

# WIPO



WO/CC/58/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: June 20, 2008

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

E

## WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE

### Fifty-Eighth (20<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session Geneva, May 13, 2008

#### REPORT

*adopted by the Coordination Committee*

1. The meeting was opened and presided over by the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Ms. Hilde Skorpen (Norway).
2. The following Member States of the Coordination Committee were represented at the meeting:

Afghanistan (*ad hoc*), Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia (*ad hoc*), Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia (83).

3. The following States were represented in an observer capacity:

Albania, Andorra, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Estonia, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Zimbabwe (35).

4. The list of participants appears in the Annex to the present report.

5. The Chair made the following statement:

“Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
I now call this meeting to order and pronounce this 58th Session of the WIPO  
Coordination Committee as opened.

“It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this very important meeting and first of all I would like to thank you all for having elected me Chair of the Coordination Committee and to assure you that I will do my utmost to be worthy of the trust you have bestowed upon me. I count on your cooperation so that we may carry out the task in coordination with the general principles laid out in the Rules of Procedure for nominating the Director General of WIPO as contained in document WO/CC/58/INF/1 Corr. Let me just take a moment to reiterate these principles:

“The election of a candidate for Director General shall be guided by the respect for the dignity of the candidate as well as the country nominating them and transparency of the nomination process.

“The nomination of the candidate for Director General should if possible be made by consensus. This will facilitate the appointment of the Director General by the General Assembly, however it is recognized that voting will probably be a necessary means of building consensus for the nomination of a candidate.

“Efforts to nominate a candidate via consultations leading to consensus are welcome at any stage of the selection process but such efforts should not unduly delay the decision making process.

“I count on your cooperation in ensuring that these principles, respect and dignity of the candidates and country, transparency, consultations to achieve a consensus will guide the work throughout the session.

“Before we move to adopt the Agenda there are a few administrative issues I would like to mention. The first concerns the proposed schedule for the meeting. Some delegations have raised concern that we have planned the possibility of staying until midnight on Wednesday. I want to assure you that it is not my intention to keep anyone longer than necessary to conduct a sound process. This is contingency planning that we only consider prudent in light of the large number of candidates, the request from Member States for a slower elimination process than initially envisioned and the relatively long time it takes to conduct each round of voting and the wish of the Member States that consultations should be at the heart of the process.

“I can only appeal to all delegates to contribute to this smooth process but we should also keep in mind that candidates have put a great deal of energy and effort into their candidature and out of respect for the candidates we should not rush the process unduly either.”

6. The Delegation of Algeria expressed concern about the timing of the meeting and suggested gaining time by starting at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. the next day, but not to continue beyond 6 p.m. The African Group would not support a night session.
7. The Chair announced that the issue would be reviewed at the end of the day's sessions to look into the timing of the meeting.
8. The Legal Counsel updated the meeting on accreditation, rooms for consultation and internet access.

### Agenda

9. The Coordination Committee adopted its agenda as proposed in document WO/CC/58/1.

### Nomination process

10. The Chair introduced document WO/CC/58/3 (“Nomination Process”) and reminded delegates that the document was established in close consultation with all members and observers and Group Coordinators. In reference to the said document, the Committee was asked to approve the following:

- (i) paragraph 6 - to extend the meeting to a third day if necessary.
- (ii) paragraph 8 - rounds of voting and the number of candidates to be eliminated at each round of voting.
- (iii) paragraphs 9 and 10 - containing information related to tied candidates.
- (iv) paragraph 12 - pertaining to the issue of recount in reference to the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees.
- (v) paragraph 14 - stating that the Secretariat prepares ballot papers before each round of voting with the name and country of the candidates who will participate in that round of voting.

*11. The Coordination Committee approved the proposals appearing in paragraphs 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 of document WO/CC/58/3 and took note of the other information contained in document WO/CC/58/3.*

Nomination to the Post of Director General

12. The Delegation of Italy wished to express, before the process of nomination for the post of Director General began, that it had instruction to make a declaration to the Committee concerning the candidate of Italy. On Friday of the previous week Italy withdrew the candidature of Professor Mauro Masi as he had been appointed Secretary General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in the newly elected Government of Prime Minister Berlusconi. Italy wished good luck to the remaining 14 candidates and expressed the wish that the elected candidate would be able to get the largest consensus possible.

