

## Statement of Italy

1. Mr Chairman, Mr. Director General, Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues, first of all I would like to point out that Italy aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and to that of Greece on behalf of Group B.

2. In my national capacity, let me also express my appreciation to Ambassador Karklins of Latvia for the appointment as Acting Chair of the General Assembly and to the Director General and his staff for the efforts carried out to enable WIPO to keep up with growing challenges in the field of IP law.

3. Italy reckons that **WIPO's mandate, as a UN Specialized Agency, involves the promotion of economic, social and cultural development** in all Member States through a global and effective international Intellectual Property system.

**The international Intellectual Property system includes the Lisbon System, which comprises the protection of Appellations of Origin under the Lisbon Agreement, and is expected as early as possible to embrace the broader category of Geographical Indications upon the entry into force of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, adopted in May 2015.**

Italy believes that **the Lisbon System, including the Geneva Act, may produce significant benefits for countries of both Developed and Developing or Least Developed Countries, in line with the Development Agenda, particularly to small and medium sized enterprises and to rural producers and populations.**

Investments in this field may also generate positive effects in terms of **poverty reduction by means of increasing shares of international trade and income distribution among different regional areas**, while leaning productions to model compatible with the principles of **sustainable development and UN sustainable development goals.**

Thus, we underline **the essential role of an effective and focused promotion within WIPO of the overall Lisbon System, including the Geneva Act, with a view to**

**attracting new Contracting Parties.**

In this regard, **Italy, while supporting WIPO's efforts to increase transparency, is in favour of the long-standing principle of financial solidarity among Unions and believes that the Lisbon Union shall be placed on an equal footing with other WIPO Unions.**

In particular, we believe that **the flexibilities of the current budgetary system enable WIPO to achieve more policy efficiency by allocating costs and resources among Unions in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity, so as to achieve a more balanced and effective development of IP.**

4. Regarding the opening of WIPO External Offices, we are confident that this General Assembly will find the most appropriate way forward to implement the important decision on the guiding principles adopted in 2015 in line with the strategic goal securing a geographical distribution as broad as possible.

5. As far as the normative agenda is concerned, we support the harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration formalities through the adoption of a Design Law Treaty and the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of a Design Law Treaty in 2017, while also reiterating our support for further progress in the discussions on a Treaty for the protection of Broadcasting organizations, in view of achieving meaningful solutions that might fit in the current technological environment.

Finally, Italy acknowledges the importance of **the new mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee on the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge** as an opportunity to **restore a cooperative spirit among Members and reach a common understanding on core issues, while preserving a secure IP legal framework** that stimulates innovation and creativity.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.