throughout the world. As United States President Trump had stated in his 2025 World IP Day Proclamation, promoting and protecting IP empowered musicians, writers, authors, scientists and inventors to focus on what they did best.

146. The Delegation of Uruguay aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and stated that it was continuing to strengthen its IP system through an institutional and inclusive regulatory approach. It had recently formalized its accession to the PCT and was working closely with WIPO to implement it, thereby facilitating access to international IP protection. Uruguay promoted a comprehensive vision of inclusion, equity and territorial development, particularly with regard to the leading role of women and SMEs in innovation and in the strategic use of IP. IP should foster development, and therefore

Uruguay joined WIPO in promoting outreach and training in order to build a culture of IP across society.

147. The Delegation of Uzbekistan praised WIPO for its growing focus on emerging technologies, including AI, frontier technologies and digital transformation. WIPO had displayed commendable leadership in discussions on how IP and AI intersected, and in its support for innovators and policymakers in navigating such complex domains. There were welcome initiatives to foster innovation-driven entrepreneurship and empower start-ups and SMEs, especially in developing and transition economies, through the strategic use of IP. The Government of Uzbekistan had taken measures to modernize its IP system and create an affordable environment for innovators, entrepreneurs, research institutions and creative industries. Uzbekistan had become a party to the Rome Convention, Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement and the Singapore Treaty, and was preparing to accede to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The recent visit by the Director General to Uzbekistan had reinforced the country's commitment to strengthening its IP system and deepening ties with the international IP community. WIPO development partners and fellow Member States had helped Uzbekistan to build an effective, transparent and innovation-enabling IP infrastructure. WIPO had provided leadership in promoting IP as an engine for inclusive growth, sustainable development and technological advancement. Through collective action, WIPO and its Member States could shape an IP system that responded to the challenges and opportunities of the times.

148. The Delegation of Vanuatu aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and commended WIPO on its efforts to advance its DA. As a SIDS, Vanuatu faced challenges, such as climate change, that were closely connected to the innovation agenda. Assistance from WIPO, particularly on geographical indications and the Lisbon Agreement, had led to legislative reform designed to enhance the country's IP regime. New legislation on geographical indications was being drafted. In June 2025, the Vanuatu Council of Ministers had begun to consider ratification of the Lisbon Agreement, Hague Agreement and Madrid Protocol.

149. The Delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) said that, in the previous year, it had denounced the application of 930 unilateral and coercive measures against the country. That figure now stood at 1,038, revealing the cruelty of those who sought to halt Venezuelan development. However, far from being suppressed, ideas continued to flourish in Venezuela, even in the harshest conditions. Those conditions had strengthened the determination of Venezuelans and the Government. In that context, IP was no longer an isolated technical field but a strategic tool for delivering an economic, social and cultural revival. In 2025, following a national debate, the Government had launched its national plan for 2025-2031, which contained proposals for seven significant transformations. It was in that transformative framework that the national IP strategy, currently being developed, was coming to life. It represented a collective effort that combined the technical methodology of WIPO with the country's creative strength. Public participation in drafting the strategy had been unprecedented, showing peoples' determination to build a profoundly sovereign IP model. Institutional capacity was improving daily, as demonstrated by the fact that the country had improved its performance across all registration indicators in 2024 compared with the previous year. That was a testament to the productive sector's renewed confidence in the IP system. Each indicator represented a project that was providing a livelihood, a place that was lifting itself up or a community that was prospering. Each indicator represented a real person and story that defied the darkness of the blockade. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela embraced the WIPO vision of IP as a tool for promoting inclusion and solidarity, breaking down barriers and fostering human development, innovation and welfare. IP could also support the country's economic recovery. Where there was inventiveness, there was hope for a dignified, just and sovereign future.

150. The Delegation of Viet Nam aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Pakistan and Cambodia on behalf of the APG and AWGIPC. It stated that WIPO was vital to

connecting countries and stakeholders in their efforts to improve systems for protecting, managing, using and marketing IP assets. STI and digital transformation were core enablers of national development. IP provided a strategic foundation for that development and efforts to further integrate into the global digital economy. Viet Nam was working to accelerate the digital transformation of its IP system, develop a dynamic IP marketplace, enhance enforcement capabilities, promote public awareness and build IP capacities.

