

GA 55 – Group B opening statement (Agenda 5) – Ver. as Delivered

1. Honorable Chair, Excellences and distinguished delegates, it is my great honor to deliver the statement on behalf of Group B.

2. Mr. Chair, please allow me to enter into substance directly respecting efficiencies you like and our group also loves.

3. Mr. Chair, no one can question the significant progress and results achieved by WIPO in recent years, in particular in relation to work concerning global IP services. The steady growth of applications and the expansion of membership cannot be achieved without proper responses to the evolving demands from the real world. WIPO is also making a significant contribution to IP information sharing and dissemination through its work relating to global IP infrastructure. Contribution to the society of the invention to be patented does not consist only of the invention as such, but also of the provision of technical information related to that invention. In this regard, global IP services and global IP infrastructure are like the two wheels of a cart and their importance cannot be overemphasized. Turning our eyes to technical assistance, one of the important areas this organization deals with, our group is always impressed with the abundance and variety of programs provided by WIPO, which contribute to development through the exploitation of intellectual property. Our group also recognises challenges in the field of norm setting activities and commit ourselves to continue to engage constructively. Group B would like to congratulate WIPO on its achievements as a whole and expects that WIPO will continue to respond to real-world expectations.

4. For the purpose of achieving the objective of this organization as prescribed in the WIPO convention, it is important to have shared understanding of how this organization is working and how it should function. In this regard, we have to keep the unique and significant nature and character of WIPO in mind. While WIPO has to fulfil its responsibility as a member of the UN family, this has to be done in a manner that remains in line with the overarching principles under the objective of this organization, namely, promotion of protection of intellectual property. At the same time, this organization has to continue to keep its feet on the ground, in other words, in touch with the real world, which is formed by innovators, creators, users of the IP system and IP information etc. Our group strongly believes that WIPO and its member states should continue our work based upon this shared understanding, through which we can fulfil our responsibility as a member of the global community.

5. Mr. Chair, Coming to agenda for this session of the General Assembly in front of us, it is obvious that the approval of program and budget for 2016/17 is pressing issue. It is important to reach consensus on an approved program and budget at this session to ensure the sound operation of the organization. I would like to underline that none of us should consider the possibility of having any extraordinary sessions and that this session is the only chance remaining for us to approve the program and budget for the coming biennium.

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6. With respect to WIPO external offices, budgetary aspect has already been taken care of in a reasonable and logical manner in the current draft program and budget. Therefore, we do not have to, or rather should not, touch upon the matter of external offices in the context of program and budget. As such, the way forward on this matter can be dealt with in a separate manner from the program and budget for 2016/17.

7. Concerning the normative agenda, we look forward to the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty. It is most regrettable that considerations other than substance under the objective of the possible treaty have long continued to prevent users from benefiting from formality simplification of the industrial design system. No one opposed to Diplomatic Conference at the point of 2013. We should move ahead from this point at this General Assembly.

8. With regard to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic resources, Traditional knowledge and Folklore, Group B believes that the agreed way forward on this matter has to be reasonable and balanced, reflecting the wide divergences of views, not only on the process, but also on the fundamental points on substance. It is necessary to envisage new framework of the discussion which could bring us closer. Our group recognizes the importance of the facilitation process and commits to engage constructively.

9. Additionally, our group would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the cooperation of IAOC, IOD and the external auditor on audit activities, whose reports are presented to the General Assembly. A well-functioning oversight mechanism is essential to maintain sound operation of the organization. We expect their further contribution to that effect within their mandate.

10. Last but not least, Group B expects that the deliberation under agenda items relating to Global IP services will be carried out in a manner that improves those systems and responds to the evolving demands of users.

11. Finally, Mr Chair, please stand assured that you can count on constructive contributions from the delegations of Group B, as well as our full support, during these Assemblies.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

(End)