



**Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
October 3 to October 11, 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Statement by Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of
Bhutan**

**Mr. President,
Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, our delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. President on your election as the President of the Assemblies. We are confident that under your dynamic leadership, you will skillfully guide the intensive deliberations. We would also like to congratulate Vice Presidents and other officers elected alongside with you and assure all of you our support as you steer the proceedings of the Meetings.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry for his insightful report and also congratulate his efforts towards fulfilling WIPO's important mandates. We would like to complement his team for its hard work and excellent preparation for organizing the assemblies.

Mr. President

Bhutan would like to align with the statements made by India on behalf of Asia and Pacific group and Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group. We support India's offer to host an external office in their country, which we believe will greatly benefit our region.

As regards the strengthening of Intellectual Property system in Bhutan, our IP office is finalizing the amendments to the Copyright Act and the Industrial Property Act. The amendments are in line with international practices and we hope to further improve the administrative and judicial framework to safeguard Intellectual Property Rights and also meet Bhutan's international obligations.

We have finalized the National IP Policy and it is before our Cabinet for approval. We would like to express our deep gratitude for WIPO's Technical Assistance in drafting the amendments and the IP Policy.

Bhutan recently up graded the IP office from a division to a department. The IP office will now have access to more resources to effectively carry out its mandates of promotion, protection and utilization of Intellectual property for the socio-economic development of the country.

Mr. President,

Bhutan is pleased with WIPO's continued role in assisting member states to use the IP system to develop, protect, enforce and exploit Intellectual Property Rights with a view to achieve cultural, social and economic development. In this regard, the Delegation notes with great appreciation the various programmes and activities that have been undertaken during 2015/16 fiscal year in Bhutan with the able support of WIPO. These include:

- Technical support in up grading and maintenance of Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS);
- National workshop on "Access to Technology for Innovation and on Establishing a Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) Network in Bhutan;
- Training on Substantive Patent Examination using external examination works.
- A National Workshop on Traditional Knowledge (TK), Traditional Cultural Expression (TCEs) and Genetic Resources; and
- National Workshop on Copyright and Related Rights

Like many LDCs, Bhutan has yet to take full advantage of the benefits of IP and would like to urge the continuation of WIPO's assistance to the LDCs as one of the priorities in the programs and budget of the WIPO.

Finally, our Delegation would like to wish this meeting a great success.

Thank you.