

Statement by Egypt

Second Intersessional Intergovernmental Meeting On Development Agenda for WIPO, Geneva, 20-22 June 2005

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to see you chairing the Second Session of this important setting. We congratulate you for your re-election.

We also wish to attach ourselves to the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

As highlighted by the statement of the African Group, few days ago, particularly on the 16th of June, a very significant signal of concern was voiced by the Leaders and Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 on the current trends of the international intellectual property system and the need for the development dimension to be fully integrated in this system.

This was clearly reflected in the Plan of Action adopted at the end of their meeting in Doha, Qatar, in which the Leaders of this largest grouping for developing countries, which consists of more than 130 Member States representing the majority of the international community, explicitly called "on WIPO, as a UN agency, to include in all its future plans and activities including legal advice a development dimension that includes promoting development and access to knowledge for all, pro-development norm-setting, establishing development friendly principles and guidelines for the provisions of technical assistance and the transfer and dissemination of technology."

The Leaders further committed themselves "to enhance the development dimension of the international intellectual property rights system, taking into account the different levels of development of developing countries with a view to ensuring affordable access to necessary basic products, including medicines and educational tools and software, the transfer of knowledge, the promotion of research and stimulation of innovation and creativity"

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly believe that such a strong message emanating from the Second South Summit is a clear reflection of our sincere concerns and strong determination that in the reform of the United Nations, WIPO is not and should not be an exception. It also demonstrates my delegation's objectives to establish a comprehensive and effective development agenda for WIPO. This is evidently an increasingly visible demand on the international agenda and will undoubtedly continue to be so.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation was keen to actively participate in the discussions on the development agenda in the first session of this meeting in April and we view its outcome as a positive step towards deepening the understanding among us on the need to effectively integrate development in this house.

Having said that, and in order for us to hopefully reach the coming session of the WIPO General Assembly with concrete deliverables, which adequately addresses our concerns and ambitions, it is imperative for this session to have a more focused and productive approach to the various related issues before our hands.

Therefore, my delegation believes that the work programme suggested by the Group of Friends of Development is very valid and important in organizing a structured debate on the various proposals submitted by Member States.

To this end, my delegation would like to thank those Members who submitted new documents to this meeting, namely the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom. We had the opportunity to examine the submission from our sister Arab country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, co-sponsored by a number of Arab countries, and wished to make some preliminary remarks, while we would be glad to make more detailed remarks on its specific elements at a later stage when our debate becomes more structured.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that the proposals in this document related to technical assistance and capacity building are worth consideration. We also appreciate the effort made by the Kingdom of Bahrain to share with the membership, throughout this document, the role of WIPO in developing their national IP regime and we are pleased to note their satisfaction with the Secretariat, which has been mentioned numerously.

My delegation cannot agree more with the part of this document which emphasizes that development cannot be the sole responsibility of WIPO. This is a fact which we believe all Members agree with, and we are glad to see it re-affirmed in this document.

One part of the document reaffirms that WIPO has always taken into account and integrated the development dimension. In our view, it appears that the message coming out of the South Summit, in which His Majesty the King of Bahrain participated, contradicts with this statement and reflects otherwise. If WIPO adequately integrates the development dimension in its activities, we do not believe that the His Majesty the King of Bahrain, His Highness the Prince of Qatar, His Excellency the President of Lebanon and all other leaders of the Group of 77 would have been keen to insert in the Summit Plan of Action such an explicit, clear and strong call on WIPO.

On the other hand, my delegation finds the literature used in some parts of this document to be intriguing. For example, there has been a reference to the friends of development in

a context which my delegation did not quite understand. However, in the spirit of Arab solidarity, my delegation would refrain from seeking elaborations or making specific remarks in this regard.

At the end, Mr. Chairman, we again thank the Delegation of Bahrain for its contribution and, as mentioned, we believe that its specific proposals on technical assistance and capacity building merit careful consideration.

We are also glad to see that there are now a number of Arab countries tabling or cosponsoring proposals to this important process, and we strongly encourage them to continue their active participation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman