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**UK National Statement
General Assemblies 2020**

1. [The United Kingdom [aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of Group B.] [We] would like to thank you, Chair, Director General Francis Gurry, the Secretariat, and all Member States who have worked to ensure the General Assemblies take place in these unique and unprecedented times. This meeting of the governing bodies signals a welcome, and overdue, return to the intergovernmental work of the Organization.
2. The United Kingdom would also like to thank WIPO for its response to the challenges that Covid-19 has raised. From the creation of the policy tracker; the coordination and monitoring of activities relating to operational and legislative measures, to adapting its staff and services infrastructure. These actions were important in the coordination of information and demonstrate the need for WIPO and Member States to respond and adapt collectively to overcome the challenges of the pandemic. While noting these positive steps, the UK encourages WIPO to take stock of lessons learnt, particularly those that could be swiftly applied if the world was to face such a dire situation again.
3. Director General, on behalf of the United Kingdom, I wish to thank you for your dedication and commitment to intellectual property throughout your years at WIPO. You have demonstrated an instinctive enthusiasm to drive WIPO to delivering its fundamental objectives. You have brought Member States together to negotiate and agree treaties which globalise intellectual property rights. And within the wider international system, you have — been a leading advocate of intellectual property as a driver of global economic growth, innovation and new technologies.
4. Chair, the United Kingdom delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to Daren Tang as incoming Director General.
5. We assure Mr. Tang of our full support and we look forward to seeing his vision for the future and the development of a robust IP narrative. We believe one of the key tasks of the WIPO and its Director General is to highlight and promote to policymakers, to enterprises and to society the way that a sound IP ecosystem underpins growth.
6. We are confident that Mr. Tang will competently and diligently lead WIPO, and that he will continue to promote and maintain a sound international IP system that is fit for purpose, and meets the expectations of users, enabling effective secure protection digitally.

7. New innovative technologies such as AI present the international IP environment with some complex policy challenges. The UK looks forward to seeing WIPO's convening power bringing together strong collaboration across the membership to find solutions to these challenges.
8. The United Kingdom notes the importance of the organisational and governance structures which underpin WIPO. We are pleased to have played an active role in those mechanisms as a Member State, and will continue to do so, advocating the principles of accountability, transparency, ethics, independence, and sustainability across the organization.
9. Finally, Chair, the United Kingdom wishes the WIPO community a successful year ahead and looks forward to working with all our partners to deliver our common objectives and ambitions.

Thank You.