Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

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ITEM 12: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION: REGIONAL INNOVATION MODELS

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12.1 European Union

374. Today under this point of IP and innovation which has produced so many interesting debates and interventions in the past, we are proposing a new subject: regional innovation models. I will focus our presentation today, to a large extent, on the most in-depth and most developed and most complex and broad experience in this area which is the intellectual property and innovation system of the European Union itself. It is an example of where 28 countries came together and shared quite an extensive variety of mechanisms from legislative to jurisprudential to administration and granting of IP rights. Towards the end of my presentation I will also mention a couple of other very interesting, very successful regional models of sharing innovation resources, but I think this is really an issue where we could talk for several sessions because it has such a variety of angles to tackle it. If I also can remind colleagues that this afternoon during the lunchbreak we will have a side event co-sponsored by some of the countries that are also co-sponsoring this point which will build upon the discussion we had yesterday on trade secrets.

375. The European Union strongly supports regional integration in the area of intellectual property and innovation, because it fosters better understanding and political and economic links between neighbouring countries. The EU has put in place many successful models for regional innovation, both in terms of legislation, jurisprudence and the management of IP rights, since the European Union itself is an excellent example for regional integration.

376. We have put in place laws which are harmonized to a great extent in the area of intellectual property, which ensure legal certainty and predictability for business and right holders, as opposed to legal fragmentation along national borders. Our European Court of Justice plays also an important role in ensuring the consistency of the EU law by interpreting it to make sure it is applied in the same way in all EU member States. National courts of EU member States are required to ensure that EU law is properly applied, and when they are in doubt about the interpretation or validity of an EU law, they can ask the European Court for clarification through a mechanism called “preliminary ruling”. The same mechanism can be used to determine whether a national law or practice is compatible with EU law. Infringement proceedings can be started against a national government for failing to comply with EU law. The legal harmonization and the uniform jurisprudence ensure that, in the EU’s territory, the law is applied and interpreted consistently so that it provides legal certainty to operators.

377. One of the recent examples for regional innovation in the EU is the unitary patent and the establishment of the Unified Patent Court. The unitary patent is a legal title that will provide uniform protection across 26 EU countries. The new EU law will also set up a Unified Patent Court that will offer a single, specialized patent jurisdiction. The payment and management of the renewal of the patents, as well as the registration of the patents and the related rights will be managed centrally by the European Patent Office with respect to the territory of the participating member States. These new EU laws will improve the framework conditions for business to innovate by creating a unified patent system across the EU.

378. The unitary patent protection will make it possible for inventors, be they individuals, companies or institutions, to protect their invention in 26 EU countries on a one-stop-shop basis by submitting a single patent application. After the patent is granted, there will be no need to validate it in each country, which will save time and money for the applicants. Unitary patent protection will make the existing European system simpler and less expensive for inventors. It will end complex validation requirements and drastically limit expensive translation requirements in participating countries. By reducing the translation and publication costs, simplifying the maintenance of patents – their renewal – and simplifying the registration of transfers, licensing agreements and other rights the unitary patent will attract more foreign direct investment to the EU and thus contribute to growth and jobs. It is also expected to stimulate research, development and investment in innovation. Unitary patent protection will also protect inventions better than the current system. Due to the prohibitive costs involved in the national validation of European patents, many inventors currently only patent their inventions in a handful of countries. This makes inventions less valuable as the lack of protection in other countries allows them to be copied more easily. The unitary patent will increase small and medium-sized enterprises' access to patent protection and also increase the scope of patent validations and knowledge dissemination.
Easier and cheaper access to patents in Europe will result in an increased number of innovative SMEs. SMEs have a major role in job creation since they ensure two-thirds of private sector jobs. The increase in the number of new businesses, therefore, can be expected to have a positive impact on job creation. This enhanced integration will have a positive impact also on consumers' access to goods and services. A better integrated market ensures better cross-border trade and facilitates fight against counterfeit goods.

379. The Unified Patent Court will have exclusive jurisdiction for the enforcement of unitary patents. The UPC will hear actions related to infringement of unitary patents, counterclaims for revocation, revocation actions, actions for provisional and protective measures and injunctions, actions against decisions of the EPO relating to unitary patents and actions for damages or compensation from provisional protection by published applications. This will provide a more efficient and cost-effective system as patents will not need to be enforced separately in each State, as is the case today. The UPC will create a consistent and uniform patent jurisprudence and guarantee more expeditious proceedings and more predictability in patent litigations. The UPC will have local, regional and central divisions and an arbitration and mediation centre, which will contribute to the expeditious settlement of legal disputes and makes the system more accessible for its users. The Training Centre of the UPC guarantees that its future judges will be equally highly qualified throughout the contracting states, which is the precondition of a uniform and predictable jurisprudence.

380. The European Union Intellectual Property Office is another example for the regional management of intellectual property rights. The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), which was known as OHIM until 23 March 2016, was created as a decentralized agency of the European Union to offer IP rights protection to businesses and innovators across the EU and beyond. Since its inception, its core business has been the registration of EU trademarks and registered Community designs, which are valid throughout the European Union. The Office also carries out examination, registration, opposition and cancellation procedures for EU trademarks and examination, registration and invalidity procedures for Registered Community Designs. All decisions adversely affecting a party to proceedings can be appealed to the Boards of Appeal of the Office.

381. In order to further support IP right holders, the Office engages in a wide range of cooperation and convergence activities with other IP offices. However, its work at EU level also extends to the harmonization of registration practices and the development of common tools, in cooperation with national and regional IP offices throughout the EU-28, users and other institutional partners. Together, this is the so called European Trade Mark and Design Network, working together to offer users a similar registration experience, be it at national or at EU level.

382. The EUIPO also hosts the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights. The Observatory brings public and private stakeholders together in the fight against piracy and counterfeiting. For the EUIPO, this has meant becoming an active participant in the next stage of the intellectual property lifecycle which is helping to secure the results of creativity and innovation.