151. The Delegation of Zambia, aligning itself with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Namibia and Nepal on behalf of the African Group and LDCs Group, said that it welcomed the renewed focus of WIPO on the DA and the proposal to establish the Development Acceleration Fund, the aim of which was to catalyze inclusive innovation across the Global South. Through the FIT/Japan IP Global, Zambia had completed the digitalization of its IP records. WIPO viewed positively a follow-up data capture project, scheduled for later in 2025, to ensure that legacy records were digitalized. Zambia was grateful to have been selected for the WIPO Academy's CDIP project on strengthening IP education in artistic and creative institutions, which aligned with national efforts to equip young creators with IP knowledge and entrepreneurial skills. The inclusion of Zambia in the WIPO project on IP for youth innovation had produced tangible results, including the granting of a dozen patents to participants. Zambia valued its participation in the WIPO-ARIPO IP Club, which fostered awareness of and respect for IP among school students.

152. The Delegation of Zimbabwe welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, which the Government of Zimbabwe had signed. It was also pursuing accession to the Hague Agreement and its Geneva Act as part of its IP reform strategy. Those instruments aligned closely with the country's national development agenda and the Government's commitment to enhancing the IP ecosystem. It had been honored to co-host, with WIPO, the 2025 Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications at Victoria Falls. Support from the FIT/Japan IP Global had enabled the Zimbabwe IP Office to verify trademark records and start the electronic capture of patent records. Those developments were central to the vision of transforming the IP Office into a robust, modern and efficient institution. Equally welcome was the ongoing implementation of the WIPO SMEs mentorship and coaching program, which was empowering entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe to better understand and leverage the IP system. Zimbabwe continued to benefit from WIPO academic programs, especially the Master's Degree in IP program delivered jointly with ARIPO and Africa University, which had produced some of the country's best IP professionals. The Madrid Fellowship program had also contributed significantly to the professional development of IP Office staff. WIPO was to be commended on its unwavering commitment to advancing IP across Africa and around the world.

153. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, exercising its right of reply, said that it categorically rejected attempts to artificially politicize the work of WIPO. Such attempts could only be construed as disrespect, poor faith and indifference to the urgent and relevant agenda of the WIPO Assemblies, and to the Rules of Procedure of the Organization. Furthermore, such statements were based on false accusations that bore no relation to reality. The Delegation would not allow such a distorted picture of the situation in Ukraine. The Russian Federation was acting in full compliance with international law. It continued to fulfil its international obligations and remained a reliable partner. At the same time, it was prepared to use all possible means to defend the interests and rights of its citizens. The insinuations made by the EU and its member States, which were themselves legislating for and implementing discriminatory measures concerning the registration and protection of rights to trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and appellations of origin for goods from Russian applicants and copyright holders, were unacceptable. States openly practicing discrimination on grounds of nationality and language had no moral right to lecture other Member States, and even less a legal basis for doing so. Such measures were inadmissible and unworthy of Member States of WIPO. The Russian Federation again urged all Member States to respect the mandate of WIPO, engage in constructive dialogue and avoid politicizing its work, and

requested that Secretariat and the Chair, who were responsible for ensuring respect for the Rules of Procedure, support the Russian Federation in that matter.

154. The Delegation of Israel, exercising its right of reply, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had long deceived the international community, while advancing its nuclear program and developing ballistic missiles. The use of those missiles against the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, had caused irreparable damage to the entire world. Laboratories, equipment and tissue samples had been destroyed and laboratory animals killed, and unique advances in scientific research had been set back. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran should explain how it would replace the breakthrough climate change and cancer research done in the buildings that had suffered the greatest damage. The Islamic Republic of Iran would have more to offer the world than hatred and destruction, if its culture had not been hijacked by Islamists, destroying all possibility of intellectual and scientific development that would contribute to promoting the peace and health of societies and humanity.

155. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), exercising its right of reply, said that the statement delivered by the Delegation of Israel was baseless, misleading and hypocritical. The unlawful and unprovoked attack by the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran on June 13, 2025, had been, by any measure, an act of aggression, which could in no way be justified under international law. It had had an irreparable and long-term impact, undermining the country's innovation, creativity and IP system. The heinous and reprehensible act of aggression of the Israeli regime constituted a serious violation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and had claimed the lives of leading Iranian scientists, innovators, university professors and other holders and custodians of IP. It stood in clear breach of the WIPO Convention, in particular Article 3. The Islamic Republic of Iran and its people were resolute in defending their homeland. The country remained committed to the fundamental rules and principles of international law; its defensive operations in response to the unlawful use of force by the Israeli regime had been in exercise of its right to self-defense, as enshrined in the Charter of the UN, and in full accordance with the principles of necessity and proportionality in international law. The war of aggression of the Israeli regime undermined the entire fabric of the UN-based international legal order, including the pillars upon which the international IP system had been built: mutual respect among States; sovereign equality; and the promotion of creativity and innovation through peaceful cooperation. It was essential for the world, including UN Member States and mechanisms, to end the impunity of the Israeli regime and to defend the Charter of the UN and international law.

156. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, commended WIPO on its work to make IP more user-friendly and welcomed new activities oriented to the needs of IP users. The EU and its member States favored the prompt conclusion of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. They stood ready to engage constructively in the continued work of the IGC based on its renewed mandate for the 2026/27 biennium, as had been recommended by consensus. They would join efforts to strengthen the Lisbon Agreement and its Geneva Act and create new business opportunities stemming from broader promotion and protection of geographical indications. WIPO, which played an important role in efforts to achieve the SDGs, should further develop its projects and activities on energy and climate transition, especially through WIPO GREEN, and on development through IP, including by empowering women and young people. Ongoing discussions on IP and AI were a high priority. WIPO assistance to Ukraine had proven most valuable. The war by the Russian Federation on Ukraine was driving countries apart rather than bringing them closer together in the collective multilateral efforts promoted by WIPO. The EU and its member States maintained their unwavering support for and solidarity with Ukraine.

157. The Representative of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) said that it was working to develop an ecosystem that was conducive to the protection and enhancement of IP in its member States and aligned with international standards and national development

objectives. The initiatives undertaken by OAPI with the support of partners contributed to financing the enhancement of IP used by SMEs, startups and producers, with the aim of improving value creation for the economic development of OAPI member States.

158. The Representative of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) said that, with WIPO support, ARIPO member States had implemented key initiatives, including an East African regional training session for trainers, one relating to the TISC network, and the Heads of IP Offices Conference for ARIPO Member States. The 2025 Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications, which had been held in Zimbabwe, had provided a platform to advance efforts to leverage geographical indications for sustainable development in Africa. WIPO initiatives, such as IP School Clubs, had helped to nurture a new generation that understood and valued IP. ARIPO welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT.

159. The Representative of the Eurasian Patent Office said that, in the current geopolitical context, it was more important than ever to return to constructive dialogue to create the best possible conditions for inventors and creators around the world. For the first time since 2009, the proposed WIPO program of work and budget contained provisions for a reduction in revenue. Political reasons should not be allowed to make the IP system less attractive and lose the trust of applicants. Artificial barriers, such as discriminatory measures against individual countries, and difficulties paying contributions and upholding rights could be overcome with political will and dialogue. The utmost flexibility must be employed to ensure that applicants from affected territories did not lose their rights. The legitimacy of the actions of patent offices in such situations was dictated by force majeure. All patent offices should work constructively in the context of established international projects. A Eurasian patent accelerator program had been launched, of which all applicants were invited to make full use.

