

**Draft Statement of the Development Agenda Group
WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)
Sixth Session, November, 2010**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Development Agenda Group (DAG).

Let me start by restating our firm commitment to the work of this Committee and therefore to helping you conduct another successful session, as you did last April, at the fifth session.

You may recall that the DAG was launched at that session.

Our group is six-month old now. Our rich experience over that period has served to confirm that the DAG has come to occupy a space that was open for a much-needed cross-regional coordinating body among developing countries in pursuing their development-oriented approach to intellectual property matters at WIPO, in particular the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda across all areas of WIPO's work.

The DAG reaffirms now its firm intention to continue playing a constructive role in the overall debate at WIPO, to engage positively in norm-setting activities, to table papers, submissions and proposals on different issues, as may be required.

We also reaffirm our Guiding Principles that can be found in a document that was officially tabled at CDIP 5.

One of the key guiding principles of the DAG is our openness not only to dialogue with all groups and individual members of WIPO, but also to expand the group's membership to all those countries willing to subscribe to the DAG's platform.

The DAG has been created, in a nutshell, to become a permanent element of WIPO's landscape, a permanent instrument for helping bridge gaps and reach consensus. Let there be no doubt about it.

Mr. Chairman,

The single most important result of the last session of this Committee was the approval of the coordination mechanisms and monitoring, assessing and reporting modalities, the negotiation of which took a lot of our time not only at the fifth session of the CDIP, but also at preceding sessions.

At this session, the DAG is ready to engage in fruitful discussions on how best to put those mechanisms into practice.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the two reports presented under agenda item 5, contained in documents CDIP/6/2 and CDIP/6/3.

We appreciate the good deal of work put into those reports, which are comprehensive, detailed and seem to cover all activities undertaken by WIPO in order to implement the Development Agenda recommendations.

The extremely diversified scopes as well as the sheer number of initiatives reported in both documents, coupled with the fact that those initiatives are being pursued in different WIPO bodies, may be taken as an indication that we are possibly in the right direction.

The reports also indicate that WIPO and its members are undertaking substantial efforts with a view to mainstreaming the Development Agenda recommendations into the work of all WIPO bodies.

In a nutshell, it would be fair to say that there is an overall movement in the right direction, that there is, undeniably, some measure of progress towards the effective implementation of the Development Agenda. That much is true.

However, there should be no room for any self-complacency at this stage.

Three years after the Development Agenda was adopted, the results that have been achieved so far should not lead us to conclude that the complex process of implementing the Development Agenda recommendations and promoting a cultural change at WIPO is completed.

There is still a long way to go in our view.

In this regard, let me stress that, despite being an important contribution, the two reports prepared by the Secretariat (CDIP/6/2 and CDIP/6/3) lack qualitative analysis.

There is nothing wrong with that.

Those reports were certainly intended as no more than an input, as a background material for us to discuss. In that respect they are extremely useful.

But it remains the responsibility of member states to engage in an exercise of qualitative analysis on the implementation of the Development Agenda.

That exercise should include, for example, discussions (i) on the impact of the recommendations that have already been implemented, (ii) on the remaining obstacles to the effective implementation of the recommendations into all WIPO bodies and activities and, finally, (iii) on how the development dimension is being incorporated into on-going norm-setting activities.

Any good qualitative analysis on the implementation of the Development Agenda can hardly do without the full engagement of the membership of the Committee. That is why it is important, Mr. Chairman, that not only group coordinators, but also national delegations be allowed to continue to express their views on the matter and that they be given the opportunity to make general statements.

Mr. Chairman,

Under agenda item 6, the DAG will make separate comments on each of the documents to be examined.

At this stage, however, the DAG would like to support the project proposal presented by the delegation of Egypt and entitled "Enhancing Cooperation on IP and Development Among Developing Countries and LDCs". The project is intended for implementation of Development Agenda recommendations 1, 10, 11, 13, 19, 25 and 32.

We are glad to see a project proposal being presented by a member country, particularly a developing one. We therefore encourage all members to lend their support to this project, which aims to support South-South cooperation in the field of IP and development.

Before I conclude, let me remind member countries that WIPO's program budget for 2010/11 contains, in the section on the Development Agenda Coordination Division, a reference to the organization of a "major international conference on integrating development into IP policy-making".

It is time for us to start discussing the date, the venue and, mostly important, the agenda for that conference. We think that this event calls for substantive and detailed preparation, requiring background studies of high quality. And maybe it would not be a bad idea if the conference can be held in a developing country.

The DAG suggests that the process of preparation for the conference be dealt with by this Committee, and that one day of informal consultations be held in Geneva before the next session of the CDIP with a view to start discussing the matter.

Thank you.