383. Concerning the management of plant variety rights, the Community Plant Variety Office merits attention. This is a European Union agency, which manages a system of plant variety rights across the 28 member States. The CPVO provides EU-wide protection for new plant varieties, which is a cost-effective, fast and efficient way for breeders to protect their new plant varieties. The core task of the CPVO is processing of and taking decisions on applications for Community plant variety rights. Furthermore, the CPVO either directly or by its Administrative Council, advises the Community institutions, Council and Commission, and the EU member States on Plant Variety Rights legislation and related policy areas. The CPVO furthers effective plant variety protection through awareness-raising activities designed to foster respect for plant variety rights and encourage the development of enforcement tools. In UPOV, the International Union for the Protection of Varieties of Plants, the CPVO plays a prominent role. It also supports research and development activities aimed at improvement of the DUS testing methods.

384. Another area of regional integration in the EU is the harmonized law on geographical indications. The EU operates three systems for the protection of geographical indications, for wines (aromatized wines), spirit drinks and for agricultural products and foodstuffs. These were created to provide uniform protection for GIs throughout the European Union. The European Commission
operates the E-Bacchus database which consists of the Register of designations of origin and geographical indications of wines protected in the EU, the DOOR database for agricultural products and foodstuff and the E-Spirit Database for the spirits. These electronic databases make the EU GI systems transparent and searchable.

385. These are only some examples of the regional mechanisms we have in place. It is not surprising that we reiterate here the EU support to other regional innovation models all around the world. I would like to highlight a couple of them. The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization and the African Intellectual Property Organization are also successful examples of regional cooperation of their contracting members. The EU supports the work of ARlPO, because it promotes the development of intellectual property laws appropriate to the needs of its members, establishes common services and training schemes, and assists its members in the acquisition and development of technology and the evolving of common views on intellectual property matters. ARlPO developed the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs, which has 17 contracting members, and the Banjul Protocol on Marks, with 9 contracting members, and these legal instruments introduced harmonization to a certain extent, which helps business to protect and enforce in an easier and more effective manner their IP rights in the territory of the contracting members. OAPI also plays an important role in the regional integration of its members by protecting industrial property rights, disseminating technical information and providing training on IPRs. The OAPI system with its uniform legislation, the Bangui Agreement, with a common office, centralized procedures and single IP titles, ensures more predictability and cost-effectiveness for the IP intensive industries.

386. These are only a couple of examples. There are several more that we follow and support with considerable interest. I look forward to hearing the contributions that the co-sponsors and other Members may have on this issue.

12.2 Australia

387. Australia is pleased to have co-sponsored discussion in this TRIPS Council on regional innovation models. Australia is keen to actively contribute to a diverse range of regional innovation models and share in the outcomes they bring. We recognize that innovation is critical to our region's economic prosperity. We acknowledge the role that regional engagement and regional systems play in underpinning this important outcome.

388. Connections made and maintained through regional innovation models between governments, education, science and research institutions and our private sectors will help to create new and lasting connections, further economic diversification and share ambitious trade and sustainable development outcomes.

389. The Australian Government has placed regional models at the centre of its domestic innovation strategy, the National Innovation and Science Agenda. As part of this Agenda, Australia is establishing Landing Pads in San Francisco, Tel Aviv, Shanghai, Berlin and Singapore. Landing Pads will provide Australian market-ready start-ups, many with IP rich ideas, with an operational base in these regional innovation hot spots. Emerging Australian companies will gain access to international expertise, international supply chains and the global market. All Landing Pads will be operational by the end of this year.

390. Australia also places a high importance on innovative programmes within the region. For example, on 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced $3.2 million of funding for a new programme: the Regional Collaborations Programme.

391. The Regional Collaborations Programme is designed to enable Australian researchers and businesses to strengthen links with their counterparts across the Asia-Pacific region and to develop innovative products and solutions to shared challenges.

392. Funding multi-partner activities that facilitate greater strategic engagement and collaboration between industry and researchers in science, research and innovation will help to reduce barriers and promote open collaboration throughout the Asia-Pacific in developing innovative solutions to issues of regional and national significance.
393. This investment will also build research capability across the region and establish enduring and significant networks between Australia and other key economies. In turn, this will increase Australia's science and research credentials, create jobs and tap into international expertise.

394. The Australian Government has developed Source IP, a tool which aims to promote Australian research internationally by identifying collaborations and licensing opportunities. Source IP is a digital marketplace for sharing information, indicating licensing preferences and facilitating contact for IP generated by the public research sector in Australia.

395. One local example of Source IP’s success is the collaboration between the Australian tech start-up company "Forgite Helmet Systems" with the Australian based University of New South Wales, based on technology that was discovered through Source IP.

396. IP Australia is also working to connect Australian public sector innovators to other regions by promoting patents listed on Source IP with a number of sites overseas, including the major UK patent marketplace, and the Danish Patent and Trademark Office.

397. IP Australia has engaged all 40 Australian universities, the full panel of Australian Medical Research Institutes and Cooperative Research Centres, and the business community to participate in the project.

398. As a final example, I would like to showcase the good work of the regional based Intellectual Property Committee for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand free trade agreement, the AANZFTA.

399. The membership of the AANZFTA constitutes one of the most dynamic regions in the world. The IP Committee formed by this agreement provides an opportunity for Members to identify and address areas of common interest. For example, it is the launch pad for IP Australia’s Regional Patent Examination Training Program. The RPET, as it is commonly known, helps to enhance the consistency and quality of patent examination in participating offices, enabling them to improve their examination methods to meet international standards. For businesses, this improvement in examination standards creates greater confidence in file patent applications in the region and to transfer technology across borders.

400. The RPET Program has been internationally recognized by receiving a Gold and Silver Award at the 2016 Brandon Hall Group Excellence Awards held in the United States.

401. To conclude, the Australian Government actively engages in regional innovation models in a number of ways. Examples presented today have included regional innovation models that are integral part of Australia’s domestic innovation programme, collaborative programmes to firstly connect innovators within the Asia-Pacific region and secondly to connect Australians with other regions and finally the positive work of the IP Committee facilitated through our regional free trade agreement.

402. We have welcomed this discussion today and encourage others to join us in sharing national experiences and practices.

12.3 Switzerland

403. Please first be prepared for a little excursion to calculation and this is a lawyer as your guide: what speaks in favour of regional innovation models? It is quite simple: 1 is just 1. In IP and innovation, however, 1 and 1 is 3!

