

General Statement by India under Agenda Item 5 delivered by Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey at the 61st Series of the Meetings of the General Assembly of WIPO on 21st September 2020. [WIPO HQ, Geneva]

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me convey our appreciation for your efforts and our support to your Chairmanship.

2. We congratulate Mr Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director-General of WIPO. We are confident that he and his team would continue to steer the organization in an efficient, transparent and inclusive manner, while working towards the twin inter-related goals of fostering innovation and fulfilling the developmental needs of the member States.

3. We want to place on record our sincere appreciation for the immense contribution made by the outgoing Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and his team. Under his leadership, the WIPO's collaboration and cooperation with India has attained new heights.

4. We appreciate that in spite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO's IPR services have continued to operate efficiently.

5. Intellectual Property lies at the very root of innovation that enables countries to meet their development challenges. India has taken significant steps towards promotion of innovation and creation of a dynamic, vibrant and balanced intellectual property system with particular focus on encouraging startups. We have also been actively involved in global effort to produce an effective and safe vaccine against Covid-19 as part of our contribution to this important global public good.

6. Our cooperation and collaboration with WIPO has intensified in recent years. We acceded to five IPR treaties in the last two years. India

has witnessed a substantial jump of 33 places in Global Innovation Index rankings since 2015.

Mr. Chair,

7. We welcome the proposal to have an extraordinary General Assembly in early 2021 to discuss substantive issues.

8. We urge member states to work towards resolution of the impasse over the decision on opening of WIPO External Offices, which will strengthen IP ecosystem globally.

9. We are committed to participating constructively in the deliberations and extend our full cooperation.

Thank You
