

Please check against delivery

**General Statement by H.E. Deepak Dhital, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN at Geneva, at the Fifty-Sixth Series of Assemblies of Member States of WIPO
Geneva, October 3-11, 2016**

**Mr. President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, I join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election. I would also like to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their respective elections.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by India on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group and that delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC group.

My delegation extends its sincere appreciation for the dynamic leadership provided to the organization by the Director General and also for his comprehensive and detailed overview of the activities carried out by WIPO over the last year. I also thank the WIPO Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for the Assemblies.

Mr. President,

Nepal's location in the lap of the Himalayas displays unique topographical contrasts. This engenders incredible natural and cultural diversity throughout the country. These immense resource potentials, together with the traditional indigenous knowledge are yet to be brought under the regime of intellectual property to strike a balance between economic growth and sustainable development that a country like ours calls for. Sustainable utilization and commercialization of such resources by prioritizing development of endemic technology and skill as well as traditional knowledge is of crucial importance for us.

The Government of Nepal is in the process of formulating a more comprehensive and integrated national IP Policy to encompass traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions. In this context, we stand for early conclusion of the relevant treaty on these issues.

We acknowledge the initiatives of WIPO towards establishing technological and innovation centres (TISCs), developing human resources, policy recommendations and other technical assistances. Nepal looks forward to collaborating with WIPO in the areas of its competence with focus on policy advice, productive capacity building, human and social development and expanding employment opportunities for the youths.

Nepal has been working closely with WIPO in the area of building national science, technology and innovation base. Internal consultations are on-going for the establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in collaboration with the WIPO.

We would also like to thank WIPO for selecting Nepal for the pilot project on cooperation on development and IPR education and Professional with Judicial Training Institutions in developing countries and LDCs.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes that the Marrakesh Treaty has entered into force. We also take note of the progress being made on Broadcasting Treaty, and we believe that the negotiations should come to meaningful conclusion based on the 2007 General Assembly mandate. We also want to see progress in the Design Law Treaty.

Mr. President,

Nepal understands the importance of the WIPO Development Agenda in the larger context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and appreciates the way WIPO has been pursuing it in all its activities. We believe that the Development Agenda has to be based on innovation and creativity and be accessible to the countries that need the most, with proper harmonisation between IP policies and development.

Let me conclude by reiterating over commitment to constructive engagement with all relevant WIPO processes. I am confident, Mr. President, that under your able leadership and well directed guidance, we will succeed in finding ways and means of breaking through the current impasse at WIPO and reaching a meaningful conclusion.

I thank you, Mr. President.