



**50<sup>th</sup> session of the WIPO Assemblies  
Statement by H.E Ravinatha Aryasinha  
Sri Lankan Permanent Representative to the United Nations  
1 October 2012**

Mr Chairman,

My Delegation wishes you the best in chairing the 50<sup>th</sup> series of the WIPO Assemblies. We are confident that your able leadership will steer us toward a positive outcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director General, Dr Francis Gurry, for his comprehensive report and to also thank the Secretariat for their commendable efforts in organizing our work over the next few days.

At the outset, my delegation would like to align itself with the Statement made by the Permanent Representative of Brazil on behalf of the Development Agenda Group.

The role of IP has grown steadily over the last few years, and there is a greater understanding of how IP can better the socio-economic standing of developing countries. As a means of promoting IP throughout the island, Sri Lanka, with the joint assistance and dedication of WIPO, has over the years embarked on public outreach programmes to keep its populace better informed on IP. Furthermore, a WIPO technical cooperation project saw the automation of business processes at the country's National IP Office. With extensive developments in the area of GIs, the country has earned a competitive edge in commercial markets around the world. 'Ceylon Tea', 'Ceylon Cinnamon' and the 'Ceylon Sapphire' reiterates the highest quality and excellence that Sri Lanka constantly aspires to.

Having emerged from a 30 year long terrorist conflict, Sri Lanka has begun a new era of development. One of creativity, of innovation, an era where the traditions, cultural expressions, and beauty that our country has been built upon, can take the forefront. And, we have readily

embraced the important role of IP in this equation. The country's IP, and Science & Technology spheres have created a conducive environment for young innovators across the island. At the 'Inventions Geneva' Exhibition held in April 2012, 2 Sri Lankan innovators won gold and silver respectively, for their inventions in the fields of medical surgery and mechanical engineering.

Sri Lanka also wishes to express our deepest appreciation toward the sustained cooperation between WIPO and SAARC. Sri Lanka was honoured to host the WIPO-SAARC Roundtable on Environmentally sound Technologies, in May 2012. We are confident that these deliberations will greatly benefit the region.

Sri Lanka would also like to commend the progress in the areas of South-South cooperation & development, with the first annual conference drawing to a close last Friday, and also with regard to the outcome of the Beijing Diplomatic Conference on the protection of audiovisual performances. They serve as examples that with strong political will, we can achieve anything.

However, for many developing countries, arriving at its envisaged IP goals continues to be a struggle. IP systems at the national and international level, require to be development-oriented, in order to assist developing countries to reach those goals. In this regard, Sri Lanka would like to emphasize the crucial role that the Development Agenda plays in the work of WIPO. It is essential for development considerations to take the forefront in all our work, in order for every Member State to reap the benefits. Which is why, my delegation would like to stress the importance of the CDIP at this juncture, and would request that the committee considers a permanent agenda item on development and IP.

With regard to the work undertaken in other committees – in the area of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic resources and cultural expressions, my delegation identifies the need for a new calendar of meetings for the IGC in the coming year, in order to complete our work. With regard to the SCT, my delegation remains committed to our deliberations, and is confident that the committee's incorporation of the development Agenda recommendations in its work, will enhance the overall quality of our deliberations. On the SCCR, we're pleased with the progress achieved in the area of exceptions and limitations, and look forward to the convening of a

diplomatic conference for visually impaired persons. More detailed interventions will be made during the discussions under the specific agenda items.

In closing Mr Chairman, I would like to thank WIPO for the continued assistance the organization has provided to the IP sector in Sri Lanka. Allow me to assure the organisation of our fullest cooperation during these deliberations, and during our future work.

Thank you.