

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all. It is my great pleasure to welcome you here this morning to this third technical symposium organized by the trilateral cooperation of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

It is the first to be hosted by WIPO. The previous ones took place in WTO in 2010 and WHO in 2011. It is also the last technical symposium in which Pascal Lamy will participate in his capacity as Director-General of WTO. I have said on previous occasions in these technical symposia that Pascal Lamy lies at the origin of the trilateral cooperation. It was he who brought together the Directors General of WHO, WIPO and WTO. I would like to thank him for having changed the business model of the relationship of these three international organizations and for his inspiration. It is also an occasion for me to pay tribute to Pascal Lamy publicly since this will be the last opportunity, that I should have to do so. He has influenced so many of us here in Geneva. He is a consummate professional with boundless energy, wonderful creativity, an extraordinary depth of cultivation and extremely wide experience. So thank you very much Pascal.

The subject of today's symposium, as you all know, is medical innovation and changing business models. I am not a specialist in that area. You will be hearing from specialists in the course of what I believe is a very rich program today. But, I would like to make one comment, if I may. I think if one surveys the field of new forms of international cooperation, and I think a very good survey is contained in the publication of the trilateral cooperation *Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation*, one cannot help but think that this is the organizational equivalent of what the Cambrian explosion was for animal forms. The Cambrian explosion was that sudden appearance of many major animal groups in one burst of evolutionary innovation that Stephen Jay Gould called an "orgy of innovation". Now, suddenly it seems over the past twenty years, organizational evolution has become very ambitious and forms of organization have become very diverse. That can only be a good thing. It is a very intriguing question to wonder why, just as in the case of the Cambrian explosion, this has happened at this time and what is driving it. But that is, however, not my point. My point is to make one comment about the role of intellectual property in all that evolution. The way in which intellectual property is being used has also undergone an evolutionary burst. And that burst, I think, shows us that in

its broadest sense intellectual property is about the whole way in which society produces, distributes and consumes information and knowledge. It creates rules in relation to those processes. The emergence of organizational innovation has called for innovation in the way in which intellectual property is used. Intellectual property has responded very well to this and shows that it is capable of being a neutral and a flexible instrument for organizing relationships all along the spectrum of production, distribution and consumption of knowledge and information.

I am very pleased to say that WIPO has joined in the search for new forms of organization for cooperation. More will be said about that in the course of the day. But, let me mention very briefly two examples in addition to the trilateral cooperation which is itself a form of organizational innovation.

The two examples are WIPO Re:Search which, is a public-private partnership with the participation of 69 members now, many pharmaceutical companies, medical research institutes and many other entities across the whole spectrum. Some 23 agreements and collaborations have been concluded under it. And there have also been, thanks to the generosity of the Australian Funds-in-Trust, a movement of researchers from Africa to laboratories in both the private sector around the world and in universities.

A second innovation that I should like to mention concerns a slightly different, but not totally unrelated field. The Treaty that the Member States of WIPO concluded at the end of last week, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise print disabled. It is now a task for the Organization to operationalize the enabling framework that was established by that Treaty. In this regard, we have a stakeholder's platform which will undergo an organizational evolution as a public-private partnership to facilitate the movement of published works in accessible formats to visually impaired persons around the world.

Let me thank the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, their Directors-General and their very able staff as well as my own staff at WIPO. Let me thank all of the speakers who have made the effort to come here today and thank you all for having attended this morning.