



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Ambassador Farukh Amil, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, at the 58th Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies, Geneva September 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of GA. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by Asia-Pacific Group. We assure you of our full support and cooperation.

We acknowledge the work of Director General Mr. Francis Gurry and his team and Secretariat for excellent arrangements in organizing the General Assemblies this year and for their professional stewardship of WIPO. We hope that our collective work during this year's GA would help us achieve the consensual outcomes with cooperation. We welcome the positive financial and substantive work of the Organization in the Biennium 2016/17.

Mr. Chairman,

IP has an important role in fostering knowledge-based economies and promoting culture of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. We appreciate the WIPO is moving forward at rapid pace by embracing technological breakthroughs to strengthen its work but the knowledge gap due to asymmetrical growth of technology needs to be bridged between developing and developed countries. The fabric of capacity building should be woven with broad ranging threads comprising technology transfer, education system and business sophistication methods.

The vitality of any multilateral organization hinges on balanced geographical representation of all regions in its work. We therefore urge that all regions should be equally represented in WIPO committees. We hope to have solution oriented approach on the draft proposals on expansions of the Composition of Coordination Committee (COCO) and Program and Budget Committee (PBC) during the GA.

Balanced evolution of the international Normative Framework for IP is crucial for inclusive and equitable benefits of IP for all Member States. It includes issues that matter most for the entire WIPO membership. We appreciate the recent progress

made at WIPO Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklores that produced a set of recommendations to work towards an agreement on an “international instrument(s) to ensure the balanced and effective protection of Genetic Resources (GR), Traditional Knowledge (TK), and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs).

However, let us not forget that progress on Normative Program is still lagging behind and there are a number of projects under discussion between the Member States where agreement still needs to be achieved.

Addressing challenges of multilateral norm-making would require active engagement and preparedness to compromise on the part of Member States. We also request the DG's special attention and resources to resolve all pending issues of normative program including review of WIPO committees' performances to ensure steady progress.

The governance issues that were raised in Program and Budget Committee (PBC) are not confined to number of terms for Heads of the organization and need to be contextualized how various

Unions are structured and fit into unitary structures. Member States should have role in oversight mechanisms including determining composition and duration of Senior Management Team of the organization.

Mr. Chairman,

On Design Law Treaty, we hope that Member States would build on the momentum of work done so far. We support convening a diplomatic conference to adopt a new design law treaty and hope for resolution of pending issues at this GA.

We appreciate the DG WIPO's annual report to the CDIP on the implementation and mainstreaming of the Development Agenda (DA) recommendations. The subsequent report in future should also focus on issues of fair and affordable access to IP protected technologies or knowledge in order to effectively implement the SDGs in full dimensions. We urge WIPO to come up with a roadmap to ensure SDGs may get implemented in holistic and non-fragmented manner. The Secretariat should develop more tools as part of the Development Agenda recommendations on IP related flexibilities, access to knowledge and transfer of technology with demand-driven technical assistance and development cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The principled Position of Pakistan on External offices (EOs) is well known. Pakistan has consistently expressed concerns about the proposed establishment of EOs in the absence of proven benefit to the organization and their deliverables. We agreed to the decision of the WIPO General Assemblies in 2016 in a spirit of flexibility and compromise. We have been highlighting many gaps in the rationale for this exercise

since the very beginning and they remain still unaddressed. Nevertheless, we hope that our concerns would be taken on board including conducting Cost Benefit Analysis through external sources on EOs.

Pakistan stands ready to contribute constructively to the successful conclusion of this General Assembly.

I thank you.