160. The Representative of the League of Arab States (LAS) welcomed efforts by WIPO to transform IP into economic and innovative activity and thereby help to achieve the SDGs and improve the lives of millions of people around the world. Its support for countries of the Arab region, in particular, was greatly valued. Since 2000, LAS and WIPO had continued to work together fruitfully on IP-related matters in the framework of their MoU, which had been updated in 2018, in the interests of the Arab region. Inclusion of Arabic as a working language of the Madrid System and other WIPO-administered treaties would further enable Arab countries to benefit from the global IP system. Work was underway with WIPO to establish an Arab IP electronic registry platform and the project had been presented to the League's Standing Technical Committee on Intellectual Property in May 2025. The Committee had a mandate to coordinate the region's position on developmental aspects of IP in Arab countries. LAS continued to work with the Division for Arab Countries of WIPO on implementing joint activities under their annual plan. In 2025, they included a webinar held in June for court officials on IP enforcement, a briefing session on WIPO projects being carried out in the region and a follow-up meeting on the project to establish a network of TISCs.

161. The Representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said that IPRs, especially patents, were key to innovation and scientific development. STI, as well as capacity-building, financing and technology transfer, were vital to achieving the SDGs and the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. OIC condemned the erasure of the cultural heritage of Palestine by Israel and called on the international community to honor its moral and legal responsibilities to the Palestinian people.

162. The Representative of the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office) said that IP was key to encouraging talented people to innovate and create. The adoption of the Riyadh DLT in Saudi Arabia underscored the importance attached by Gulf Cooperation Council countries to protecting IPRs. The GCC Patent Office was keen to deepen cooperation with a view to stimulating and protecting inventive activity in those countries, and to engage in joint efforts with WIPO and its Member States.

163. The Representative of the South Center (CS) said that, with regard to achieving the SDGs and the Pact for the Future, national policies and an international regime were needed that supported, rather than undermined, development efforts. Governments must preserve balance in IP law, understand its interaction with various policy objectives and interests, and maintain national policy space to implement international IP treaties. The DA should be mainstreamed under an effective coordination mechanism. WIPO should strive for equitable representation of developing country groups, especially in the Coordination Committee and PBC. The proposed program of work and budget for 2026/27 contained clear linkages to the SDGs and the proposal for the Development Acceleration Fund was welcome. Member States were encouraged to ratify the GRATK Treaty and advance text-based negotiations on TK, TCEs and copyright limitations and exceptions for education, libraries and persons with disabilities.

164. The Representative of the Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN) said that CCFN had been established with support from industries and farmers worldwide in response to the European Commission's lack of transparency and respect for IP laws, as demonstrated by its forceful and closed-door negotiations with many WIPO Member States. Such EU actions had benefited a handful of producers, but hurt millions of consumers, thousands of small- and medium-sized farms, and many small-scale manufacturers and exporters, primarily in developing countries. CCFN supported geographical indications and there should be no discussion about whether they could exist alongside common names. Many less developed countries continued to discuss geographical indications at the Assemblies without providing evidence of the potential economic benefits for their own farmers or consumers. Likewise, non-EU countries did not discuss their struggles to register, maintain or enforce geographical indications in the EU. WIPO should express its disapproval of the unfair and aggressive EU campaign to prohibit the use of common names.

165. The Representative of the European Commercial Patent Services Group (PatCom) said that, as an association of commercial patent information providers, it was committed to ensuring the full delivery of primary patent data of the highest quality. Its members provided vital value to such data in order to assist scientists and IP professionals with search, analysis and workflow solutions. PatCom looked forward to bilateral discussions during the Assemblies to optimize its mission.

166. The Representative of the Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights (User Rights Network) said that the Network was composed of more than 100 copyright academics from some 50 countries and chaired by the Program on Information Justice and IP at American University, Washington D.C. The Network wished to ensure that the work of WIPO reflected the need to maintain a balance between the rights of authors and the larger public interest, particularly education, research and access to information, and the norms in agreements and WIPO copyright policy on the integral place in the copyright system of limitations and exceptions for education and research. It commended efforts by the SCCR to move towards a work program to draft international legal instruments on limitations and exceptions. The SCCR report on that topic should specifically reaffirm that work program and the mandate it had received in 2012 in that regard from the WIPO General Assembly. The Network had recently drafted a model instrument on limitations and exceptions based on the processes and guidelines that the General Assembly and SCCR had adopted. It hoped to release the final version shortly. The Network was planning to release studies, videos and reports on copyright limitations and exceptions at [infojustice.org](http://infojustice.org), and it would open the Center on Knowledge Governance at the Geneva Graduate Institute in September 2025. The Center would coordinate efforts to provide training, research and technical assistance to promote public interest in IP policy.

