

## **Civil Society Coalition Statement to the Second Inter-Sessional Intergovernmental Meeting on the WIPO Development Agenda**

**By Thiru Balasubramaniam**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman. We trust that in your able hands, this Inter-Sessional Intergovernmental Meeting on the WIPO Development Agenda will produce a fruitful outcome.

The Civil Society Coalition believes that the proposed work programme tabled by Brazil on behalf of the Group of Friends of Development and supported by India and Pakistan offers a clear way to structure the substantive debate for the 2nd IIM. The four themes proposed by the Group of Friends which include norm setting, a review of WIPO's mandate and governance, technical assistance and capacity building, and technology development, access to knowledge, technology transfer and related competition policies provide a constructive template in which to engender the integration of the development dimension into the core of WIPO's activities.

In particular, we would like to draw attention to the recommendation put forth by the 130 Heads of State and Governments of the G-77 countries and China which met at the Second South Summit in Doha, Qatar that WIPO "include in all its future plans and activities including legal advice a development dimension that includes promoting development and access to knowledge for all".

There is now considerable interest in the proposal to elaborate possible elements of an a2k treaty. The broad constituency of stakeholders who support such an initiative include large corporations like IBM, Cisco, and Verizon, groups like librarians, educators, blind people and the visually impaired, academic experts and scientists, public interest civil society groups, and governments. These groups support an access to knowledge (a2k) treaty that would protect, enhance and expand access to knowledge, and to facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries.

Thank you Mr. Chair.