



Statement by the South Centre to the WIPO Assemblies on the Reappointment of the Director General, Daren Tang

21 April 2026

The South Centre congratulates Daren Tang on his reappointment as Director General of WIPO for the term 2026–2032.

We look forward to the presentation of a new Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) to guide WIPO's future work.

The South Centre encourages the new MTSP to prioritize the following:

- Serving all stakeholders equitably. Strengthen WIPO's commitment to a fair, balanced and inclusive international intellectual property (IP) system that serves development.
- Multilateralism and inclusive governance. Reaffirm WIPO's role in facilitating consensus-based outcomes that reflect the priorities of its full and diverse membership and advance the needs of those currently underserved by the global IP system.
- A reinvigorated Development Agenda. Mainstream the WIPO Development Agenda as a central organizing principle across all activities, actively supporting member states through technical assistance in using the policy space they need to implement IP laws suited to their national circumstances and development goals, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Technology transfer. Strengthen concrete support for technology transfer to developing countries, particularly in climate, health and agriculture.
- Fee reductions for developing countries and LDCs. Extend fee reductions for developing countries and LDCs across the full range of WIPO services, including IP filing services.
- More focus on innovation economics and policy. Deepen WIPO's focus on innovation in its full range, not only on the role of IP, including traditional knowledge systems and open and mission-driven innovation approaches, to better serve innovators and the public interest across all countries and contexts.
- Impact of artificial intelligence and new technologies. Strengthen WIPO's role to analyze and address the implications of AI and emerging technologies for innovation, advancing fair solutions for all countries and stakeholders.
- Reform of the Global Innovation Index. Broaden the Global Innovation Index to measure innovative capacity more comprehensively across all member states, including forms of innovation currently not captured in its methodology.

The next MTSP must respond to the global challenges of our time by advancing a WIPO that champions innovation capacity in all countries and communities, embracing a broader vision of innovation beyond IP and ensuring the benefits of innovation reach all countries and peoples.