167. The Representative of the Latin American Intellectual Property School (ELAPI) said that increasingly divergent views of IP were emerging. ELAPI drove actions to ensure the continued protection and future enjoyment of human creations. It favored a robust IP system that served sustainable development, creative diversity and the advancement of Latin America. It

endeavored to ensure that younger generations understood how IPRs could improve their lives and had tools to use, respect and promote IPRs. ELAPI stood ready to work with all parties concerned, in particular GRULAC, to further its aims.

168. The Representative of the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIFI) said that it was committed to strengthening the IP system as an engine for economic, social and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Collaboration between the public and private sectors was important for promoting innovation and competitiveness. WIPO and ASIFI studies demonstrated that IP was a strategic pillar of development. However, innovation levels in the region remained low owing to structural gaps that hindered the transformation of knowledge into value. States should strengthen the regulatory frameworks, institutions and public policies that enabled them to harness their creative potential.

169. The Representative of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) said that AIPPI was a politically neutral, non-profit organization representing 9,000 members across some 110 countries. AIPPI valued its long-standing collaboration in shaping a balanced, effective and globally harmonized IP system. The Association reflected the perspectives of businesses of all sizes, innovators and creators. WIPO was central to ensuring that IP frameworks remained inclusive and fit for the future. AIPPI would support WIPO in working to ensure that IP continued to drive economic and cultural development worldwide.

170. The Representative of the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) acknowledged valuable WIPO initiatives focused on youth engagement. The AIJA represented more than 6,000 lawyers in some 100 countries. Its members had diverse practical experience in IP, technology and innovation, and were eager to learn about and contribute to vital WIPO initiatives. The AIJA had incorporated wellness and meditation into AIJA activities to foster a culture of health and well-being among members. WIPO should also consider introducing a brief period of meditation during long sessions of the Assemblies, which would promote well-being in line with SDG 3 and set an example of holistic support for innovation and health.

171. The Representative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) said that its Global IP Commission brought together business executives and experts to shape IP policy and ensure that IP systems were a positive force for society. All Member States had different views on innovation, IP and the intended beneficiaries of advances in the arts and sciences, in line with their own domestic industries, art, culture and innovation infrastructure. As economic success was built on certainty, it was important to ensure that rules remained fair and consistent in order to produce predictable outcomes.

172. The Representative of the International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Incomindios) said that Alaska and Hawaii took issue with the misleading claim by the United States that, in line with Article 73 of the Charter of the UN, it had informed the foreign-occupied countries of Alaska and Hawaii of the territorial application of the Universal Copyright Convention. Moreover, representatives of Alaska and Hawaii should have been included in the United States Delegation to the Assemblies. According to the former Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Alaska and Hawaii were entitled to sit as Observer States. The obligation to give effect to Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the Charter must be included in WIPO standard-setting processes. To do otherwise was a denial of the right to participate of Alaska and Hawaii.

173. The Representative of the International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA) said that healthy competition depended on clear and fair rules, which ensured that, after a defined period of patent protection for innovative drugs, competition could enter the market, expanding access to cost-effective, life-saving treatments. When those conditions were altered or misused through tactics to delay competition, the system would be disrupted, innovation would be slowed and access would be limited, with healthcare systems bearing the burden.

Unfortunately, the alteration of such conditions was increasingly common. Poor patent quality and inappropriate granting procedures were allowing non-innovative patents to grant protection where it was not due. Moreover, certain market participants were abusing their positions of power, creating artificial hurdles that hindered competition, interfered with the appropriate functioning of healthcare systems and, ultimately, impeded patient access to life-saving medicines. There was an urgent need for global collaboration to maintain a balance between innovation and access to medicines. A thriving off-patent sector was not a threat to innovation but rather was essential to its continuation and sustainability.