13. In response, the Chair wished Mr. Masi luck in his new life and drew the attention of delegates to document WO/CC/58/2 (“Nominations Received for the Post of Director General of WIPO”), in which were set out the nominations of the following 15 persons which had been received by the Chair by the deadline of February 13, 2008:

Ms. Alicja Adamczak (Poland)  
Mr. Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh)  
Mr. Jorge Amigo Castañeda (Mexico)  
Mr. Djorgji Filipov (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)  
Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil)  
Mr. Francis Gurry (Australia)  
Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan)  
Mr. Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines)  
Mr. Mauro Masi (Italy)  
Mr. James Otieno Odek (Kenya)  
Mr. Philippe Petit (France)  
Mr. Bojan Pretnar (Slovenia)  
Mr. Boris P. Simonov (Russian Federation)  
Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan)  
Mr. José Delmer Urbizo (Honduras)

14. The Chair reminded the delegates that the list now excluded Mr. Mauro Masi. She briefly summed up the rules of procedure (reproduced in their entirety in document WO/CC/58/INF/1 Corr. dated March 31, 2008), applicable provisions of the WIPO Convention, and the procedures on nomination that were adopted by the General Assembly at its extraordinary session in September 1998 (contained in documents WO/GA/23/6 paragraph 5 and WO/GA/23/7 paragraph 22).

15. In addition to document WO/CC/58/3 which had just been approved, the Chair drew the attention of delegates to Rule 28 of the General Rules of Procedure – Voting by secret ballot – and to the Annex – Rules of voting by secret ballot.

16. The Chair began the process of appointment of tellers to serve for the Straw Poll and each round of Formal Voting. Each Group had provided the name of a country that had volunteered to be a teller. Two tellers were drawn at random from the list of countries provided, and the following were chosen:

- the Republic of El Salvador; and
- Canada.

17. The Delegation of South Africa recalled that the Chair, according to the letter sent out to Member States, would appoint two substitute (third and fourth) tellers in case of absence of one or both of the tellers.

18. The following two substitute tellers (in case of absence of one or both of the tellers) were then chosen:

- the Arab Republic of Egypt; and
- the Kyrgyz Republic.

19. The Chair announced the commencement of the Straw Poll for the purpose of ascertaining the relative strength of the support for each of the 14 candidates. The Straw Poll was intended to facilitate consultations and to help arrive at a consensus candidate. The Chair then recapitulated the procedures for the Straw Poll.

20. Ballot papers with envelopes were provided with the names of the candidates, listed in alphabetical order, and their respective countries. The members of the Committee were instructed to mark their first and second choice with the numbers 1 and 2 in accordance with the procedures established in 1998. The Chair reminded the delegations that no other information should be added on the ballot paper, as this would invalidate the vote.

21. The Chair appealed to the delegations not to seal the envelopes, to facilitate their opening and the counting of the votes, and reminded the delegates that should they make a mistake in filling up the ballot papers, they may ask for another ballot paper for as long as the voting was not yet closed. The rules for invalid ballot papers were then read. The Chair drew at random the name of the country which would cast its ballot first. The country was the United Mexican States, after which the other countries were called alphabetically to deliver the ballot to one of the tellers, who then placed the ballot into the ballot box.

22. During the counting of ballots, four ballots were determined by the tellers, and confirmed by the Legal Counsel and the Chair, to be invalid. The Chair invited the delegations to inspect the invalid ballots afterwards, should they wish to do so. The Chair declared the results of the Straw Poll, in descending order of the votes for first choice that were received by each candidate.

23. The Delegation of Cuba raised a point of order to know exactly why the votes were declared invalid in certain cases.

24. In response to the Delegation's query, the Chair explained that they were invalid because the votes on the ballot papers had ticks next to the names, without indicating the first and second choice.

25. At the end of the Straw Poll, the Chair thanked all the delegations for their cooperation and adjourned the meeting until noon, in order to allow delegations time for consultations.

26. At 12 p.m., the Chair declared the resumption of the meeting and asked if there were any delegations with any announcement on behalf of candidates. Noting that there were none, the Chair announced the commencement of the first formal voting. Ballot papers with the names of the 14 candidates, in alphabetical order (together with their respective countries), were distributed to the delegations. The Chair recalled that there should only be one choice which the delegations should indicate with a tick or a cross in the box alongside their preferred candidate's name.

27. The Delegation of Algeria asked whether it was possible for the substitute tellers to also be present on the podium to observe the counting. The Chair agreed and invited the substitute tellers.

28. The Delegation of the United States of America requested clarification as to what constituted a tick, to which the Chair responded by explaining that the tick could either be a cross or a check mark in the box and showed an illustrative cross and check marks to the delegations.