404. What do we mean by this: innovation, and thus also the creation of IP, is, in almost all instances, a collaborative process, in which “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”. Transposed to a government’s efforts to create a prosperous environment for IP and innovation, this is a wake-up call to use regional innovation models as a key element in its innovation strategy.

405. Intellectual property rights play an eminent role in facilitating the process of regional integration. IP protection and the availability of effective means of enforcement provide countries, companies and individuals with the legal certainty they need to confidently and securely trade their
IP products and services across national borders. Such legal security is an important factor when a company considers setting up a regional value chain. For example, when establishing a multi-country manufacturing line. This is only promising if IPRs are respected throughout the whole production and supply chain. Without this, companies will be reluctant to outsource their production to other countries, transfer or share technology with foreign companies for the purposes of research, development or supply partnerships. Accordingly, IP protection is one ingredient, among many others, of course, needed to strengthen regional economic ties.

406. The following are examples of regional innovation models in which Switzerland participates. Inherent in the approach suggested by the topic we discuss today is that, geographically, we refer to "our" region. There is, thus, an obvious emphasis on examples from Europe. We request Members not to misunderstand this as a bias, particularly following after the EU intervention which had this focus as well. We will present, however, our experience from a non-EU-member State perspective. It is very clear to us that the Council will only gain the bigger picture by adding and comparing the experience and examples of innovation models shared by Members from other world regions.

407. Let me start with a success story of a Pan-European innovation cooperation: the European Patent Organization of which Switzerland was a founding member in 1977. The operational heart of the organization is the European Patent Office (EPO). The EPO's core activity is the examination of patent applications and the grant of European patents. In addition, EPO provides patent information and training services to lawyers, patent office staff, judges and other interested parties. Its participation in the EPO results in significant benefits for Switzerland and its inventors, for example, in terms of the possibility to receive patent protection with one application in up to 38 European countries, but also as far as timeliness and affordability of patent granting in Europe is concerned, by offering free first-class international patent information, harmonized patent quality and not least efficient use of financial and human resources due to a single, centralized application and examination process. EPO member States also benefit from technical cooperation, be it among EPO Member States, or with IP partners worldwide. Key partners in that respect are, of course, also other organisations in charge of regional innovation systems. ARIPPO, OAPI and the Eurasian Patent Office come to mind among others.

408. The Patent Union between Switzerland and Liechtenstein is an example of a bilateral innovation model between two neighbouring countries. In 1978 the two countries concluded, in the framework of their Customs Union Treaty, a bilateral Treaty on the Protection Conferred by Patents for Inventions. They now form a unitary territory for the purposes of patent protection. This means that a patent valid in Switzerland is automatically valid in Liechtenstein. Neither country needs to be designated individually. Based on the successful experience made in the patent area, Switzerland cooperates and coordinates with Liechtenstein its legislative work also in a number of other IP areas.

409. When thinking about IP and regional innovation models, universities and research centres have an important role to play. Euresearch is a network agency mandated by the Swiss Government to provide targeted information, hands-on advice and transnational partnering related to European research and innovation programmes. The network is composed of a Head Office in Bern and Regional Offices at each University and the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne. In cooperation with the EU's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation, Euresearch mobilized for example support to develop a vaccine against Ebola. In this three-year project, the healthcare company GSK and a Swiss University Hospital (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois - CHUV) contribute to the development of the vaccine with their expertise and by making their infrastructure available for clinical trials. In this case of regional, institutionalized cooperation, IPRs facilitate and thus promote the research and development of an innovative vaccine by ensuring that each partner gets its return on investment and a fair share of its profits made.

410. SwissCore, the Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education, completes the work conducted by Euresearch and is the liaison office in Brussels. It acts as bridge between Swiss and European knowledge institutions. The Human Brain Project (or HBP) is such a flagship project, a large ten-year scientific research programme that aims to build a collaborative scientific research infrastructure to allow researchers across the globe to advance knowledge in the fields of neuroscience, computing, and brain-related medicine. Funded largely by the European Union, the HBP is coordinated by the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland. It is self-evident...
that, in order to be able to smoothly collaborate, the many partners of that giant science and research project, need a detailed contractual agreement on the management and sharing of IPRs that each of them creates and contributes to the joint venture.

411. The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) may serve as another regional innovation model. As you may know, CERN's laboratories are situated at the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva. Its scientists use the largest particle physics laboratory in the world, including particle accelerators and the impressive large hadron collider. Intellectual property rights and technology transfer play an important role in this regional innovation collaboration. The CERN put in place an IP policy and a dedicated Technology Transfer Office which takes care of the management of CERN's inventions and the organization's intellectual property rights, promoting the transfer of technology. The 2016 Global Innovation Index calls CERN a successful and exemplary regional innovation initiative. The scientific achievements reached at CERN, however, are not only important for the European region, but make substantive contributions to the international scientific community. And to society as a whole, as we know. Sir Tim Berners Lee World Wide Web had the CERN as its birthplace. An invention that can be called – albeit a bit euphemistically - a by-product of the CERN regional innovation project.

412. Switzerland is convinced that regional innovation can benefit tremendously from cooperative business models, such as public private partnerships. Such partnerships can play an important role in driving innovation, not only domestically, but also regionally and internationally. Public private partnerships enable to pool resources, form new industry clusters and create space outside the government structure that allows innovation to flourish. Such cooperation is crucial to facilitate inventions and transform them into real innovation, meaning, innovative products actually sought after in the market. This is key in an environment where competition is fierce.

413. Swissnex is a platform which promotes such private public partnerships for the sake of bilateral and regional cooperation for innovation. Swissnex is a science and technology network which connects Switzerland to innovative hubs in key regions of the world. It is an initiative by the Swiss Government, managed by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). There are currently six regional Swissnex branches worldwide, in Boston, San Francisco, Singapore, Shanghai, Bangalore and Rio de Janeiro. Each regional Swissnex agency promotes public-private or private-private ventures between Swiss companies and those in the respective region, reaching out to academics, policy-makers and others stakeholders. The network also relies on science and technology counsellors based in 20 Swiss Embassies around the world. Since its creation in 2000, Swissnex has become an important player in Switzerland as a link for Swiss companies to foreign science and innovation markets. Intellectual property rights are a crucial aspect in the management of these public-private ventures promoted by Swissnex. They form the legal framework that enables such cross-regional innovation schemes to prosper.

414. In conclusion, we note that successful regional innovation models require cooperation not only at all levels of government, but also between the public, academic and private sector. The countries of a region can help facilitate and support innovation cooperation among themselves through reliable intellectual property protection systems, which promote rapid diffusion of knowledge, best practice and skills within a geographic area, providing added value for all stakeholders participating in innovation partnerships. The benefits are not limited to the economy of an individual country, but have many positive regional spill-over effects.

415. We look forward to hearing the experience of other Members with innovation models in other world regions, about lessons they learned and questions they may have.

12.4 Japan

416. Today, the delegation of Japan will make our presentation based on the PowerPoints slides and the handout that has been made available in the back of this room.¹

417. Today, the delegation of Japan would like to share our views and experiences in intellectual property and regional innovation. Our ultimate goal here is not only to initiate regional innovation

¹ See Room Document RD/IP/14.
but also to ensure its continuity. Japan would like to propose a system to ensure sustained regional development.

418. This approach tries to promptly incorporate the views and needs of industry through consultations and support not only by the governments involved but also by representatives from the industries in both countries.

419. By starting from a network covering two countries, our Partner and Japan, and then further expanding it to include neighbouring countries, Japan believes we can effectively create a network covering the whole region.

420. The specific topics to be discussed for the initiatives are ways to activate regional innovation such as by advancing and supporting (1) research and development, (2) human resource development, (3) improvements in financial systems and support, (4) improvement in business matching capabilities, and (5) intellectual property protection. Japan believes that appropriately protecting and utilizing intellectual property are the keys to forming the basis for an innovative business environment.

421. As an example of promoting regional innovation, I would like to explain our support for the Southeast Asian region.

422. The line graphs on the top of the slide, "Foreign direct investment from Japan to East Asia" and "Changes in ASEAN-Japan Trade Amounts", clearly show that Southeast Asia has rapidly become one of our most important partners.

423. In this region, we first started with various bilateral cooperative initiatives such as the Vietnam-Japan Joint Initiative (since 2003) and Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative (since 2013).

424. Building upon such bilateral initiatives, the ASEAN Region and Japan have started the ASEAN-Japan Public-Private Dialogue on New Industries, a regional cooperative framework, in 2014. With the involvement of industry representatives in addition to government officials, the potentials and challenges of new industries have been discussed, leading to initiatives for raising awareness on innovation in industry and increasing cooperation among businesses.

425. As I mentioned on the second slide, one initiative to encourage regional innovation is to appropriately protect and utilize intellectual property. ASEAN, under its own initiative, set four IP strategic goals with different ways for increasing competitiveness and productivity, which is shown here.

426. The ASEAN IPOs-JPO IPR Action Plan was developed in order to support initiatives for those goals listed on the previous slide.

427. On 19 July 2016, the 6th Japan-ASEAN Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia, between ASEAN IP Offices and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

428. At the meeting, the "ASEAN IPOs-JPO IPR Action Plan 2016-2017" for the fiscal year 2016 was formulated. At the same time, Japan confirmed that it will further contribute to building IP infrastructure based on new challenges in every country while strengthening support for human resource development and the ASEAN Region countries' accessions to international treaties.

429. Specifically, the following items were agreed:

   a. Holding training courses on patent examination guidelines as one means for formulating/revising patent examination guidelines.

   b. Sharing expertise on the Madrid Protocol and Hague Agreement as a means to enable ASEAN Region countries to accede to international treaties.

   c. Sharing methods used to train examiners in Japan, sharing expertise on quality management in terms of examination and managing examination practices, and further
sharing expertise on how to make use of other offices' examination results, which are means for developing human resources and managing examination practices

430. Concerning cooperation on human resource development, for example, the JPO welcomed 5,137 trainees from 75 countries and 5 regions and sent 587 experts to 36 countries and one region.

431. Japan hopes that the initiatives on the IP system shown here will help to improve the landscape for promoting regional innovation and develop an attractive and dynamic business environment not only for overseas investors but also for domestic industries. Japan also expects to see innovation further expand to other regions.

12.5 United States

432. The United States welcomes this opportunity to co-sponsor this item on IP and Innovation: Regional Innovation Models. We thank Australia, European Union, Japan, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei for also co-sponsoring this item.

433. Specifically, our focus today is on regionalism, including the relationship between regional IPR treaties and institutions, and regional innovation networks. Regional integration has come to provide a transformative feature of the innovation landscape.

434. Such regional innovation is proliferating, in part, as the result of IPR initiatives that have emerged out of a variety of regional undertakings, such as customs unions, regional IP organizations, and plurilateral trade agreements.

435. This morning, we will consider two significant and mutually reinforcing elements: the emergence of regional IPR systems; and the growth of regional innovation networks.

436. Turning first to regional IPR systems, these are both numerous and diverse. Some regional systems have a mandate focused exclusively on IPRs, while others have comprehensive competence over IPRs among many other disciplines. Some include institutions and other services, such as examination and registration of specific IPRs, while others are governed by regional IPR commitments, the implementation of which is carried out by relevant national authorities.

437. These varied regional models provide a wealth of examples whose practical experience with norm-setting, cooperation and creative solutions for maximizing limited resources we believe are instructive for this Council.

438. However, while different models proliferate, they do share common features and objectives, which benefit not only the country parties of such regional systems, but also right holders and the peoples of theses region more broadly. These benefits include leveraging shared resources, work-sharing, increasing efficiencies, reducing costs, developing common standards, diffusing knowledge, and coordinating technical assistance, capacity-building and awareness-raising.

439. Today, we will touch on but a few of these copious regional systems. Take ARIPO, for instance, where its members have adopted several regional treaties addressing specific IPR standards, including the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs with 18 regional parties, and the Banjul Protocol on Marks with nine regional parties. These agreements provide substantive IPR rules and create institutions for the examination and protection of regional intellectual property rights.