174. The Representative of the International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council (IIPCC) said that the quantitative data of known IP, such as R&D, brands, software databases and organizational assets, could be used to calculate the value of global corporate intangible assets. Trade secrets, however, could not be easily quantified, even though they were vital to global commerce and their economic value was likely to be considerable. IIPCC had a proprietary solution that enabled trade secrets to be registered without the disclosure of their content. Significant commercial value could be created if the IPRs in trade secrets were quantifiable, transparent and certain. Member States were invited to join IIPCC in exploring how the registration of trade secrets could contribute to national economic development. IIPCC would continue to work with WIPO to strengthen the protection of trade secrets and hoped to collaborate on the development of an efficient, quantifiable and transparent trade secret registration system that contributed to economic well-being.

175. The Representative of MALOCA *Internationale* expressed concern about aspects of processes at WIPO that deviated from principles established during the Doha Round, in particular those regarding transparency and effective participation. That the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consultation had not been fully complied with at the 2024 Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty was extremely troubling. That right was essential to ensuring their genuine participation. Spaces such as the caucus of IPLCs within the IGC were valuable. However, in its current form, the caucus constituted a joint forum of Indigenous Peoples and States, which diluted the voice of the former. Another source of concern were the proposed exceptions and limitations to the treaty on protecting broadcasting organizations currently under discussion, as they would undermine Indigenous Peoples' IPRs. More non-State actors should be involved in monitoring the activities of WIPO GREEN.

176. The Representative of the Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (ORIGIN) welcomed the fact that many delegations had mentioned geographical indications as a strategic priority for inclusive development, thereby confirming the growing global interest in protecting and adding value to cultural heritage. Geographical indications were a tremendous tool for primary producers, who were often penalized in negotiation dynamics with retailers, to obtain fair remuneration for their products. Moreover, because geographical indications could not be delocalized, they helped to maintain jobs in disadvantaged areas and contributed to the preservation of local traditions and cultural identities. The Lisbon System, therefore, had the full backing of the global geographical indications community. The Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement continued to attract new contracting parties. The Act was a modern and flexible international instrument for protecting geographical indications and appellations of origin in foreign jurisdictions, to the benefit of producers and SMEs. Geographical indications were increasingly the target of "cybersquatting", whereby their reputation was exploited for misleading or fraudulent purposes on the Internet. Geographical indications should therefore be included as legitimate rights under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP). ORIGIN was confident that the initial report of the WIPO-ICA UDRP Review Project Team would take that view into account.

177. The Representative of the Third World Network Berhad (TWN) said that manufacturers were increasingly investing in intangible assets, particularly IP. That shift was contributing to a

model of factory-less production, whereby firms that designed and marketed products no longer owned or controlled the production process. Consequently, those investing in intangibles captured most of the value generated from goods and services, primarily through the acquisition and enforcement of IPRs. The trend posed serious challenges for firms in developing countries, locking them into low-value segments of global value chains and deepening inequality by slowing the spread of technology. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Technology and Innovation Report 2025, two countries dominated two-thirds of global frontier technology patents, including Industry 4.0 and climate-friendly innovations. Member States must therefore examine the impact of IP on access to frontier technologies in the manufacturing sector of developing countries. They should also encourage the use of exceptions and limitations as a way of contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

178. The Representative of the All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA) said that ACPAA membership exceeded 28,000 patent attorneys and 4,000 patent agencies. The ACPAA was committed to building a collaborative platform and sharing information on cutting-edge international developments. It aimed to promote growth in the patent agency profession and provide high-quality services, such as professional training and academic exchanges. By encouraging active participation in global IP cooperation, the ACPAA empowered its members to better serve innovation communities worldwide and leveraged the strength of China to develop IP globally. China had become one of the top users of the Madrid and Hague systems. WIPO should further optimize global IP systems and include Chinese as a working language in the Madrid and Hague systems. Doing so would boost both and improve brand protection and design innovation worldwide.

