



South Centre Statement to the WIPO Assemblies 2018

The South Centre expresses deep condolences on the passing away of the President of Viet Nam H.E. Tran Dai Quang. Viet Nam is a member of the South Centre and we deeply appreciate the collaboration of the Centre with the government of Viet Nam.

The South Centre is the intergovernmental organization of developing countries with 54 member States across Africa, Asia and Central and Latin America, that is supportive of multilateral work towards an inclusive, balanced and flexible international intellectual property system that benefits all countries and all types of users.

The South Centre fully supports the process towards enhanced and equitable geographical representation of developing countries in all World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) bodies, including the Coordination Committee and Program and Budget Committee.

The South Centre also supports the negotiations towards norm-setting in the area of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. The South Centre also supports advancement of the norm-setting activities on limitations and exceptions on copyright and related rights. It encourages further ratifications to the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to educational materials for people with visual disabilities.

Advancing the WIPO Development Agenda remains a priority. The WIPO is part of the United Nations (UN) and should contribute to the implementation of the UN sustainable development goals, to allow all countries and peoples to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The WIPO Development Agenda recognises the different context, needs and priorities of developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) in norm-setting and in the supply of WIPO technical assistance. Developing countries and LDCs need policy space to craft suitable national intellectual property regimes. The WIPO should support greater flexibility for developing countries and the preservation of the broad policy space allowed under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) for LDCs. It should assist these countries in avoiding the adoption, as a result of trade agreements or the use of unilateral measures (such as the United States Special Section 301) of standards of protection that exceed the TRIPS obligations and which are incompatible with the development needs and objectives of those countries.

The South Centre will continue to support its member States and the Group of 77 and China to design intellectual property regimes that support their development goals.

In this regard, the South Centre is pleased to announce that it is scaling up its expert advisory services to developing country governments in the area of intellectual property rights and

public health. The South Centre is able to provide national tailored-made advice and trainings on the use of TRIPS flexibilities for public health, and encourages any interested party to contact us for further information.