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Speech of Afghan delegation

At the 54th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
Geneva 22 September 2014,

Agenda Item 5-General Statements,

Madam President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to participate at the Assemblies of Member States and take this opportunity to express thanks and appreciations to the WIPO and its leadership, specially to Director General for strengthening cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan on IP related issues.

I am happy to mention that the Marrakesh Treaty, which signed by Afghanistan in Morocco in June 2013, will be conclude soon and Afghanistan support the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WIPO and SAARC countries.

My delegation also support the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of Asia pacific Group and would like to mention our wish to continue cooperation for intensifying efforts of WIPO to address the multiple challenges facing the international IP System in today's rapidly evolving global commercial and technological environment.

Therefore, Afghanistan welcome the outcome of 28th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional knowledge and Folklore (IGC) as well as the outcome of 28th Session of Standing Committee on Copyrights and Related Rights (SCCR) took places on July 2014 and expect that the continuation of discussion will respond the need of member states including Afghanistan as LDC.

Afghanistan welcomes the proposal for establishment of new external offices to set up transparent procedure and criteria for this purpose.

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I would like to briefly mention the interest of the Government of Afghanistan concerning the the IP system in my country.

Madam President,

It is clear that WIPO as one of the important UN agency dealing in promoting innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries, through an effective international intellectual property system.

In recent years, WIPO has organized several activities for Afghanistan, such as workshops, seminars and study visits for IP officials and related private sectors.

However, a real and realistic approach of the IP rights is new experience for the Government of Afghanistan.

The Constitution guarantees the right of authors, inventors and discoverers and the Government is interesting and pleased for estrethening cooperation with the WIPO to overcome challenges face in the implementation and enforcement of IP laws, such as:

- Insufficiency of IP experts and Awareness and enforcing IP rules.
- And lack of Academic studies on IP Information.

Therefore, Afghanistan need technical support of WIPO including establishment of a Technology Innovation Support Center in the framework of Kabul University to provide innovators in the country with access to technology information services.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate Afghanistan's support to principles of IP and I am hopeful with the cooperation and assistance of WIPO we will make significant progress in future.

I thank you Madam President,