

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)
Twenty-Fifth Session
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Statement by Pakistan

Madam Chair

Pakistan congratulates you on your appointment as the chairperson of this session. We are confident that under your able stewardship, this committee would be able to take forward the important task of implementing and mainstreaming the Development Agenda recommendations.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented health emergency affecting peoples, societies and economies across the globe. However, the developing countries and LDCs have been disproportionately affected due to economic, capacity and resource constraints. Besides enormous public health challenges, COVID pandemic is causing closure of businesses and industry, contraction of exports and foreign remittances, and disruption of public services such as education and transport.

With revenue streams shrinking, debts liabilities of the developing countries continue to rise amidst the COVID-related lockdown of their economic systems.

It is within this larger social and development context that WIPO and the CDIP need to recalibrate their roles and approaches in the context of intellectual-property (IP) related issues in the domain of public health. This requires aligning IP-related rights and obligations in ways that promote equitable and affordable access to and availability of COVID technologies, particularly vaccines to everyone, everywhere. We appreciate WIPO's engagement with World Health Organization (WHO) and World Trade Organization (WTO). We encourage WIPO to take a leading role in the development of global norm-setting activities concerning equitable and affordable access and availability of COVID-related technologies based on public health needs and in conformity with the SDGS, free from undue monopoly controls. The development and distribution of COVID vaccines as global public good and IP framework should be pursued as mutually reinforcing goals.

Discussions have been taking place at other multilateral fora such as WTO TRIPS Council on the interface of IP in relation to COVID-19 response measures, focusing on easing access to technologies necessary for responding to COVID-19. In this context, it is important that such a discussion also takes place at WIPO. We urge the Secretariat to organize discussions/webinars on the subject of “Inter-linkages between Intellectual-Property Rights and Global Public Health Objectives to raise awareness and sharing of good practices.

Madam Chair

Pakistan welcomes the report by the Director General and appreciates the integration of the SDGs and the DA recommendations to the programs and Strategic Goals of WIPO. Even as we see merit in the project-based approach to the implementation and mainstreaming of Development Agenda recommendations, it is important that future reports also contain qualitative assessment of the impacts of the projects on achieving the objectives of the Development Agenda also including information on mainstreaming of substantive learning from the projects.

The Development Agenda recommendations stress the need for clarifying the flexibilities within the IPR system from a development perspective. However, there is a noticeable dearth of sustainable, long-term work programme and technical assistance tools on flexibilities that could deepen the understanding of their role in advancing development objectives through their effective utilization. We urge WIPO to undertake legislative and technical assistance activities on flexibilities in the context of the WIPO Development Agenda. There is also a need to mainstream the subject of TRIPS flexibilities from the development perspective in the publications and outreach, communications and dissemination tools of the WIPO Secretariat.

We welcome the establishment of IP and development as a standalone agenda item in CDIP. We encourage the Secretariat to work on practical implementation of the flexibilities from the development perspective as is being done at WTO TRIPS Council.

We welcome the report on WIPO's contribution to the implementation of SDGs and its associated targets. SDGs envisage Intellectual Property e.g. target 3b of the SGD Goal 3. As one of the specialized UN-agencies, WIPO has a useful role to support the implementation of SDGs. We look forward to enhanced cooperation with the WIPO Secretariat for the implementation of SDGs in Pakistan.

Madam Chair

My delegation welcomes the eight webinars recently organized by WIPO. Given the ongoing travel restrictions, we encourage WIPO Secretariat to increase the frequency and scope of the webinars to cater to the needs of the developing countries during these challenging times including a webinar format focused on technical assistance for exceptions and limitations to patent rights in Covid-19 context.

The discussion of "IP & Creative Economy" under agenda item "IP & Development" is a welcome initiative. Creative industries offer numerous untapped opportunities for socio-economic development. Growth of these industries would lead to mainstreaming of the development agenda and SDGs. We look forward to a fruitful debate on the issue during this session and practical steps by WIPO Secretariat for the promotion of Creative Industries in the future.

I assure you, Madam Chair, of full support of my delegation.

Thank you.