179. The Representative of the American Arab Intellectual Property Association (AAIPA) said that the Association valued the focus on education, the rights of persons with disabilities, the empowerment of vulnerable groups, and scientific research. In all those areas, IP needed to be mobilized as an enabler, thereby helping to protect rights, stimulate innovation and ensure fair access to knowledge. The Association had launched a pioneering educational book on IP for children and launched IP-related training programs for children between the ages of 8 and 16. It urged WIPO and its Member States to work with it to foster among the coming generations an awareness of their rights and creative abilities, a belief in their own ideas and confidence that those ideas were protected by the law.

180. The Representative of the Bahrain Intellectual Property Society (BIPS) said that the Society endeavored to promote a culture of IP through high-quality initiatives, partnerships with official and private institutions and training programs provided in conjunction with the Royal Academy of Police. It also offered free consultations for individuals. BIPS and EIPA were organizing the second edition of the GCC Conference, to be held in October 2025, and had agreed to hold the event annually for the following four years. BIPS was also preparing for the fourth Arab Conference on IP in September 2025, which was being organized by the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) of LAS.

181. The Representative of the Brand Owners' Protection Group (Gulf BPG) said that 6,000 government and law enforcement agencies had attended some 230 training sessions and workshops on IPRs held by the Group in GCC countries and around the Middle East over the previous four years. Conferences and events that it had run included an IP lab and an IP marathon. Its awareness-raising campaigns had included a moot court for schools. Strategic initiatives conducted with the United Arab Emirates Ministry of the Economy had included one for the IP Office on incorporating AI techniques into its day-to-day operations, another for startups and SMEs on protecting IPRs, and national awareness-raising campaigns. In Saudi Arabia, SAIP had made a quantum leap in partnering with the private sector as a consultant on IP systems development, standardization of procedures and awareness-raising.

182. The Representative of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) said that, in October 2024, CCPIT and AIPPI had jointly hosted the 2024 AIPPI World Congress. The following month, CCPIT had held the second edition of the China International Supply Chain Expo. The third edition was scheduled for later in 2025. As a representative of the business community in China, CCPIT supported multilingualism and called for swifter inclusion of Chinese and other languages as official working languages in the Madrid and Hague systems.

183. The Representative of the Egyptian Council for Innovation, Creativity and Intellectual Property Protection (ECCIPP) said that the Council focused on efforts to raise awareness of and promote a culture of IP in Egypt through a training session under the umbrella title of “Use Your Ideas and Protect Your Creations”. The Council had joined the Egyptian State Information Service and Cairo Library to mark World IP Day in 2025 with a seminar entitled “Music: Language of the Spirit”. It had taken part in an LAS conference and the opening of an international convention for fine arts creators, and selected 100 Arab personalities whom it deemed to have been the most influential in 2024. The Council had a trademark certificate and worked closely with EIPA and BIPS.

184. The Representative of the Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA) said that it set great store by its work with the WIPO Academy on various programs, including a train-the-trainer program designed to enable a pool of specialists to raise IP awareness, and another for law enforcement officers on combating IP infringements at the international level, and nurturing a culture of IP. EIPA and BIPS were organizing the second edition of the GCC Conference, to be held in October 2025. The Association was also organizing the fourth Arab Conference on IP in September 2025 in conjunction with ARADO at the University of Sharjah. It had organized an international conference with INTERPOL in 2024.

185. The Representative of the Emirates Reprographic Rights Management Association (ERRA) said that cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and WIPO had been key to developing the country’s copyright law and regulatory framework, and making it a global reference for the protection of copyright and fostering creativity. Protecting the rights of creators and ensuring that their works reached their audience without infringement was a moral imperative. The partnership with WIPO was key to efforts to achieve a more just and sustainable creative environment. The creative economy was a vital driver of cultural and economic growth that would shape a future rich in innovation.

186. The Representative of the Emirates Science Club said that it was determined to contribute to IP awareness in the United Arab Emirates. The Club took an active part in national dialogues organized by the Ministry of the Economy and periodically held workshops on patents and IP. In 2024, the Club had identified patents as its main strategic goal, resulting in the registration of 18 IP assets.

