

24 November 2010

African Group Comments on Technology Transfer Project (CDIP/6/4)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The African Group thanks the Secretariat for preparing the revised version of the Project on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer: Common Challenges: Building Solutions, (Document CDIP/6/4).

The African Group welcomes some changes in the new project as compared to the older project (CDIP/4/7). However, we also note that the Project remains largely unchanged, and has not taken into account the Group's concerns as presented during the previous two sessions of the CDIP.

Nonetheless, the African Group would like to move forward, and as proposed by a number of delegations during the opening statements, with the non-controversial elements of this project. As to the remaining controversial elements, we believe these should be kept for further discussion and amendment by the Member States and the Secretariat at a later stage.

The African Group would like to present you with the following proposals in order to modify the project and have it ready for our approval in this session:

1. We are still not sure what the term "*New Platform for Technology Transfer and IP Collaboration*" refers to exactly, and we believe that reference to it as being "*an integrated set of realistic, non-controversial, mutually acceptable and favorable concrete measures,*" does not help resolve this lack of clarity. As such, we believe it would be better to delete this reference to a "New Platform for Technology Transfer and IP Collaboration," from the Project. And replace it instead by receiving the inputs from regional consultation meetings, the outcomes of the various studies, and the Web Forum, into the CDIP for further discussion and agreement on a recommendation to be sent to the Secretariat for approval to be translated into WIPO's work program.
2. We welcome the organization of regional consultation meetings on technology transfer, and believe their TORs and participants should be done in consultation with Member States.
3. The African Group also believes the elaboration of peer-reviewed analytical studies is a welcomed step that should be developed after consultation with Member States. We would like to see reference to the series of inputs presented in the initial Project (CDIP/4/7) under paragraph 2 of Section 2.1.
4. With regard to the organization of the "High-Level Expert Forum, we would like to suggest that this event be held as an international conference, and that its focus be limited to the needs in the area of technology transfer. As in point 2 above, consultations on its organizations should be undertaken at Geneva. It should also be attended by relevant UN agencies.
5. As already stated above, all the outcomes of these activities above should then be presented to the CDIP for consideration by the Committee, and for it to present recommendations thereon to the General Assembly for incorporation into WIPO programs. It should be noted that recommendations in this area should take into account the different levels of development.