



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

General Statement by Pakistan during Thirty-Fifth Session of the Program and Budget Committee, WIPO

22 May 2023

Mr. Chairman

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of Indonesia on behalf of Asia and the Pacific Group.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate you as well as the Vice Chairs on your respective elections.

My delegation has taken note of the valuable reports prepared by the Secretariat with regards to Audit and Oversight, Performance and Financial Review and Planning and Budgeting including the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2024/25.

Mr. Chairman

While we would engage separately on these reports under the relevant agenda items; I would like to highlight some general points at this stage.

First of all, it is heartening to note that despite disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO was able to maintain healthy revenues as well as achieve sound programmatic performance due to Results Based Management and prudent Financial Management. We hope that these positive trends would continue into the upcoming biennium.

Secondly, we appreciate the management as it was able to deliver concrete, visible results on ground under the Strategic Pillar 4, with priority to demand-driven interventions and projects. In this regard, we welcome the increase in development budget to 21.4%, increased attention to WIPO's contribution to SDGs as well as the establishment of RNDS Project Team. We hope that development considerations with regard to the Development Agenda as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would constitute key benchmarks in the program delivery during the next biennium.

Thirdly, we thank the Organization for activities carried out and projects implemented under WIPO's Response to COVID-19 including through COVID-19 Response Package as well as WHO, WIPO, WTO Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade. We support the continuation of WIPO's COVID-19 Response Package in the next biennium with a focus on, inter alia, a) capacity-building for optimum utilization of existing flexibilities in the global IP regime including in its trade related aspects, b) tangible technology transfer to fight current and future pandemics and c) participating and contributing to norms setting processes at various UN fora on pandemic preparedness in the future.

Fourthly, with regard to the Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, this meeting offers another opportunity to bridge differences on key pending issues to enable an objective, external and independent evaluation of the entire External Offices network.

Lastly, my delegation would like to reiterate the need to universalize the Membership of this Committee to all member states of WIPO. The restricted Membership of this important committee does not correspond to the need for WIPO's Member State's engagement on the important process of program and budget of this organization. We look forward to constructive discussions on this matter during the upcoming meetings in July this year.

Please be assured of my delegation's full support to you during the course of this meeting.

I thank you.