

Speech by His Excellency Mr. Dr.Toiserkani
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you for your election as the President of the WIPO General Assembly and wish you every success. I would also like to express my thanks to Mr. Gurry, Director General of the Organization and the Secretariat for their efforts to pursue the goals of the Organization and promotion of the intellectual property rights.

Mr. President,

Respect for intellectual property rights as individual and private rights and the role that these assets can play in economic and social development of human societies, requires that these rights, particularly in the age of information and communication technology, more than ever be protected. On the other hand, this protection must be defined in such a way that can establish the necessary balance between the rights of the owners of these assets and the rights of the community, since intellectual property rights are not, per se, objective but a means for developing the societies and creating social and economic welfare in them. It is in this context that the principle of balance between the rights of the individuals and society on one hand and between the obligations and rights on the other has been clearly emphasized in the TRIPS Agreement and the WIPO Development Agenda. This requires that the practical effects of that principle would be more reflected in all the activities of WIPO.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran while welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the General Assembly of the United Nations, believes that the

WIPO Development Agenda must not be considered as a time-bound project, but as an ongoing process and in line with the interests of all WIPO Member States would be mainstreamed in all WIPO's activities and committees, particularly in the norm-setting ones. Thus, we still have a long way ahead in the implementation of the recommendations of the WIPO Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

The successful organization of the diplomatic conference on the revision of the Lisbon Agreement on the Registration of the Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications provided an opportunity that must be utilized in the best way. Today, the Lisbon Agreement has been more attractive and more efficient and the changes made in the agreement have paved the way for its universality. In spite of this, it should be noted that in the other areas of norm-settings and in response to the challenges ahead, the Organization has not been able to succeed. This is a matter that requires the revision of the ways and mechanisms of the Organization on one hand and the political will of the Member States on the other hand.

Mr. President,

Despite 14 years of time and cost, the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) whose substantial and result-oriented progress is a priority for developing countries, was in fact brought to closure in the General Assembly of last year because of the lack of political will and cooperation of some Member States of WIPO. This failure gives the impression that each of WIPO's norm-setting activities can be stopped easily, a situation that neither developed nor developing countries would benefit from it. To tackle this and in order to remove the existing deadlocks, it is imperative that this committee would be evolved into the Standing Committee, so that the structural inequality in WIPO's norm-setting body be eradicated.

Mr. President,

Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a number of steps over the last year for the promotion and protection of intellectual property rights in the country of which the most important are as follows:

- 1- Revision of the laws and regulations related to intellectual property rights;
- 2- Drafting the national law on the Folklore, for which we are grateful to WIPO for its technical and legal assistances;
- 3- Commemoration of IP Day and commencing the implementation of the biennium project for the establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC)
- 4- Organizing a workshop on the management of intellectual property rights in the business of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in cooperation with WIPO and our science and technology parks;
- 5- Organizing the Third Session of the Coordinating Committee of the Member States of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) on Industrial Property in Tehran;
- 6- Signing an agreement with the Patent Institute of Turkey for mutual cooperation on IP as well as Memorandum of Understanding with the Intellectual Property Office of China;
- 7- Organizing several training seminars and workshops in the various field of intellectual property rights in cooperation with the relevant institutions of the country.

Mr. President,

As regards the external offices of WIPO, Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the decisions for the establishment of such offices must be taken without any discrimination and on the basis of equitable and geographical distribution and in a transparent manner. We maintain that the important issue of external offices of WIPO must be considered as a new approach in the Organization in order to move towards universality and to promote efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. It should not be downgraded to a merely budgetary and financial affair. In this regard, it is necessary that the guiding principles for the external offices would be finalized, taking into account the observations and proposals of Member States. As I said last year, considering the appropriate capacities in the field of intellectual property, Islamic Republic of Iran has offered that a WIPO external office be established in Tehran.

In conclusion, I wish the success and achievement of fruitful results for these meetings, and I would like to highlight that the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be engaged actively and constructively in the discussions of the matters on the agenda of the General Assembly and will express its position in detail in the relevant meetings.

I thank you