440. For example, under the Harare Protocol, the ARIPO Office is empowered to receive and process patent and industrial design applications on behalf of States party to the Protocol. Applicants need only file one application, and can designate anyone of the Harare Protocol Contracting States in which that applicant wishes the invention or industrial design to be accorded protection.

441. The Gulf Cooperation Council provides another model of regionalism, where IPR constitutes one of many substantive issues provided under the overarching mandate of this Organization that consists of six countries.
442. The GCC Trademark Law, for instance, contains binding legal provisions governing opposition, cancellation, and publication of trademarks as well as enforcement rules. Likewise, the GCC Patent Law, which established the GCC Patent Office, acts as a unified filing system. Under this system, applications granted within its system automatically impart protection in all six GCC member countries.

443. Likewise, APEC, which is principally an economic and trade forum consisting of 21 member economies in the Asia-Pacific region, has recognized that IPR protection and enforcement is a key factor for promoting foreign trade and investment, as well as for boosting economic development.

444. In pursuit of this objective, APEC economies have established the Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG), with the aim to ensure adequate and effective protection, through legislative, administrative and enforcement mechanisms, of IPRs in the Asia-Pacific region based on the principles of the TRIPS Agreement and other related agreements. And, of course, an extensive network of hundreds of Regional Trade Agreements has developed, which provide for specific rules governing IPR protection and enforcement between the agreement parties.

445. Building bridges between regions, including through RTAs, further extends the value and benefits of IPR regionalism. The IPR provisions of trade agreements can provide a critical enabling environment for innovation not only within a region, but across regions.

446. The fabric of IPR regionalism, therefore, consists of numerous and varied strands, often overlapping with other regional initiatives and further woven together with national and multilateral law and practice, including with respect to TRIPS Agreement implementation. Such regional work is further complimented and enhanced by a wide array of other initiatives, including between regional IPR authorities.

447. Exemplifying such initiatives are the Patent Prosecution Highway and the Global PPH, which provide significant benefits for both national authorities and patent applicants, including by reducing costs, time, duplication and workload, while increasing efficiencies through simplified documentation requirements and reuse of search and examination results as part of patent application process.

448. Turning to Regional Innovation Networks, regional IPR systems, such as those we have discussed, can provide the foundation and scaffolding to build regional innovation networks. These networks can consist of universities and research laboratories, financial institutions and regional development banks, private sector activity, public-private partnerships, and innovation clusters.

449. Take Stanford University's Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies, which launched innovation centres in West and East Africa. For example, in May 2016, the first group of business leaders selected by Stanford Seed gathered in Nairobi to begin a 12-month process led by Stanford Graduate School of Business faculty. Aimed at driving sustainable growth in the East-African region through private-sector-led development, the Seed programme is training entrepreneurs from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, and Ethiopia through a yearlong, interactive, educational journey based at Seed's regional centre in Nairobi.

450. Likewise, the Massachusetts's Institute of Technology's Centre of Bits and Atoms has partnered with the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Strategy (AMTS) implementation unit of the Government of South Africa to roll out ten Fabrication Laboratories, or "FabLabs", around the country, providing disadvantaged communities with opportunities in the design, testing and fabrication process.

451. Regional Development Banks also feature prominently in the enabling environments of regional innovation. For example, the Asia Development Bank provided initial funding for IPEX, Cleantech Asia, which provides clean technology matching, advisory and deal facilitation services in Asia. IPEX works with technology owners worldwide, and technology users or project developers in Asia to facilitate clean technology transactions.

452. Likewise, the Inter-American Development Bank financed PROSUR, a harmonized IP system in South America among Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay. Under this initiative, common software for interconnection of domestic IP offices has
been adopted, and a tool for cooperation in patent examination and a common regional form for filing trademark applications have been developed.

453. In the area of climate change, the Global Environment Facility has approved funding for four Climate Technology Transfer and Finance Centres, which are housed at multilateral development banks in Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

454. Finally, innovation clusters - which are geographic clusters of interconnected companies, suppliers, service providers, as well as academic institutions, government agencies and other organizations - are emerging as a powerful regionally-based engine for economic growth and development that relies heavily on strong underlying IPR protection and enforcement systems.

455. The United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) plays a leading role in promoting innovation clusters in the United States and building bridges with such clusters in other regions.

456. EDA's Partnership Planning programme works with regions to develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), while its Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship leads the Regional Innovation Strategies Programme to spur innovation capacity-building activities across clusters in the United States.

457. And EDA's work extends beyond US regions to Latin America broadly, including pursuant to the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Organization of American States on Competitiveness, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Americas.

458. In conclusion, these are but a few of the numerous initiatives and trends exemplifying the emerging power of regionalism to deliver the benefits IPR in a manner that compliments national and multilateral IPR and innovation efforts.

459. These case studies speak volumes regarding practical and creative solutions regarding the administration of IPR laws and institutions to reduce costs and burdens, share work, avoid duplication, and pool resources, whether they be financial resources or know-how.

460. Regionalism is particularly valuable when we consider efforts to implement the TRIPS Agreement. Many WTO Members have looked to their own regions as the principle vehicle for TRIPS Agreement implementation, and many other WTO Members look to regional institutions as a key interlocutor for capacity building and technical assistance with respect to such implementation.

461. And, of course, regionalism cannot be forgotten when considering the drivers of innovation. There exists a strong and inextricable link between regional IPR systems and regional innovation networks.

462. In other words, to be engines of economic growth, our regions cannot be the innovation clusters we need them to be without strong and effective IPR systems to sustain them. As confirmed in the 2016 G20 Communiqué: "To achieve innovation-driven growth and the creation of innovative ecosystems … we emphasize the importance of open trade and investment regimes to facilitate innovation through Intellectual Property Right (IPR) protection." (2016 G20 Communiqué, paragraph 12).

12.6 Chinese Taipei

463. My delegation is pleased to join the United States and other Members in sponsoring this agenda item. We are very pleased to have the opportunity of sharing our own experiences with fellow Members and of being able to learn from the best practices of other Members at the same time. We fully identify with the observation made by the delegates of the United States and other sponsors that innovation transcends boundaries and has become increasingly regional in nature. It provides a transformative feature of the innovative landscape.

