

SUBJECT : Reply on comments of SCIT strategic plan from Ethiopia (Circular No. C.SCIT 2431)

Dear sirs,

This is in reference to your letter dated March 3, 1999 with circular No. SCIT 2431 to give our comments on the draft outline of WIPO's SCIT strategic plan for the twenty-first century. We hereby made our comments on the aforementioned subject and designated a contact person from our office on any SCIT matters. COMMENTS ON SCIT STRATEGIC PLAN

In general the outline is good working document. It has covered valuable points. · The strategic plan should have a time frame. Example : 5, 10 or 15 years. We suggest that the plan cover a 10 year period. · We are satisfied to note that the outline includes the interest of developing countries. However, the following comments are made on this issue. · "Elimination of information access gap that exists between developed and developing countries" stated as SCIT goal is seem unrealistic and ambitious in view of the status of most developing countries. Thus it should be edited as "Narrowing the information...". · The outline does not give adequate emphasis on how to achieve the stated goal. We suggest the following strategies to be included. 1) Emphasis on planning and implementing regional cooperation on information technologies. 2) Fund raising strategies to support the efforts of developing countries. 3) Emphasis on collaboration of efforts on the exchange of experiences among developing countries on intellectual property in general and information technologies in particular.