

General Statement
By
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Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
At the 51st Assemblies of Member States of WIPO

Madam Chair,

Thailand aligns itself with statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group and Singapore on behalf of ASEAN

I congratulate you upon your election and wish to assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Intellectual property, Madam Chair, has long been seen as a useful tool to promote economic interests. At the same time, however, it can have a broad impact on development issues and public interests, from biodiversity to public health to education. We must therefore ensure that WIPO's work strikes a balance among all these interests and allows everyone, be they right holders or users, to enjoy the benefits of creativity and innovation in a fair and equitable manner.

Here, my delegation appreciates the Secretariat's efforts to translate WIPO's Development Agenda into practice, transforming the whole way the organization operates by making it more attuned to the broader development goals of the UN system, more member state driven, as well as more inclusive, transparent and accountable.

As such, the Development Agenda must continue to be mainstreamed in all of WIPO's work. We are thus pleased to receive reports from all WIPO bodies on their implementation of the Agenda, which should be carefully reviewed and reflected upon by this Assembly.

Madam Chair,

WIPO's role as the preeminent forum for IP discussion and norm-setting has once again been underscored by the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty. While congratulations are in order, we must ensure proper follow-up through timely ratification by Member States and the provision of technical assistance to both Member States and stakeholders to ensure its effective implementation.

It is our hope that the positive momentum so evident in Marrakesh will also help move forward other issues on our agenda.

Here, Thailand attaches particular importance to the work of the IGC on GRs, TK and TCEs, for which we organised an informal meeting in Bangkok in July to facilitate negotiations and discuss the way forward. While much progress has been achieved, we continue to urge Member States to engage in the IGC in the spirit of cooperation, with a view to finalizing the texts and convening a diplomatic conference within the upcoming biennium.

Madam Chair,

On the issue of WIPO governance, Thailand supports the ongoing review to improve the efficiency of the current structure, to intensify Member States' oversight, and to enhance transparency, fairness and clarity. We thus support the proposals made by the DAG and African Group and look forward to further discussions on them.

As I conclude, I wish to thank Director-General Gurry and the Secretariat for the support provided to Thailand to develop our IP system, including our preparation for accession to the Madrid Protocol and the Hague System. We were also pleased to co-host with WIPO the Worldwide Symposium on Geographic Indications in March this year.

Thank you.

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