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**Statement by H. E. Shanker D. Bairagi, Ambassador/ Permanent
Representative of Nepal at the Fifty-First Series of Assemblies of Member
States of WIPO
Geneva, September 23, 2013**

**Mme. President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies, and
Distinguished Delegates**

I associate my statement with the statements made by India on behalf of Asian Group and Benin on behalf of the LDCs.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Mme. President, on your election.

My delegation commends the entire WIPO staff for the excellent arrangements made for the Assemblies. We thank the Director General for the insightful report he presented earlier this morning. We appreciate WIPO's initiatives to align innovation and modernization of intellectual property systems with the development needs of the countries and people who need them the most.

We believe that, for the least developed countries Nepal to reap benefits from their vast wealth of intellectual property, there is a need of human and institutional capacity building and technology transformation, among others,. It is pleasing to note that these countries' needs and concerns are finding growing space in WIPO's programmes and works. WIPO's recent initiatives towards establishing technological and innovation centers, training human resources with the focus on technical skills development, building and modernizing national IP institutions and transforming the informal sector and enterprise development have been of great importance to the LDCs.

Mme. President,

The Government of Nepal has already completed the draft on national IP policy. The overall objective of this policy has been to provide effective and adequate protection of all IP rights. Efforts are also underway for building, strengthening and modernizing IP infrastructure and legislative frameworks. The Government is working to establish a National Intellectual Protection Office (NIPPO). With WIPO's support and cooperation, we are also going to establish 5 -6 Technology and Innovation Support Service Centers (TISC) in different places.

The Government of Nepal expects WIPO's further assistance in the areas of productive capacity building, human and social development, agriculture, trade and technology with the focus on providing employment opportunities to the youth. Such support measures should go beyond the simple project based approach and address the deeper structural weaknesses inherent in the country. In particular, its support in digitalization of our traditional knowledge, genetic resources, folklore and other forms of cultural expression and branding of the SME products will be helpful.

It is our view that there exist opportunities for collaborative partnership between WIPO and regional organizations, including in our region.

Finally, while expressing happiness over the adoption of important instruments including the Marrakesh treaty in the last year, we call for early conclusion of negotiations on the texts on traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore. My delegation hopes that the assembly would extend the mandate of the IGC to intensity negotiations for facilitating the conclusion of a binding treaty on this subject.

I thank you, Mme. President.