29. The Delegation of Brazil asked the Chair to reiterate how to mark the ballot papers, as members of the Coordination Committee were returning to the room.

30. The Delegation of the Russian Federation pointed out that the name of the Russian candidate was misspelled on the ballot paper as “Siminov” instead of “Simonov”. The Delegation asked whether the misspelling would invalidate the vote and requested that a correction be made for the next round of voting. The Chair replied that the error in spelling would not invalidate the ballot paper, and instructed the Secretariat to make the necessary correction for the subsequent rounds of voting.

31. The Chair declared the first formal voting opened and repeated the rules for invalidity of ballot papers. The Chair picked at random the country which would cast its ballot first; this was Japan. The other delegations were then called to cast their ballots in alphabetical order. After the Chair had announced that the voting was closed, the ballot papers were counted by the tellers, after which the Chair announced the results of the first formal round of voting, in descending order, of the number of votes received by each candidate.

32. In accordance with the established procedure, the Chair announced that participation in additional votes would be restricted to the following 12 candidates:

Ms. Alicja Adamczak (Poland)  
Mr. Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh)  
Mr. Jorge Amigo Castañeda (Mexico)  
Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil)  
Mr. Francis Gurry (Australia)  
Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan)  
Mr. Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines)  
Mr. James Otieno Odek (Kenya)  
Mr. Philippe Petit (France)  
Mr. Boris P. Simonov (Russian Federation)  
Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan)  
Mr. José Delmer Urbizo (Honduras)

33. The meeting was adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

34. On resumption of the meeting at 2.30 p.m., the Delegation of Bangladesh thanked all the countries that had supported their candidate in the Straw Poll and the first formal round of voting, as well as those who had advised to stay in the race and those who had expressed their encouragement. However, Bangladesh at this stage of the leadership contest had decided to sit aside and make room for others. The Delegation took the opportunity to reiterate Bangladesh’s commitment to an effective and credible WIPO, and looked forward to working with the new Director General of the Organization.

35. The second formal vote was then conducted. Ballot papers were distributed containing the names, in alphabetical order, of the 11 remaining candidates participating in the second formal vote and their respective countries. The Chair reminded the delegations about the rules for invalid votes.

36. The Chair randomly selected the country which would cast its ballot first; this was the Republic of India. The other delegations were then called in alphabetical order. The Chair declared the voting closed and the tellers counted the ballot papers, after which the Chair announced the results of the second formal voting, in the order of the descending number of votes received by each candidate.

37. In light of the results, the Chair announced that participation in additional votes would be restricted to the following 10 candidates:

Ms. Alicja Adamczak (Poland)  
Mr. Jorge Amigo Castañeda (Mexico)  
Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil)  
Mr. Francis Gurry (Australia)  
Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan)  
Mr. Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines)  
Mr. Philippe Petit (France)  
Mr. Boris P. Simonov (Russian Federation)  
Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan)  
Mr. José Delmer Urbizo (Honduras)

38. The Chair requested a consultation with the delegations of the three countries that had received the same number of votes to tie for the second lowest number of votes and the meeting was adjourned until 4 p.m.

39. When the session resumed, the Delegation of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), announced the withdrawal of the candidacies of Ambassador Delmer Urbizo of Honduras and Mr. Jorge Amigo Castañeda of Mexico. Both had requested that the Delegation of Chile announce their withdrawal in favor of the union formed by GRULAC to support the now single candidate from the region, Mr. Graça Aranha.

40. The Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the Asian Group, announced the withdrawal of the candidate from the Philippines, Mr. Enrique Manalo.

41. The Delegation of Japan stated that it had made an agonizing decision, with a view to facilitating consensus building, to have its candidate withdraw from the election process, and expressed its gratitude to the delegations which had given great support to Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi, the candidate of Japan.

42. The Delegation of France announced the withdrawal of the candidate Mr. Philippe Petit and thanked the countries that had supported him. It wished good luck to the candidates remaining in the race.

43. The Chair thanked all those delegations for facilitating the voting process. In light of the statements from the Delegation of Singapore on behalf of the Philippines and the Delegation of Chile on behalf of Honduras and Mexico, the Chair invited the delegations of

the countries of the candidates to confirm the withdrawals of their country's candidates, as announced by the Group Coordinators.

44. The Delegation of the Philippines confirmed the withdrawal made and thanked all for the support and encouragement received.