187. The Representative of the German Association for Intellectual Property Law (GRUR) said that GRUR was a non-political, not-for-profit association that worked for the academic advancement and development of IP worldwide. It assisted legislative bodies and authorities responsible for issues relating to IP law, submitted contributions to WIPO on IP-related matters, participated in the work of the various bodies of WIPO and its diplomatic conferences, and published four leading German IP law journals, one of which was exclusively dedicated to questions of international and transnational IP law. With around 5,000 members from 60 countries, GRUR was not just a German thinktank, but rather involved a wide range of IP professionals from all over the world: lawyers, patent attorneys, judges, academics, and representatives of public authorities and international organizations. GRUR was dedicated to protecting IP at the national, regional and international levels and was a strong supporter of the work of WIPO.

188. The Representative of the Health and Environment Program (HEP) welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty and urged WIPO to thwart attempts to water it down or prevent its implementation.

189. The Representative of the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ), noting that no UN Member States were on target to achieve all the SDGs by 2030, commended WIPO on its efforts in that regard. WIPO Member States should resist pushback against the SDGs, renew their commitment to the DA and explore ways of mainstreaming CDIP initiatives into the work of other WIPO committees. Greater transparency and accountability were needed in work on the SDGs under the DA, along with more impact-driven reporting. Member States must accelerate action under the WIPO IP and Gender Action Plan and implement national strategies to investigate structural barriers and embedded intersectional gender biases in national IP systems. Such work could also be mainstreamed into the work of other WIPO committees. WIPO should work more closely with the UN Commission on the Status of Women on all matters regarding women and IP. As yet, no UN Member States were on track to reach gender equality by 2030. IP laws must form part of the solution to that global challenge. Intersectional feminist design should be incorporated into data collection projects. Focusing on gender alone, however, would not dismantle patriarchal systems of ownership, governance and power. WIPO data collection projects should include non-registrable IPRs and gender-diverse inventors and authors, including transgender and non-binary people.

190. The Representative of the Intellectual Property Protection Association (IPPA), a non-profit organization based in Saudi Arabia, welcomed the adoption of the Riyadh DLT, which was a major step in supporting craftspeople. The Association provided a range of IP advisory services, training programs and workshops, as well as social investment programs, for talented young people and creators, the self-employed, artisans, institutions and small and micro-enterprises with a view to instilling in society a culture of IP protection. As part of the 2025 Year of Handicrafts in Saudi Arabia, the Association was conducting an IP awareness-raising and training project for craftspeople. It had also lobbied for support for the non-profit sector and for the development of sustainability and social investment programs for craftspeople. The Association had helped to set up an advisory council for IP associations in GCC States to conduct advisory and legislative activities and build awareness of such challenges as infringements of platforms, piracy and AI. Its aim was to be a strategic partner as the country strove to build a knowledge economy and to nurture awareness of the value of intangible assets, by fostering cooperation between different sectors, harnessing resources to enhance the flow of investments, and unleashing young creative talent in line with the Saudi Vision 2030 program. In 2025, the Association had marked World IP Day with a music program. It also ran a national volunteering platform and looked forward to working more closely with WIPO to exchange experiences and best international practices in relation to IP.

191. The Representative of the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) said that JIPA was honored to be co-hosting an industry roundtable on intangible investment with WIPO. As the flow of goods and services became increasingly complex, robust frameworks and cooperation were crucial to safeguarding trusted products and markets. WIPO support and global collaboration platforms provided an essential foundation in that context and JIPA would continue to work with WIPO to promote inclusive growth through IP.

192. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) said that, although the GRATK Treaty and Riyadh DLT had been concluded, countries were divided in other areas or did not wish to enter into binding agreements in a context of rapidly changing technologies and business models. As WIPO had previously published model laws on different IPRs, the Secretariat should provide a document on the history of its development of model laws and their impact.

193. The Secretariat, speaking on behalf of the Director General, thanked the delegations and observers for their rich feedback, which gave the Secretariat clear guidance on how to proceed with its work.

[End of Annex and document]