



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement on Agenda Item 16 – Preliminary Draft Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices by Pakistan at WIPO Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) (13 June 2024)

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the APG.

We attach great importance to the evaluation of the entire network of WIPO External Offices.

Our consistent position on the issue is guided by the principles of objectivity, inclusiveness, transparency, neutrality as well as the “Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices” agreed to by the member States at the 2015 WIPO General Assemblies. We also base our assessment on the recommendations contained in the External Auditor’s Report submitted during the 31st session of the PBC under document WO/PBC/31/3. The Guiding Principles and recommendations of the External Auditor continue to serve as important sources for the development of Terms of Reference for the evaluation of WIPO External Offices.

Mr. Chair,

The original mandate to evaluate the size and performance of the entire External Offices network was contained in the Guiding Principles regarding External Offices agreed at the 2015 Assemblies which state and I quote:

“The size and performance of the entire External Office network shall be evaluated every five years by the PBC, which may request the support of WIPO External Auditors or independent external evaluators, with due regard to the different mandates and functions performed by the External Offices. The terms of reference of such evaluation shall be decided by the PBC.” Unquote.

Pursuant to this mandate, we now have a preliminary draft of the Terms of Reference. Some key questions regarding the entity to be entrusted to carry out the evaluation, objectives of such an evaluation as well as its scope require further deliberations.

My delegation is of the view that it is essential that the evaluation answers the key questions including whether the external offices are essential to the appropriate functioning of WIPO and fulfillment of its mandate and its core objectives in a manner that they add clear value, efficiency and effectiveness to program delivery of the Organization.

In line with the 2015 guidelines, we strongly advocate that the evaluation be conducted by an independent and external entity in order to ensure the impartiality and objectivity of the evaluation.

We look forward to constructive discussions under this agenda item.

I thank you.