45. The Delegation of Honduras confirmed what had been stated by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC, to the effect that the candidate from Honduras was now out of the race. It thanked all the delegations that had supported him.

46. The Delegation of Poland thanked all the delegations that had voted for their candidate, Mrs. Alicja Adamczak, and stated that to facilitate the nomination process, Poland was withdrawing its candidate.

47. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that in a spirit of cooperation and taking into account the very friendly atmosphere amongst colleagues, they also wanted to simplify the situation and join all those candidates who had agreed to withdraw their candidacy. On behalf of the Russian Delegation and Mr. Boris Simonov, it expressed thanks to all those who had wholeheartedly extended their support to them and assured Committee members that the Russian Federation would continue to work in the interest of WIPO.

48. The Delegation of Egypt commended the high level of responsibility on the part of the various candidates who had all displayed a great deal of competence and had distinguished themselves as very viable candidates for such an important position. In view of the situation that was dramatically different from the one before the adjournment, it recommended a 15 minute suspension to give the Groups once again an opportunity to consult on what had become a totally different situation.

49. The Delegation of Argentina emphasized the fact that circumstances had helped to avoid a process that appeared to be quite long and cumbersome, and had reached an almost final stage. It requested the adjournment of the session until the following day in order to finalize the process.

50. The Delegation of the United States of America also requested a break to allow for consultations.

51. The Delegation of Algeria suggested that time be given for consultations, and to resume the meeting in the evening.

52. The Delegation of Jordan suggested that the session resume at 5 p.m. to see what comes after consultations are done and then decide whether to continue with the further rounds of voting or adjourn the session and resume the following morning, a suggestion with which the Chair agreed.

53. The Chair adjourned the meeting until 5 p.m. to allow for consultations.

54. When the session resumed at 5.00 p.m., the Delegation of Mexico confirmed the information communicated by the Delegation of Chile, on behalf of GRULAC, to the effect that the candidate from Mexico was withdrawing. It thanked the delegations that had supported Mr. Jorge Amigo and confirmed the support of the Latin American Group for the candidacy of Mr. José Graça Aranha of Brazil.



55. The Chair thanked the Delegation of Mexico for facilitating the voting process.
56. The Delegation of Algeria, in the name of the African Group, said that the Group wished to resume the last two rounds of the voting process.
57. The Delegation of Australia agreed with the suggestion by the Delegation of Algeria, on the understanding that there would be the usual round of consultations after the penultimate vote.
58. The Delegation of Singapore expressed the wish of the Asian Group that the voting resume the next day, rather than immediately.
59. The Delegation of the United States of America stated that the preference of Group B was to continue with the voting and in accordance with the schedule that was set in advance.
60. The Delegation of Romania also expressed the wish of the Group of Central European and Baltic States to continue with the voting and possibly finish the whole process by the evening.
61. The Chair, after informal consultations with the delegations of Australia, Brazil and Pakistan, confirmed that all countries with candidates wished to continue with the voting process. She recalled that this preference had also been expressed by a majority of the Group Coordinators.
62. The Coordination Committee was thus invited to begin with the third round of formal voting.
63. At around 5 p.m., ballot papers were distributed with the names of the three remaining candidates and their respective countries, Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil), Mr. Francis Gurry (Australia) and Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan), in alphabetical order..
64. The Chair declared the voting open and reminded delegations to indicate their choice with a cross or a tick, and that no other information should be added on the ballot paper otherwise it would be declared invalid. The Chair read out again the rules on invalid votes.
65. The Chair randomly selected the country which would cast its vote first, which was the Argentine Republic, and then the Secretariat called out the names of the other delegations in alphabetical order. When all delegations had cast their ballots and the tellers had counted the ballot papers, the Chair announced the results, in the order of the descending number of votes received by each candidate.
66. The Chair declared that in accordance with the rules, participation in the next and final round of voting would be conducted between two candidates, Mr. José Graça Aranha and Mr. Francis Gurry.
67. The Delegation of Algeria wished to move on immediately to the final round of voting.
68. The Delegation of Chile requested a 15-minute break in order to allow for consultations.
69. Entering into the final round of voting, the Chair reiterated the principles for the selection of the Director General, that it should be guided by respect for the dignity of the candidates and the countries nominating them and the transparency of the nomination process.

The Chair reminded the delegations that it was important that the nomination of a candidate for Director General should, if possible, be made by consensus since this would facilitate the appointment of the Director General by the General Assembly. However, it was recognized that voting would probably be necessary to build consensus for the nomination of the candidate. She said that efforts to nominate the candidate via consultations leading to consensus were welcome at any stage of the selection process and that such efforts should not unduly delay the decision making process.

70. Ballot papers were provided with the names of the two final candidates, in alphabetical order, and their respective countries. The Chair declared the voting open and reminded the delegations to mark their candidate of choice with a cross or a tick. She then read out again the rules on invalid votes.

71. The Chair randomly selected the name of the country which would cast its ballot first, which was the Republic of Benin. The other delegations were then called, in alphabetical order, to cast their votes. Thereafter, the Chair declared the voting closed. The tellers counted and confirmed the number of ballot papers, and the results of the final round of voting were declared by the Chair as follows:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of Member States entitled to Vote: | 83 |
| Number of Member States absent:           | 0  |
| Number of votes recorded:                 | 83 |
| Number of abstentions:                    | 0  |
| Number of invalid votes:                  | 0  |
| Number obtained by each candidate:        |    |
| Mr. Francis Gurry                         | 42 |
| Mr. José Graça Aranha                     | 41 |

72. The Delegation of Chile proposed that, in accordance with the procedures for the meeting noted in document WO/CC/INF/1. Corr., and in particular paragraph 2(I)(2) of that document, instead of the detailed result of the final vote being included in the records of the meeting, the nomination of the candidate from Australia could appear as a nomination by consensus.

73. The Delegation of Honduras was in favor of including the vote in the records, in order to show what had happened at WIPO, i.e. that everything remained the same: a candidate from Group B had won, which meant that the same team would continue to be in power. In such circumstances, it was not possible to speak of transparency. The Delegation confirmed that it accepted the vote as it stood, but the votes cast should be placed on record, as they were worthy votes for the losing candidate, Mr. Graça Aranha of Brazil. The Delegation urged that on this occasion alone the world should not be divided between North and South, something which was disastrous for the peaceful and harmonious co-existence of the planet on which we must all live together.

74. The Delegation of Algeria raised a point of order and asked the Legal Counsel concerning the practice on this matter.

75. The Legal Counsel confirmed that the most recent precedent was in 1997 when the current Director General was elected. The report of that election indicates that the various rounds of voting did not show the specific results, in respect of the number of votes that went

to each candidate, except for the final round of voting where the specific number of votes received by the two final candidates appeared in the report. So it would be the intention of the Secretariat, unless the Member States objected, to follow the same practice.

76. The Delegation of Algeria stated that his understanding of the rules of procedure was that since it is the General Assembly which appoints, the issue of consensus could be discussed or brought up at that point, and not in the Coordination Committee.

77. The Chair thanked all the delegations for their statements and views on the matter and stated that if there were no more delegations that wanted to take the floor, she wished to take the opportunity to say a few closing words.

78. The Chair of the Coordination Committee proceeded to make the following statement:

“Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“The Coordination Committee has fulfilled its mandate and nominated a candidate for appointment to the post of Director General of WIPO. I congratulate Mr. Francis Gurry on his nomination.

“I would also like to congratulate the other candidates - all of whom are considered highly worthy of this challenging position. Their curricula vitae speak volumes of their accomplishments, and we have all had the opportunity to witness their personal engagement, enthusiasm, dedication and not least, in-depth knowledge of WIPO-business, and what intellectual property means to developing countries.

“I would like to thank all the candidates for the way they have contributed to ensuring the smooth running of this meeting, and I am sure we will have the pleasure of following all of them further in their careers.

“I want to thank the Group Coordinators and the Vice Chairs, for their constructive input into this process, and for their support and kindness towards me personally since we first started consultations on this process several months back.

“Likewise, I want to thank all the representatives of countries with candidates for their assistance and positive attitude towards all steps in this process.

“Similarly, I would like to thank all those representatives of delegations who have attended consultations for all Member States and observers, and for their very helpful views and suggestions to ensure a fair and smooth process.

“I want to thank the President of the General Assembly, Dr. Martin Uhomoibhi, and members of his Delegation, for providing the kind of inspiration and spirit needed to ensure that this nomination process has indeed been based on the general principles set out to guide this process - not least the respect and dignity of candidates and nominating country and transparency, but also consultations with the aim to achieve consensus. On the last point - I am confident the process to ensure the final appointment of the nominated candidate could not be in better hands.

“I want to thank the Director General himself, for the support and assistance offered throughout this process. And I thank the Legal Counsel and his staff, for having advised and facilitated every step along the way. I want to thank the administrative and

technical staff for their efforts, and I thank the interpreters for a fantastic job during this and all the informal meetings we have had.

