



SOUTH CENTRE

South Centre Statement to the Eighteenth Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Geneva, 31 October 2016

The WIPO Development Agenda should not be limited to the implementation of the agreed 45 recommendations. It encapsulates a vision for WIPO to ensure that all of WIPO's work, including its technical assistance and normative exercises, are development oriented.

The WIPO Development Agenda is part of the aspiration for a more balanced and inclusive multilateral intellectual property (IP) system, in line with the United Nations (UN) sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

The first independent review of the implementation of the agreed 45 recommendations is important to evaluate progress to date. In accordance with the 2010 General Assembly decision, this is the first review of possibly others that may come in the future, as necessary.

As noted by the report of the independent review, the implementation of the Development Agenda is a long-term process and a constant work in progress.

The South Centre agrees with the finding of the report that more time is needed for potential results that might stimulate changes in attitudes and approaches towards IP and development. The areas of improvement suggested in the report should be given as much attention as the findings.

It is very important that WIPO's activities in the areas of transfer of technology and use of flexibilities in the IP system are increased. With regard to transfer of technology, the findings of the analytical peer reviewed studies conducted under the DA project on IP and transfer of technology should be integrated into WIPO's webpage on technology transfer to reflect a balanced understanding of the interface between IP and transfer of technology. The CDIP should consider specific activities in relation to access to proprietary technologies and IP issues concerned such as licensing terms and royalty rates, and benefits of open access models.

Discussions on implementation of the SDGs should take a central role in the CDIP. The CDIP should also urgently advance discussions on implementation of the third pillar of its mandate relating to IP and development which is extremely relevant in the context of the adoption of the sustainable development goals, and discussions of relevant issues such as the report of the UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines.