

**Opening Statement by Pakistan, at the  
56<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies**

**Mr. President,**

We are happy to see you chairing the meeting.

We also thank the Director-General for his overview of WIPO's work this past year.

**Mr. President**

Pakistan supports the development of a balanced international IP system responsive to the diverse needs of all member states at different levels of development providing countries with policy space to safeguard public welfare is essential.

**Mr. President,**

In the program performance report the rating indicators appear too broad and don't provide a concise, qualitative overview of the actual achievement or otherwise of expected results. Relatively few target indicators directly linked to the development agenda implementation and missing information on utilization of the budget for development expenditure make it difficult to objectively assess performance against actual achievement of development agenda recommendations.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation has closely followed and actively participated in the debate on External Offices. We agreed to the adoption of the guiding principles at the last general Assembly despite reservations which have proven to be justified in view of the acute difficulties we are having in

achieving any rational consensus. Pakistan supports the establishment of two Eos in Africa in line with the principle of inclusivity and equity. All other applicants may be gauged equitably on merit.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan strongly believes in effective and continued importance of the Development Agenda. Progress in the CDIP, effective implementation of the Development Agenda and its mainstreaming in all organs of WIPO is crucial. The DA is not merely a vehicle for technical assistance. It's a mechanism for identifying and correcting imbalances in the IP System thereby ensuring that the IP system actually contributes to development goals. DA recommendations on impact assessment need to be considered on priority.

**Mr. President,**

In the work of the committees, access to educational material and access to medicines are of critical importance to my delegation.

The SCP needs to deal with the whole range of IP issues that impact innovation and access to medicines at fair prices, which is especially important in view of global health emergencies like Ebola and Zika and antimicrobial resistance. Many of these issues have been identified in the UNSG HLP. WIPO, as the lead IP institution internationally must deal with these issues seriously by frank and open discussions on the IP issues identified in the UNSG report. We also urge the Secretariat to exercise extreme care in pronouncing itself on these issues, especially in view of the ill advised statement by WIPO secretariat official on the UNSG High Level Panel on Access to Medicines.

Regarding education material, we remain concerned at the lack of progress on Exceptions & Limitation for libraries and archives and educational institutes in SCCR which is essential to facilitate practical realization of the basic human right to education

In the SCT, We support the African request for the disclosure agreement in the Design Law Treaty. We believe that it would serve against misappropriation and foster true innovation and creativity.

**Mr. President**

An organization can function only as well as it is administered. We are deeply concerned at the accountability and administrative issues especially at the highest level. An organization's reputation and effective functioning will not be enhanced if there are constant attempts to obfuscate and avoid serious consideration of these issues. We as member states would be remiss in our oversight duty if we don't squarely address these issues. Strict Accountability, revision of the oversight charter and progress on governance issues are thus essential.

**Mr. President,**

We look forward to a productive session.

I thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*