

Closing Remarks of the Deputy Director General, Mr. Mario Matus, to
the WIPO Experts Forum on International Technology Transfer
February 18, 2015

16.30 – 16.45

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives of Member States, IGOs and NGOs, Invited
Speakers, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, good afternoon to all of you.

I have been following the last three days of deliberations on the important topic of technology transfer, a subject that is very dear to our hearts. We all know that technology transfer is essential for economic development since the acquisition and diffusion of technology foster productivity growth.

In my previous role of Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, WIPO and UNCTAD, and also as the Chair of the WTO General Council, I have become familiar with the technology transfer issues at stake. Historically, discussions on international technology transfer date back since the 1970s. Countries have sought to use both national and international agreements to stimulate international technology transfer (such as the 1985 Code of Conduct that aimed to regulate it under the auspices of the United Nations). However, these rules were largely on a volunteer basis as they were not universally embraced. Then came TRIPS, a decade later, in 1995. The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which was universally embraced, has certain provisions for international technology transfer. I am glad that WIPO has become an additional Forum where discussions on technology transfer have started since 2009, through several sessions of the Committee on the Development of Intellectual Property (CDIP), ultimately culminating in a very impactful moment, over the last three days, through

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this WIPO Experts Forum on International Technology Transfer, which provided a framework for a genuine and open dialogue among experts from both developed and developing countries knowledgeable in public and private sector technology transfer and for debates on technology transfer supportive IP-related policies by developed countries.

Indeed, in this Forum, the learnings from the 5 regional consultations in Singapore, Algiers, Istanbul, Geneva and Monterrey, combined with the presentations from the international experts on the 6 technology transfer studies throughout the first half of this event, provided “food for thought” for the Forum’s panel discussions, which put together a number of thoughts to be submitted to the Committee on Development of Intellectual Property (CDIP) for consideration and approval.

Let us remind ourselves the original objective of WIPO’s Project on IP and Technology Transfer, namely, of “establishing international IP collaboration, enhanced understanding and consensus on possible IP initiatives or policies to promote technology transfer”.

In this first time addressing WIPO conference participants and Member States, in my new role as a WIPO Deputy Director General, Development Sector, I have to admit that it has been a great pleasure to witness and participate in this conference, which has produced a real dialog among the 8 experts representing all regions of the world with usefully varying perspectives. It was especially gratifying to see expressed the virtually unanimous view that intellectual property is recognized as the currency for technology transfer. Ms. Alison Brimelow has enormously contributed to the success of this Forum through attempting to build consensus and pointing to the lowest common denominator between the varying perspectives. One common denominator which she mentioned upfront was the fact that in effective promotion of technology transfer, 'one size does not fit all'. The Forum has certainly offered *evidence of what works* which seems to have had a direct effect on the relevance and usefulness of the thoughts that were put together throughout the different segments of

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the panel discussions. The thoughts generated throughout this Forum, and summarized by Ms. Alison Brimelow a moment ago, will now be included in a factual report which will be submitted to the next session of the CDIP for consideration and approval.

The Secretariat would appreciate if you could fill out the survey questionnaire which has been included in the packet that you received when you received your badge at the registration desk. If you have not received the packet, kindly pick one up at the registration desk in front of Room A.

Now, I turn to all of you and would like to thank the Moderator, the 8 panel expert members, the 6 study experts and 4 peer-reviewers for making this event a success. In addition, I would like to thank the Secretariat and the interpreters for their hard work. Finally, my sincere appreciation goes to all of you, the representatives of WIPO Member States, IGOs, NGOs, as well as those who have come from far away to be part of this important debate. Last but not least, my gratitude goes also those who are following us through the webcast, wherever they may be.

I now wish you all a safe trip back home and, before we do that, let us all gather here around the podium so a final group photograph may be taken.

Thank you for your attention.