



*Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
presso le Organizzazioni Internazionali
10, Chemin de l'Impératrice
1292 Genève*

Statement of Italy

1. Mr Chairman, Mr. Director General, Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues, first of all I would like to point out that Italy aligns itself to the statements made by the **European Union** and by Japan on behalf of **Group B**.
2. In my national capacity, let me also join other Member States in commending the **Director General** and his staff for their valuable efforts in maintaining WIPO's rightful place as the global IP authority.
3. Italy attaches the utmost importance to the **role of WIPO** in developing a balanced and effective international intellectual property system through cooperation among States and in ensuring administrative cooperation among the Unions.

WIPO's activities are essential to foster **innovation and creativity** throughout the world and, needless to say, innovation and creativity are increasingly a core element in the achievement of competitiveness, economic growth and social progress.

This Organization has recently achieved remarkable **outcomes** in providing global IP services, IP information sharing and dissemination as well as norm setting activities. We expect it will build upon them and reaffirm its strong commitment.
4. Italy welcomes the results achieved in May with the adoption of the **Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications**. We consider it an important step forward in the Normative Agenda with

potential benefits not only for Countries that are currently part of the relevant registration system, but for the entire WIPO membership across the spectrum of development and for WIPO as an International Organization.

The Geneva Act facilitates the accommodation of existing differences between national systems for protecting Geographical Indications and makes the Lisbon System more attractive to producers from both Developed and Developing or Least-Developed Countries.

This result was made possible by a transparent and inclusive negotiation throughout the revision process up to the Diplomatic Conference in May, to which the entire WIPO membership could actively participate. We are confident that this spirit of compromise can be kept alive also during the phases that will bring to the implementation of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement.

In this regard, I wish to ensure that Italy has given careful consideration to the concerns recently raised by some Delegations about the financial situation of the Lisbon Union and remains fully committed to providing an active and concrete contribution to finding an effective solution, including with respect to the long term financial sustainability of the System. Here, I wish only to point out that we see no reason why the Lisbon System should be discriminated against.

5. There are other areas in which norm setting activities would be fruitful, as the harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration formalities through the adoption of a **Design Law Treaty**, in view of which Italy would welcome a consensual decision of the General Assembly on the convening of a Diplomatic Conference in 2016.

6. Furthermore, Italy wishes to confirm its support to the ongoing discussions towards the conclusion of a **Treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations** for the benefit of all users and looks forward to their successful outcome within the next biennium.

7. Finally, Italy acknowledges the importance of the discussions held during the past years on **Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore** and, being aware of the deadlock that the work is facing, believes that a compromise should be reached on a possible way forward ensuring an efficient time allocation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman