



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

Distribution: General

G-15 Joint Statement

13th Session of WIPO's Committee on Intellectual Property and Development (CDIP); Geneva, 19-23 May 2014

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour and privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries, comprising 17 member states¹. G-15 was established in 1989 with the aim to, inter alia, tap the enormous potential of South-South Cooperation and North-South dialogue with a view to foster and promote sustainable development with shared common goals and leveraged capacities.

The Group would like to congratulate you for the work done so far in chairing WIPO's Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the preparation of the 13th Session of such an important Committee.

Mr Chairman,

In a changing world, where Knowledge Economy has become a vital component in the international economy, intellectual property becomes a key factor for growth and development. In this context, WIPO becomes a significant hub of the global economic system. For developing countries, this factor will be of great relevance if intellectual property contributes to the promotion of progress and socio-economic development for all.

Indeed, IP can be a key factor in fostering economic development by encouraging innovation and facilitating access to knowledge and technology. The members of G-15 believe that WIPO could play a greater role in promoting the understanding and adoption of IP policies and laws in Member States, respecting their different levels of development, as well as enhancing the flexibility of public policies in the area of IP.

¹ Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

The G-15's Member States view the adoption of the Development Agenda as an important step in terms of achieving the aspirations of developing countries for an international IP system that responds to their needs. The Development Agenda recognizes the need for WIPO to revise and re-orient its work to ensure that the IP system is more inclusive and development oriented.

The Group is of the view that the CDIP plays an important role in coordinating, promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Development Agenda. The Committee helps to maintain high-level discussions on the 45 recommendations adopted by the General Assembly in 2007.

The Group stresses that WIPO's activities should be supportive of the development goals agreed within the UN system. Accordingly WIPO should be required to play a proactive role to support national scientific and technological capability; foster access to knowledge and explore all possible mechanisms for innovation to effectively promote development. Furthermore, WIPO shall maintain a member-driven process.

Mr Chairman,

The Group welcomes the report of the Director-General on the implementation of Development Agenda recommendations, and would like to highlight that the implementation stage of the WIPO Development Agenda is a critical and an ongoing one. Work is yet to be done at WIPO to bring about much needed change to the Organization, mostly to effectively achieve results on the implementation of the 45 recommendations. It is agreed that completing a Development Agenda project does not mean exhausting the implementation of the relevant Development Agenda recommendations.

Key recommendations in this context would be to: 1) Uphold a holistic approach to - Development and IP; 2) Identify concrete, specific actions necessary to implement the agreed Development Agenda recommendations in letter and spirit and ; 3) Develop and support the holistic approach to Development and IP through coherent national policy.

The Group remains convinced that WIPO should continue to pursue balanced and development-oriented activities and express its commitment to work closely with Member States and the Secretariat to achieve this aim.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, our Group wishes the Committee every success in its work.

I thank you.
