

**Speech of Afghan delegation**

**At the 51th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

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**Madam President,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the pleasure to participate at the Assemblies of Member States of WIPO and take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciations to the WIPO and its leadership specially to Director General for providing necessary programs for strengthening cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan on IP related issues.

**Madam President,**

Before acceding to WIPO, there were provisions under the Commercial Law of Afghanistan to protect the very few IP Rights and the department of Trade - Marks in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was in charge of registering Trade - Marks in collaboration with Commercial Courts.

However, a real and realistic approach of the IP rights is new experience for my country. The Constitution guarantees the right of authors, inventors and discoverers. These provisions paved the way for Afghanistan to join WIPO Convention in August 2005.

In 2007 the IP Board of Afghanistan was established under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries which included representative of various ministries and institutions.

Subsequently, in recent years WIPO has organized numerous activities for Afghanistan, such as workshops, seminars and study visits for IP officials and

related private sectors, including organizing the following specific activities for the year of 2013:

- A study visit on Trademark Examiners to an industrial property offices in a SAARC country.
- Organize a national awareness building seminar on IP related issues in Kabul during the last quarter of 2013.

We in Afghanistan need to overcome challenges we face in the implementation and enforcement of IP laws, such as:

- Insufficiency of IP experts and Awareness and enforcing IP rules.
- And lack of Academic studies on IP Information.

Therefore, Afghanistan need technical support of WIPO for establishment of Technology Innovation Support Center in the framework of Kabul University to provide innovators in the country with access to technology information services.

Madam President,

Afghanistan is interesting and pleased for estrengthening cooperation with the WIPO and I am happy to mention that Afghan delegation participated to the Marrakesh Diplomatic Conference which was held in Morocco in June 2013 and signed the Treaty to Facilitate Access of Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities. We hope that it would occur for convening a Diplomatic Conference for the IGC on Intellectual Property and Genetic Recourse Traditional knowledge and Folklore, during the 2014 - 2015 Biennium.

Afghanistan also welcomes the secretariat proposal for establishment of new external offices, and urge to compose a transparent procedure and set of criteria for this purpose.

At the end, I take the opportunity to reiterate Afghanistan's commitment to the principles of IP and I am hopeful with the continue assistance of WIPO.

**I thank you Madam President,**