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**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Maung Wai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Myanmar
at the 51st Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of
the Member States of WIPO
Agenda 5: General Statements
(Geneva, 24 September 2013)**

**Madame Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

- At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of office as Chairperson of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your able leadership, this Assembly will produce very fruitful outcomes. My tribute also goes to the other members of the Bureau.
- I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation as you discharge your important responsibilities.
- I would also like to commend the outgoing Chair of the General Assembly, Ambassador Ugljesa Zvekic of Serbia, for his dedication and service extended to the Assembly.
- My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

Madame Chair,

- I would also like to thank Director-General Dr. Francis Gurry for the comprehensive report submitted to this Assembly, updating the developments in the work of WIPO. We wish to congratulate WIPO and the Member states for the successful adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled in June this year.

Madame Chair,

- Myanmar has now ushered in a new era. Since the formation of the new government 30 months ago, we have successfully undertaken many key reforms within a short period of time. With the increasing support and cooperation from the international community, we are confident that we will achieve our goals of democratic transformation, job creation, income generation and poverty alleviation sooner.

- Setting the economic development as one of the top priorities for the country, we are fully aware that the protection and enforcement of the Intellectual Property Rights would encourage foreign direct investment as well as stimulate the creativity and innovation for the development of related industries.
- The Myanmar Foreign Direct Investment Law was promulgated in November 2012. With the entry into force of this law, Myanmar is doubling its efforts in drafting a patent law, an industrial design law, a trademarks and service marks law and a copyrights law. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank WIPO for its assistance in these drafting processes and in the establishment of an IP office in Myanmar by sending relevant experts and enabling our officials to participate in the IP related activities including meetings and trainings courses abroad.
- Furthermore, we were very pleased to receive Director-General Dr. Francis Gurry in Myanmar in November 2012, and we are satisfied with the discussions that the senior officials had with him during the visit.
- We are looking forward to receiving continued support and assistance from WIPO in our efforts to develop a strong IP system in Myanmar.
- I thank you, Madame Chair.