

**Draft Geneva Ministerial Declaration:
Agenda for the Strategic Use of Intellectual Property for Prosperity and Development of the
Least Developed Countries**

Adopted at the High Level Forum on Intellectual Property for the Least Developed Countries

Geneva, Switzerland, July, 2009

We, ministers and senior government officials participating in the High Level Forum on Intellectual Property for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs): the Strategic Use of Intellectual Property for Prosperity and Development organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva on 23 – 24 July 2009:

Having discussed the policy and technical issues regarding the integration of intellectual property in the national development strategies of the LDCs for prosperity and development and the challenges faced by them and the opportunities available to them in this regard.

Recalling the Agenda for Action for the Least Developed Countries in the World Intellectual Property Organization adopted in Geneva on 12 December 2007 by the High Level Forum on Intellectual Property for the LDCs: Building Capacity and A Knowledge Base for Wealth Creation, Social and Cultural Development and a call for its continued implementation:

Recognizing that despite their efforts to build sustainable national IP institutions and capacity, the LDCs face severe constraints such as shortage of resources and a weak and sometimes non existent intellectual property infrastructure and policy framework.

Recognizing further that intellectual property protection is having increasing impact on our countries' technological, economic, cultural and social progress, and that the creation, protection, management and use of intellectual property would contribute to economic development by facilitating transfer of technology, increasing employment and creating wealth.

Noting that the WIPO Development Agenda has agreed on a number of recommendations to support IP institutions and capacity building in the LDCs to promote national development.

Reaffirming the vital importance of improving the institutional and policy framework for the modernization and development of the intellectual property systems and institutions of LDCs.

Realizing the importance of intellectual property to critical policy fields such as food security, sustainable agriculture, health, education, employment, trade, investment, culture and heritage, environment and scientific and technological development.

Appreciating the initiative of the Director General of WIPO for establishing innovation and technological support centers for technological capacity building for the development.

Acknowledging that rapid changes in digital technology have made copyright economically important, and that the contributions of copyright systems to national economies are noteworthy in terms of their contribution to economic, social and cultural development,

1. Urge WIPO to contribute to the realization of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals especially in the context of using IP as a tool for development and request WIPO to cooperate fully with LDCs delegation for the preparation of the Fourth United Nations Conference for LDCs in 2011:
2. Call upon WIPO to fully implement the WIPO Development Agenda recommendations pertaining to the LDCs, including through the generation of additional resources for supporting IP related activities in the LDCs:

3. Welcome the launching of Access to Research and Development of Innovation (ARDI) service during this forum for enhancing the access of the LDCs to technological information and appreciate the Director General's efforts as well as the role of the participating private sector entities in its realization:
4. Emphasize the importance of addressing the main problems facing our countries regarding IP institution-building with a renewed sense of purpose and seeking opportunities for strengthening regional and international cooperation in the use of intellectual property to promote poverty alleviation, national prosperity and development:
5. Decide to participate actively in deliberations in various international fora, particularly within WIPO, on the wealth-creation effect of intellectual property including at the national level in formulating strategies, policies, plans and mechanisms:
6. Decide to further strengthen the protection and use of national cultural and artistic creations, particularly relating to traditional cultural expressions such as folklore, through the copyright and related rights system and other appropriate mechanisms and call upon WIPO to render assistance to LDCs in this regard:
7. Decide to intensify cooperation with WIPO to scale up the use of trademarks, service marks, designs and geographical indications in economic activities, especially in branding selected export products of LDCs:
8. Urge WIPO to enhance its assistance to the LDCs in the meeting all their IP objectives: in particular, attention should be paid to supporting creative, inventive and innovative activity in our countries across all economic sectors including through the involvement of universities, R&D institutions and technical skills development institutions, and in this context emphasize the need for commercialization of research output through linkage with the market and the private sector:
9. Calls upon WIPO to support LDCs in improving the competitiveness of their enterprises, including small, medium and micro enterprises, through enhancing their ability to gain regular access to new ideas and technologies:
10. Requests WIPO to assist LDCs in promoting public private partnerships to facilitate development friendly IP utilization in these countries:
11. Express their appreciation to the WIPO Director General for his efforts to generate additional resources for the development of IP institutions and systems for the benefit of LDCs and encourage him to further pursue his efforts for the establishment of the funds-in-trust or similar resources for the benefit of LDCs as agreed in recommendation 2 of the WIPO Development Agenda in particular for the use of LDCs:
12. Urge all donors to actively support and participate in the efforts of the Director General to establish Funds in Trust for the benefit of LDCs:
13. Decide to raise the profile and inclusivity of the future High Level Forums to enhance the visibility of LDCs
14. Call upon the Director General to ensure that the outcome of this High Level Forum is fully taken into account by WIPO and that the Division for Least Developed Countries prepare periodic reports on its implementation:
15. Take note with appreciation the Director General's continued efforts to strengthen the LDCs Division and emphasize the need for deploying further financial and human resources to enhance the delivery capacity of the Division in response to growing IP-related needs of the LDCs:

16. Emphasizes the need for enhancing the coordination of LDCs delegations in WIPO with a view to working closely with the Division for Least Developed Countries on the implementation of this Agenda and promoting more WIPO activities related to the LDCs:
17. Extend our appreciation and gratitude to the Director General of WIPO for his new initiatives for the benefits of LDCs, the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and for his warm hospitality and during the Conference.

Geneva, Switzerland. July 2009