

**General Statement to the 59th series of WIPO Assemblies of the Member States
by H. E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Bangladesh at Geneva, Head of Bangladesh delegation
[03 minutes]**

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh is happy to see you preside over Assemblies and hopes to work towards successful outcome under your able guidance. Our sincere thanks go to Director General Dr. Francis Gurry for his insightful and detailed report on WIPO activities during last year. His constant attention to the needs of the developing countries is much appreciated. We also commend the Secretariat for their diligent work in organizing and preparing the documents for the assemblies.

Mr. Chair,

Intellectual property now increasingly makes crucial contribution to the innovation-based and knowledge-driven global economy. Bangladesh has been re-orienting her development policy in order to derive benefit from IP for its overall economic development. Last few years, we have seen a notable improvement in overall IP management in terms of adoption of national policy, digitization of IP office, institutional capacity, awareness building and so on. In this regard, WIPO's continued cooperation and assistance in all these diverse areas related to IP and development is highly appreciated.

Mr. Chair,

We note WIPO's continuing efficient efforts in implementing and mainstreaming the Development Agenda (DA) into its regular program activities. We also commend the WIPO for its good work in linking a range of SDGs with the DA. This would not only help countries in their endeavours for IP-driven development efforts but would also facilitate overall implementation of relevant SDGs. Indeed, alongside ongoing robust work in this area, WIPO should continue to give more attention to facilitating the creation of conducive environment for innovation in developing countries like Bangladesh.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh greatly values WIPO's development-oriented activities in LDCs. As you may be aware, we are expecting to graduate from the LDC category by 2024. Hence, innovation as

well as use of appropriate technology in development efforts bears great significance. Surely, the need to establish and promote an innovation-friendly IP environment with skilled management would continue beyond the graduation phase. In that context, we would like to urge WIPO to consider designing and planning the delivery of required programs for graduating LDCs in order to help them address the challenges both before and after graduation. We are ready and willing to engage our own efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh reiterates its full support to the Asia – Pacific Group (APG) proposal on the composition of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) as contained in document WO/GA/51/17. We also reaffirm our firm support to the proposal put forward by the APG on the composition of the Coordination Committee (CoCo) in document A/59/12. Bangladesh believes that only legally binding agreements can ensure the benefits developing countries deserve in terms of Genetic Resources (GR), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs). With regard to convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a Design Law Treaty (DLT) and Broadcasting Treaty issues, we hope to overcome the existing differences among the member states through constructive deliberation.

Finally, we wish all delegations success in the combined work awaiting us in the Assemblies and look forward to engaging in discussion on issues of interest with constructive spirit and cooperation.
