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**Statement of the Bhutanese delegation  
Fifty-First Series of Meeting of the Assemblies of the Member States of  
WIPO**

(23 September to 2 October 2013)

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Madam Chair,

The delegation of Bhutan joins the other delegations, in congratulating you on your election and would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation in steering the meetings. We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat and its team under the dynamic leadership of Director General Dr. Francis Gurry for their hard work and contributions during the past year, in realising the objectives of WIPO.

My delegation has noted that the agenda of the Assemblies contains important issues of complex and technical in nature which have been under deliberations in different bodies and standing committees of the WIPO during the past years. We would like to express our appreciation on the progress made by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) in its effort to bring about an international instrument to provide protection of traditional knowledge and folklore against abuse and misappropriation by unscrupulous commercial opportunists. Similarly, our appreciation also goes to all the other committees for their commendable work and would like encourage the committees to continue their important mandates.

Madam Chair,

Bhutan has greatly benefited in terms of technical inputs and capacity building programmes under WIPO's bilateral framework. We would like to inform you that the amendments of Industrial Property legislations (Copyright and Industrial Property Act) are on-going and would be completed by the end of this year. These amendments harmonize our legislations with provisions of international treaties and conventions.

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Similarly, the National Intellectual Property Policy would also be finalized by the end of the year. My delegation would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the invaluable contributions made by the Secretariat under the leadership of Director General and the senior management team. We urge WIPO to continue developing programmes that address the development needs of countries, particularly the LDCs, so that they are able to use Intellectual Property effectively for creating wealth and economic development.

Madam Chair,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate WIPO and all the Member States for the successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2013, which resulted in a new Treaty on Limitations and Exceptions for Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities. The treaty was made possible under the leadership of Director General, his team and also from the constructive engagement and productive efforts of all Member States.

We would like to thank the International Bureau for their hard work in preparing the Fifty-First Series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and for the excellent quality of documentation provided for the meetings.

Madam Chair,

I would like to inform this August assembly that Bhutan recently conducted its second parliamentary elections and a new government has been formed. Democracy has been introduced to Bhutan in 2008 not through struggle and strife, nor through popular demand of the people. It was introduced by a ruling monarch who believed that ultimately it should be the people that should have a say in the affairs and governance of the country and that democracy provides the best means to serve their interests.

Under a new democratic set up, Bhutan continues to make socio-economic progress. However, many hurdles and challenges remain before we are able to stand on our own feet and be self-reliant. While we remain committed and determined to realize our cherished goal of self-reliance at the earliest time possible, we will continue to rely on external assistance and support.

Before I conclude, I would also like to take this opportunity to inform this assembly that Bhutan attaches tremendous importance to the discussion on post-2015 development agenda and recognizes this as an opportunity for countries to share their experiences on development. In that spirit, following the High Level Meeting on *Happiness and Well-being* convened by Bhutan last year at the UN headquarters, Bhutan has established a group of about 60 international experts, comprising of academics from different countries, to work on elaborating the details and recommendations on a development agenda guided by Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness. The international experts have now completed their report, which the Royal Government of Bhutan will share with the UN member states, Secretary General and the UN General Assembly during the current 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the GA in New York. We hope that this report and the recommendations contained therein will contribute to the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to constructive deliberations on all agenda items in the coming days and we assure you of our delegation's support and cooperation to bring substantive progress on all the issues that lie before us.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

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