

Concluding Statement by Ambassador Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of Nepal, at the *Forum for Ambassadors and Senior Officials on Intellectual Property for the Least Developed Countries* organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on February 15, 2011

**Hon'ble Ministers,
Director General of the WIPO, Dr. Francis Gurry,
Excellencies the Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We have now come to a conclusion of this two day forum and I thank you all for your presence and active participation. This elaborated gathering remained successful in examining various aspects of intellectual property and development. We all revolved round, quite pertinently and justifiably, the question of how LDCs can develop IP and how IP can enhance the overall development of the LDCs. We also reflected on how LDCs can attune their policies, programmes and activities for the development of IP regime and how the development partners can better support the needs of LDCs. Experiences, insights and wisdom expressed in this forum will serve valuable inputs for the forthcoming LDCs IV.

On behalf of the LDCs group in Geneva, I thank Hon'ble Ministers H.E. Mr. Dilip Barua, Minister for Industries of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Frederick Ruhindi, Deputy Attorney General and Minister of State for Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Uganda, and H.E. Mr. Armando Inroga, Minister for Industry and Trade of Mozambique. We are honoured, Excellencies, by your presence and guidance. Your active participation and insightful presentations speak a lot about how sincere state leaderships are in understanding and harnessing the benefits of intellectual property and make a difference. I am also thankful to fellow ambassadors and expert delegates for being here and sharing their valuable thoughts.

I thank the Director General of WIPO Dr. Francis Gurry for his initiative in convening this forum after a series of regional meetings. These meetings underlined the growing importance of Intellectual Property (IP) as a tool for economic, cultural, social and technological development in LDCs. This Forum has taken note of your presentation yesterday and your highlights of WIPO's works in assisting the least developed countries in IP sector including the efforts in improving access to technology, enhancing market penetration and raising awareness about the importance of branding. I also commend the Deputy Director General Mr. Geoffrey Oneyaema, Director of LDCs Division, Mr. Kifle Shenkoru, Regional Directors, officials and experts from WIPO for sharing information and insights that emanated from their respective area of expertise.

My appreciation goes to the Secretary General of the UNCTAD Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi for his presentation yesterday and of course for his continuous support to

the causes and concerns of the least developed countries. He squarely pointed out that development of least developed countries cannot be left alone to the vicissitudes of the market alone and that development cannot happen in the absence of right institutional framework, strong and correct policy guidance. An effective and developmental state is indispensable. I would like to add that an effective state only can be an effective enabler, catalyst and facilitator for the economic and social development of the LDCs. Experiences have revealed that globalization has not worked fairly and in an inclusive manner. I also concur with Dr. Supachai's observation that more awareness is needed about the flexibility clauses in TRIPS and that the generous assistance from developed country is needed to materialize the benefits of technology transfer stipulated in TRIPS article 66.2.

Likewise, my thanks go to the Director General of the WTO Mr. Pascal Lamy and Under Secretary General and High Representative UN OHRLLS Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra for their remarks yesterday. We appreciate Mr. Lamy's six point emphasis that include, among others, assessment of individual priority needs of the LDCs, establishing technology base and regional arrangement to strengthen the IP system.

**Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We have tried to capture the spirit of the regional meetings and this forum in the form of the Agreed Conclusion. I believe the six deliverables are going to offer us a concrete direction in the field of developing IP regime and accruing benefits from this. The deliverables speak of, among others, the importance of adopting appropriate national policies and strategies on IP; enhancing professional skills and ensuring access to technology and knowledge. LDCs attach high importance to need based assistance and transfer of technology on predictable and sustainable basis. Ample promises have been made in this regard in BPoA, Millennium Declaration and other international fora, inter alia. Putting commitments into tangible actions has been rather slow. We expect that Istanbul Summit is going to be a game changer and harbinger of expedited actions.

I hope that the deliverables will make a difference in the life of our people we claim to be working and speaking for in these meetings. Issues discussed in the past two days provide some hope towards this direction. The role of WIPO in the implementation of these deliverables is crucial. We look forward to the day the deliverables will reach the poorest and the most vulnerable to external shocks in the LDCs.

Last but not the least, I thank the secretariat for their support in making this event a success. The interpreters have done a commendable job and we are thankful to them as well.

I thank you all once again.

