



## *PRESS RELEASE*

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### **DEVELOPMENT AGENDA GROUP (18 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) LAUNCHED AT WIPO MEETING TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS ON INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTO WIPO**

At the meeting this morning (26 April 2010) of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), **the Egyptian Ambassador, Mr. Hisham Badr, announced that a new group of developing countries named the WIPO Development Agenda Group (DAG) had been formed. The DAG comprises WIPO member states that are like-minded in their support for a development-oriented perspective on IP issues, and the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda across all areas of WIPO's work.**

The DAG currently has 18 developing countries -- Algeria, Brazil, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uruguay and Yemen. Egypt currently coordinates the Group.

According to the statement by the Egypt's Ambassador Hisham Badr the adoption of the Development Agenda by WIPO's General Assembly in 2007 was a milestone in achieving the aspiration of developing countries for a paradigm shift from viewing IP as an end in itself to viewing it as a means to serve the larger public goals of social, economic and cultural development.

He added that the implementation and mainstreaming of the recommendations of the Development Agenda (adopted by the WIPO General Assembly) now presents a considerable challenge. It requires a sustained and multi-faceted approach to the range of WIPO activities.

**Attached to the Egyptian statement of today is a 4-page document, the Development Agenda Group's Guiding Principles Paper. This paper provides the background to the Development Agenda initiative by developing countries in WIPO, and gives details on the group's views on how the Development Agenda should be implemented.**

The paper presents the group's main positions on 5 of the main areas of the WIPO Development Agenda proposals: (A) technical assistance and capacity building; (B) implementing norm-setting, flexibilities, public policy and public domain; (C) technology transfer, ICTs and access to knowledge; (D) assessment, evaluation and impact studies relating to implementing the Development Agenda; (E) improving WIPO's governance and decision-making processes; (F) a balanced approach to respecting IP, including a balanced approach to enforcement of IP.

**The paper reiterates the need for a paradigm shift in the way IP issues are viewed. This vision refutes the one-size-fits-all model which wants to harmonise laws leading to higher IP standards in all countries, and instead envisages a transformation of WIPO from a body servicing primarily IP rights holders to a "truly representative agency of the UN assisting member states achieving their development goals through a balanced and calibrated use of intellectual property."**

Attached please find the statement of Egypt introducing the establishment of the Development Agenda Group and the Group's Guiding Principles Paper (which is appended to the statement).

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