464. My Government keeps promoting innovation to foster industries' growth and facilitate transregional IP cooperation, but first I will share my Government's effort for the start-ups. The innovative start-ups have become remarkable worldwide. Until now, we have already established
more than 160 incubations to promote business incubation, facilitate SMEs growth and seek for emerging business opportunities.

465. Allow me to take the Kaohsiung Software Incubation Center - or KSIC for short - as an example. KSIC provides one-on-one assistance in technology and business operation to fortify the venture capital and investor network and to search globally for business opportunities for the incubation centre. A wide-range incubation service to start-ups in different phases is provided. In recent years, we have successfully attracted many start-ups to engage in development ranging from cloud service, big data, mobile application to IOT technology.

466. Since 2007, we have been extending international incubation cooperation from emerging markets to Europe and the United States, integrating resources available in local governments, universities and business associations to assist domestic companies in exposing them to business opportunities, cooperation, investment and the technology around the globe.

467. Furthermore, a platform located in Thailand, Viet Nam and Indonesia was established in 2015 which was designed to provide public and private resources to achieve better integration in worldwide incubation resources for companies. In addition, we annually host Chinese Taipei's International Invention Show And Techomart, or INST for short, to promote international collaborations, technology transfer and IP circulation. We sincerely welcome Members to join this great event in INST next year.

468. As far as regional cooperation is concerned, we also established the policy framework, such as Patent Prosecution Highway known as PPH, Patent Priority Documents Exchange, known as PDX, and bio-deposit to enhance cooperation with our regional partners. In terms of PPH, we have cooperated with the US, Japan, Spain and the Republic of Korea. In our PPH with US, which was launched in September 2011, we have received 1,467 requests as of the end of October 2016. Our PPH with Japan began in May 2012 and, so far, we have received 2,095 requests. The PPH mechanism has proved to be 6.6 times better than the ordinary procedure and unquestionably much more efficient.

469. Let me move onto PDX with Japan and the Republic of Korea through exchanging priority documents electronically among the patents' request. Both patent offices are benefiting by saving time and cost by streamlining procedures when filing patents in another Member. In addition, the PDX enables patent examiners to acquire files online promptly which helps expedite examination and reduce red-tape.

470. We also established a bio-deposit cooperation programme with Japan which is based on the Budapest Treaty and commenced on 18 June 2015. For applicants in both Members, it brings an advantage to depositing the biological material in the designated depository in their own Members to solve problems such as the instability of repeatedly deposited materials and relevant costs.

471. We have also been active in the exchanges with examiners from international counterparts. These exchanges enabled us to step up our patent and trademark examination quality.

472. In conclusion, we acknowledge the emergence of regional intellectual property systems and the growth of regional innovation networks. We would like to point out that today's discussion could lead to a consideration of the result of regional experiences that may serve as models for future innovation policies and practices.

12.7 Canada

473. Canada is pleased to present on the "IP and innovation" topic on regional innovation models.

474. As the Council may be aware, innovation is a key priority for Canada. The Government of Canada recently embarked on an inclusive Innovation Agenda, with a view to building Canada as a global centre for innovation. For instance, as part of this ongoing agenda, the Government of Canada's March 2016 Budget proposed to provide up to CAD$2 billion over three years for a new PostSecondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, as well as up to CAD$800 million over four years, starting in 2017-2018, to support innovation networks and clusters.
475. As global trade becomes increasingly organized along global and regional value chains, research and innovation are often correspondingly designed around networks and clusters at the global and regional levels. Rather than innovating in isolation, collaboration is taking place across national borders. For instance, many Canadian companies are part of the same supply chain and work within regional clusters with counterparts in North America, such as the Windsor-Detroit auto supply chain, the Ontario-Ohio manufacturing belt, the Vancouver-Seattle clean technology sector, and the Toronto-Waterloo high-tech corridor which has strong ties with Silicon Valley in the United States.

476. In view of this regionally integrated trading environment, the Government of Canada has undertaken a number of initiatives, including with regional partners, to encourage collaboration across national borders. In North America, Canada is collaborating with the United States and Mexico on the North American Competitiveness Work Plan (NACW), which includes fourteen initiatives to improve supply chain efficiency, enhance innovation and economic development, and undertake stakeholder consultations and outreach. Established in 2013, the latest iteration of the NACW was launched at the June 2016 North American Leaders’ Summit, with a number of new initiatives for women entrepreneurs, clean energy partnerships, collaboration on cybersecurity, and new connections among North American communities to promote economic development. For instance, Canada, the United States, and Mexico have agreed to promote “cluster asset mapping”, an activity that helps policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders improve their understanding of a region's economic strengths and opportunities. These maps identify clusters of interconnected companies, suppliers, and institutions, helping businesses expand their labour and supply chains while supporting efforts by local governments and economic development agencies to build and attract new industries. As part of this initiative, Canada has officially announced its intention to develop a National Cluster Mapping Portal. Also through the NACW, North American Leaders recently committed to advancing a North American Clean Energy Partnership Initiative to support the development of linkages among clean technology companies, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, and to promote the use and export of North American clean energy and environmental technology.

477. Canada also recently hosted the sixth Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE), from 25 September to 1 October 2016. Organized by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, in collaboration with the US Department of Commerce and the Organization of American States, the ACE brought together key officials from across the hemisphere to visit Canadian incubators and accelerators, universities, and research facilities, and to share best practices and innovative approaches to entrepreneurship, build networks and partnerships, and foster regional competitiveness.

478. Also in the North American region, in 2015, the patent offices from Canada, the United States, and Mexico began a one-year pilot project to implement requirements aligned with those of the Global Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) in each office, to streamline the process for applicants to obtain patent rights. The PPH is a patent office-patent office cooperation framework which allows applicants seeking patents in PPH partner offices to obtain corresponding patents faster, more efficiently, and with improved quality. As part of the 2016 NACW, Canada, the United States, and Mexico have agreed to further North American PPH collaboration. For instance, on 6 July 2016, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) announced a two-year extension of the PPH agreement with the Mexican Institute of Intellectual Property.

