

DRAFT GENERAL STATEMENT – DAG

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Development Agenda Group. Since it is the first time this delegation takes the floor, I would like to reiterate our trust in your able stewardship of this Committee and the commitment of our group to work constructively on the issues to be discussed during this Session.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat of WIPO for preparing the relevant documentation and organizing the meeting.

Mr Chairman,

The DAG was created in 2010 with the aim to pursue the effective implementation of the Development Agenda. Key to an effective implementation of the Development Agenda is a productive and dynamic CDIP. This Committee plays an important role in coordinating, promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Development Agenda. Although the implementation of the Development Agenda is not (and should not) be limited to the work of the CDIP, we recognize that this forum is strategic to maintain the necessary high level debate with a view to promote the 45 recommendations that were extensively negotiated and adopted by the WIPO General Assembly back in 2007.

The adoption of the Development Agenda was by no means a minor change for WIPO. It was indeed a milestone in achieving the historic aspiration of developing countries for an international perspective of IP more responsive to their realities. The Development Agenda recognizes the need to revise and reorient the work of WIPO as a whole, with the aim of guaranteeing a more inclusive and development-oriented IP system. But the change we aim at will not be achieved at short term. When Member States committed themselves to implement the Development Agenda (and decided for the change), they were aware that this process would take time and demand a truly cultural change in WIPO.

Mr. Chairman

My Group usually starts its general statements in the CDIP by duly recognizing the progress made by WIPO in the implementation of the Development Agenda. Today, we would like to point out another aspect. Of course, we recognize that we have made good progress over the last six years. But we are really concerned that Member States may not be maintaining the same commitment to the effective implementation of the Development Agenda at this point in time.

Let me turn back to the central role played by the CDIP again. This Committee should be the main engine for the implementation of the Development Agenda. We, unfortunately, need to recognize this may not be the case, since there is a general difficulty in moving forward and taking decisions on the issues before the Committee. Sometimes, even the implementation of the mandate that created the CDIP turns out to be an issue for Member States, despite of the fact that this Committee was created by a

decision of the General Assembly. As an example, I mention the discussions on document CDIP/6/12, the proposal presented by the DAG to create a new standing item in the agenda of the CDIP entitled “IP and Development related issues”. It is really challenging to understand why the establishment of a standing item to discuss IP and related issues in the context of the CDIP is being systematically opposed by some Member States.

It is also important to mention the coordination mechanism. It was equally adopted by the General Assembly in 2010 as a high level decision. My Group has already pointed out our concerns with the fact that this governance tool is not being adequately implemented.

We hope that we can address constructively this reality during this session, engaging in a meaningful and productive discussion on the issues before the Committee. Member States need to be in a position to compromise. The DAG is ready to work constructively with all Member States to find concrete solutions and take decisions on all the issues before us in this session. We urge WIPO membership to truly engage in the implementation of the Development showing the necessary disposition and flexibility where needed.

Mr. Chairman,

On Agenda Item 6 (“Monitor, Assess, Discuss, Report on the Implementation of all Development Agenda recommendations), we would like to thank the Director-General for preparing his annual report on the implementation of the Development Agenda. We do regret the fact that this is the only document available for discussion in the item of the coordination mechanism, when Member States should have adequate information to evaluate the progress made on the implementation of the Development Agenda.

On Agenda Item 7 (Consideration of work program for implementation of adopted recommendations), we look forward to contributing to the discussions on all the working documents provided for by the Secretariat. We highlight the discussions on technical assistance and on the independent review of the Development Agenda, issues on which Member States need to take urgent decisions.

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