“And finally, I want to thank my colleague in the Norwegian mission, Gry Waage, for keeping a keen eye on the details and the finer points throughout this process.

“It has indeed been a great honor and pleasure to Chair this meeting.”

79. The Director General nominee, Mr. Francis Gurry, made the following statement:

“Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“This is one speech that I was too superstitious to prepare and so I ask you to forgive me for speaking off the cuff. First of all, Madam Chair, let me turn to you to thank you for all of your work. I think that you had a difficult task set for you. There were 15 candidates that presented their candidacy and that I think was an indication of the diversity of interests in the membership. The fact that you were able to steer this process to a conclusion, and to do so within one day of the allotted potential three days, is testimony to your very great skill and diplomacy and I thank you for having guided us to this result.

“Let me, if I may, turn now to the Delegation of Australia and the Government of Australia. I would like to express my profound thanks to the Government of Australia for having presented my candidacy. In particular, let me thank Ambassador Caroline Millar, the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in Geneva, and Ambassador Bruce Gosper, Australian Ambassador to the World Trade Organization. Intellectual property is now so extensive that we need two ambassadors in Australia to take care of the matter. I am very grateful for the immense amount of work and for the support that both Ambassador Millar and Ambassador Gosper have given, together with their respective teams. I will not name each of the members of the teams individually, but I am very, very grateful for the support that they have given me.

“If I may turn now to the membership as a whole, it was an extremely close contest. I do not want to go through too many similar experiences in my life. But what I would like to assure the whole membership is that, as of the conclusion of this election, my mind will be directed to all of the members of WIPO and I am very much aware of the diversity of interests that exists in the Organization.

“Innovation and creativity are fundamental to human society. It is very difficult to imagine a human society without innovation or creativity and history tells us as much. However, the space occupied by innovation and creativity is expanding constantly as a result of the increasingly technological basis of our society and as a result of global communications, which have made entertainment and culture no longer local, but global matters. There are many challenges that this enlarged space sets for this Organization. It is interesting times for intellectual property. I look forward to working with the whole of the membership so that the Organization may be able to meet these challenges for intellectual property in the future.

“I would like to pay tribute to the runner up, my good colleague, Mr. Jose Graça Aranha. It was an extremely close competition, but there always has to be a winner. I pay tribute, first of all, to the campaign that Jose Graça Aranha and the Government of

Brazil have conducted over the past few months and, in addition, to his professionalism. I look forward very much to working with him in the future.

“Equally, I would like to extend a tribute to all of the other candidates. A very interesting feature of this campaign has been the commonality of interest that was expressed by all the candidates. Indeed at various points, some of the Member States remarked that the candidates were saying the same thing. I take that as a positive sign, one which indicates that amongst the membership there is a very great commonality of interest, on the basis of which we can move ahead. I would make a particular point of stressing that I believe that there is a partnership that is fundamental to this Organization. We are, on the one hand, a service provider to the global economy and it is in the interests of the whole Organization that our services in this area be state-of-the-art, so as to encourage a growing base of users. On the other hand, we cannot pretend to be a multilateral agency without being a development agency. We have a consensus in the membership for a development agenda and I believe that it is an extremely important thing for the future of this Organization that the development agenda of WIPO be robust and effective and deliver increasingly effective capacity-building services.

“I should like to also thank the Legal Counsel. I know that he has been under a lot of strain throughout this process and I think that Edward Kwakwa has done a splendid job in acting as Legal Counsel throughout this election.

“I am sure that I have forgotten to thank some people in this process, from whom I ask forgiveness. Finally, let me thank you all. I am grateful for your support and I very much look forward to working with you all in the future.

“Thank you.”

80. The Chair thanked the Director General nominee and called on the Legal Counsel to make an announcement.

81. The Legal Counsel announced the reception offered by the Director General, which now happened to coincide with the nomination of Mr. Francis Gurry for appointment to the post of Director General, and which would be outside the room immediately following the closure of the meeting. Secondly, the Legal Counsel announced that the report would be sent out with a delay of two or three weeks to all Member States who might wish to make corrections or additions, after which the report would be deemed adopted by the specified date.

*82. The Coordination Committee nominated Mr. Francis Gurry as the candidate for appointment to the post of Director General of WIPO.*

*83. This report was adopted by the Coordination Committee on June 20, 2008.*

[Annex follows]