



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Ms. Shazia Adnan, Director General IPO-Pakistan at the Sixty-Third Series of Meetings of Assemblies of WIPO Geneva 15 July 2022

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and the Vice Chairs for your election. We also thank the Secretariat for the meeting arrangements.

At the outset, I would like to commend Director General Tang and his team for their continued efforts to promote innovation and creativity around the world as well as for realigning the work of the Organization to the needs and priorities of the Member States. We appreciate the strengthening of dialogue with Member States and look forward to the continuation of this positive trend.

We are continuously striving to modernize Pakistan's IP regime through legal, policy and awareness raising measures. After Pakistan's accession to Madrid Protocol last year, our efforts are now geared toward acceding to the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Moreover, with support from WIPO, we have established 47 Technology Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) all across the country.

Madam Chair,

I would briefly highlight five additional key areas that require careful consideration.

First, the role of IP and innovation during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has brought WIPO to global limelight. In order to strengthen WIPO's future relevance, its response to these increased expectations should be governed by, **a)** development of a balanced IP regime, which is capable of dealing effectively with current as well as future pandemics, and **b)** by expanding WIPO's role to support innovation, especially in developing and Least Developing Countries (LDCs).

Second, WIPO needs to keep pace with the fast evolving technological & economic developments and to help unlock the normative logjam through consensus and political will. The finalization of an international instrument on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and Design Law Treaty (DLT) should be prioritized.

Third, lack of requisite skills and knowledge on IP, especially on legislative matters remains a main hurdle in acceding to WIPO-administered treaties. My delegation reiterates its proposal to establish a 'one-window service' on legislative advice.

Fourth, we appreciate ongoing efforts to promote the principle of equitable geographical distribution of WIPO's workforce including through new projects i.e., Young Expert Program. However, greater attention and efforts are needed to ensure an equitably distributed workforce across all geographical regions.

Fifth, in this age of digital connectivity, a realistic lens needs to be applied to the issue of External Offices. In order to avoid any politicization and unnecessary distractions, a serious review is needed to determine the need for exiting External Offices as well the rationale of establishing new ones. Only an independent, transparent and external assessment could provide an objective and apolitical evaluation of the External Office network. We look forward to continuation of an inclusive and transparent process to develop the Terms of Reference for the evaluation.

I thank you.