479. In addition to the North American region, Canada has developed formal science and technology relationships and partnerships with established and emerging innovation networks around the world. For instance, Canada has developed a framework for international collaboration through science and technology agreements with a number of bilateral partners, including in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean regions. These agreements serve as guidelines for Canadians to effectively partner and work with partner countries to increase international science and technology capacity. A related initiative, the Canadian Technology Accelerator, or CTA, provides high-growth, market-ready Canadian companies support to access global markets and entrepreneurship services within the information and communications technologies (ICT), life sciences, and clean technologies. Managed by the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service, the CTA provides support for Canadian technology SMEs to access global market opportunities in nine cities, including key ICT, life sciences, and clean technology markets.
480. In addition, CIPO supports innovation through its efforts to modernize its services in order to help businesses in Canada improve how they access the Canadian IP system and leverage their IP rights. Such efforts will facilitate ease of doing business not only in Canada but regionally and globally as well, as Canada aligns itself with international IP standards and filing systems.

481. Canada is also an active participant in regional economic forums, such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and particularly, the Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG), which aims, among other things, to deepen the dialogue on IP policy, exchange information on the current status of IP rights protection and administrative systems, and study measures for the effective enforcement of IP rights. During the August 2016 IPEG meeting in Lima, Peru, Canada presented on a number of recent IP-related legislative developments in Canada, and also gave a presentation on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's "Project Chargeback" initiative (which Canada also recently presented on in the TRIPS Council context, and also at the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement).

482. As noted, Canada is in the process of developing an inclusive Innovation Agenda, as a government-wide plan to promote innovation across the economy. Given the role that collaborative arrangements play in innovation, not only nationally but also in the form of regional research networks and clusters, we remain very interested in hearing about the regional experiences and practices of other Members, and look forward to their interventions on this issue.

12.8 Korea, Republic of

483. I would also like to thank the United States and other co-sponsors for this initiative and their interesting presentations.

484. Korea has long recognized the importance of regional cooperation in regard to IP for economic growth and innovation. Hence, the Korean Government has carried out various projects to harmonize and standardize IP polices at the regional level, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, to make easier the collaboration between regional IP innovators and to facilitate the emergence of regional networks.

485. In this regard, our delegation wants to share an ongoing project carried out by the Korean Government, which we believe has potential to contribute to the emergence of regional intellectual property systems, and the growth of regional innovation networks.

486. Currently, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) is carrying out a project called the "Guidebook for SMEs’ IP-Business Cycle,” which is funded jointly by APEC and the Korean Government.

487. The core aim of this project is to provide governments with standardized SME-friendly IP policies. To achieve this aim, the KIPO has been stock-taking the IP polices maintained by a number of countries, including APEC and non-APEC members, by surveying and interviewing SMEs, academics and policy-makers. Based on the results of the stocktaking, the KIPO has analysed the best IP policy practices and categorized them by policy area as well as level of economic development and IP environment in a given country. Now, as the final step, the KIPO is standardizing the policy practices to make a guidebook for governments seeking to design IP policies that are in line with their economic situation and the degree of demand among SMEs on IP innovation policies.

488. The Korean version of the guidebook will soon be published, while the English version will be published, hopefully before the end of this year. Once it is published, it will be circulated among APEC members. Our delegation looks forward to having another opportunity to share the results of this project in the future.

12.9 Mexico

489. This agenda item is a good opportunity for us to talk about the importance of regional integration in the area of intellectual property. Mexico has developed a number of instruments which provide for integration and also will allow us to benefit from other countries’ experiences. This will enable us, in turn, to allow others to benefit from our successes. Of the recent examples
of a regional integration that have involved us I could mention, for instance, the Technical IP Group of the Pacific Alliance which involves offices from Chile, Colombia, the National Institute for the Defence of Competition and the Protection of IP of Peru as well as the Mexican IP Institute. These groups have a number of technical tools including a list of harmonized terms and regional expressions. This list of harmonized terms and regional expressions provides us with an opportunity to harmonize a list of expressions relating to goods and services that do not appear in the NICE classification. This allows us to provide certainty to the users of the IP systems of countries that are members of the alliance. They can thus ensure that expressions are recognized and accepted by competent authorities when they are included in trademark applications that are submitted outside their country of origin.

490. We also have the pilot programme for accelerated patent processing. This allows for a patent examination to be carried out in an effective way and makes it possible for those applying for a patent to have their applications dealt with in good time.

491. There is another regional initiative I would like to refer to, that is the Latin American Programme for Intellectual Property which is known as IBEPI. This is part of our regional cooperation programmes. Its goal is to ensure that intellectual property is promoted as a tool for development and integration of companies in the region. The countries involved are Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. IBEPI develops an exchange of experience and best practices among the participating IP offices in order to ensure that we can all make best use of the resources available to us.

12.10 El Salvador

492. We would like to thank the proponents for placing this item on the agenda, which gives us an opportunity to share the Central American experience.

493. Central American countries have very similar legal frameworks for intellectual property and have been using a harmonized manual on patent examination since 2007 and a harmonized manual on trademark registration since 2014. This facilitates trade between the countries of the region and with countries outside the region and is also conducive to developing common strategies for the promotion of innovation at Central American level.

494. The region has set up a ministerial forum to discuss and promote innovation and intellectual property initiatives. Every two years since 2010, the Ministers for the Economy, Trade and Industry of the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic have been meeting to discuss and adopt a variety of projects, with support from WIPO. This forum has proved highly important for the development of intellectual property and innovation in Central America and the Dominican Republic. It has also led to the consolidation of various initiatives and projects. The Central American countries have thus, inter alia, adopted IP policy strategies, established the CATI CARD network of Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) in the Central American region and the Dominican Republic, drawn up a project to promote the use of intellectual property for small enterprises, and are carrying out an economic impact study of intellectual property in the region, with support from WIPO and other institutions.

495. The next Ministerial Meeting will be held in Panama City in 2017, to evaluate the development and impact of these projects and initiatives and to present the results of the economic impact study, which will be critical for the adoption of appropriate initiatives for the promotion of innovation in the region and the evaluation of those currently under way.

496. Further initiatives are continuing to emerge and are taking on a regional dimension, such as the one that will be introduced by the distinguished delegate of the Dominican Republic; and intellectual property offices in Central America and the Dominican Republic are sharing projects and good practices.

12.11 Dominican Republic

497. My delegation would like to thank the Members for including this agenda item in this Council and we would like to share the experience that we have carried out in the Dominican Republic in
the area of IP and innovation which might show a sub-regional mission. In April this year, as the distinguished delegate of El Salvador said, the Dominican Republic took on the governance of appropriate technology, innovative solutions for daily life. This was fostered by the WIPO, the National Intellectual Property Office of the Dominican Republic with the assistance of the Korean Intellectual Property Office, KIPO. We carried out workshops in the provinces and we invited the academic circles, polytechnics and the universities to participate in this forum.

498. We were looking at the agro-industrial sector. On 22 April, we had an award ceremony in which the ten best projects were presented. The Dominican Republic offered to share its experience in the organization in this first competition to the countries of Central America so that they could be replicated in other countries. We hope that this will have a positive impact in the efforts being carried out by the Central American countries in fostering national innovation networks at the national and regional levels.

12.12 South Africa

499. We thank the co-sponsors for introducing the topic of regional innovation models as part of the theme on intellectual property and innovation. South Africa, together with partners from the African region and other international partner has embarked on collaboration that seeks to expand locally developed technologies. This is based on a national innovation strategy that coordinates partnerships between state departments, private companies and other social partners. For this purpose we have turned our gaze to the heavens.

500. As a man of science, I am certain you share certain existentialist questions that many millions of other people pose, such as why are we here or where did we come from. According to the Soshongo people of Central Africa, before we existed there was only darkness, water and the great god Sumba. One day Sumba, in pain from a stomach ache, vomited up the sun. The sun evaporated some of the water, leaving land, still unwell he vomited the moon, the stars and the leopard, the crocodile, the turtle and finally humans. Sounds familiar?

501. South Africa is building the Karoo Array Telescope, in the current iteration called the MeerKAT, which is a precursor instrument for the Square Kilometer Array instrument, but in its own right is amongst the largest and most powerful radio telescopes in the world. The MeerKAT is being constructed adjacent to the site proposed for the SKA - in short - near the small town of Carnarvon in the Northern Cape Province. The first time the MeerKAT telescope turned its eyes towards the sky, it discovered more than 1,200 galaxies that were previously unknown in a remote corner of the universe where only 70 galaxies were known to exist before. It will also be the first time that a group of African countries, under the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry (AVN) project, will host this kind of scientific infrastructure which I am presenting about.

502. It is hoped the further development of the MeerKAT technology will also assist in preparing local industry for deeper participation in the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project once the construction phase begins in 2018. To this end, SKA has a growing intellectual property register and has begun the commercialization processes for four technologies, namely, the SKA Reconfigurable Architecture Board (SKARAB), the Real-time Transient Analyser (RTA), IRONHIVE which is a robust, high speed, low cost high-performance computing solution, and the DSS which is a robust, low-cost data storage solution.

503. The SKA, of which a global project consists of South Africa and nine Member countries, will join approximately 100 organisations and companies from 20 countries to participate in the design and development of the SKA.

504. The SKA is being developed in two phases, between 2018 and the late 2020s. When fully operational, the SKA will comprise a forest of 3,000 dishes spread across several countries that will allow astronomers to peer deeper into space in unparalleled detail. It will have a discovery potential that is ten times greater than the most advanced modern instruments and will explore exploding stars, black holes, dark energy and traces of the universe's origins some 14 billion years ago.

505. The programme will help develop international competitiveness of African scientists and is closely linked to, as I have already indicated, the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry (AVN)
project which is a network of capable radio telescopes being constructed across the African continent, hosted by the eight SKA African partner countries. The telescopes will form part of a global network and are intended to prepare the African partners to play their part in hosting the SKA. Amongst the endeavours that this particular project seeks to stimulate, it is to ensure the transfer necessary and appropriate skills and knowledge in African partner countries to build, maintain and operate radio telescopes. Good progress has thus far been made in growing the readiness to host SKA-2 in conjunction with partner countries, such as Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

506. To this end, the African Ministerial Forum has been created and will convene to annually assist progress that has been made in respect of the implementation of the project and to provide political and strategic leadership. Amongst the matters that will be discussed by this forum include human capacity development and institutional capacity-building, technology transfer, Big Data Africa and strategic partnerships and funding.

507. A concept proposal for establishing high performance computing in each of the SKA African partner countries was also accepted. I think I will stop here and I thank Members for their attention.

12.13 Uruguay

508. I would like to thank the proponents of this agenda item for introducing it. We would like to take this opportunity to share our views on the way in which a country like Uruguay sees science, technology and innovation (STI) policies and the relevance it has given to cooperation policies at regional and international level.

509. In recent years, Uruguay has chosen to open up to the world, seeking to adjust its production matrix to meet the challenges of the information society. Likewise, institutional and cultural changes are under way to enable the country to take an active part in an increasingly globalized, interconnected and diverse world.

510. In Uruguay, promotion of research and innovation activities is the responsibility of the National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII), which was established in 2007 and has the following three main thrusts:

   a. Promotion of productive innovation: by creating and consolidating a system in support of business innovation, bolstered by funding and learning of best practices; and by promoting entrepreneurship and building up a network of incubators and tools to foster the creation of new enterprises. ANII support is targeted towards dynamic projects aimed at achieving high growth rates.

   b. Promotion of research: by creating the National Researcher System (SNI), which classifies and brings together all researchers in Uruguay to optimize capabilities and efforts; and by supporting specific research projects and programmes linking up to international networks. Research in Uruguay seeks to achieve global integration.

   c. Creation of advanced human capital: by developing MA and PhD level scholarship programmes for students; and by concluding reciprocity agreements and arrangements aimed at incorporating such resources in Uruguayan society as scholarship recipients return to the country.

511. "Uruguay Innovador" (Innovative Uruguay) remains one of the pillars of the Government's country strategy, based on the understanding that "there is no development without innovation" and that the way to achieve integration in the new knowledge economy is to build endogenous innovative capabilities.

512. Review of the past ten years: we may well have addressed the question of innovation at a late stage - the institutional changes to promote innovation began in 2005 - but we have closely and permanently incorporated it, learning from international experiences and drawing on our country's cultural traditions.
The approach taken consisted of four pillars: reform of the legal framework; effective regulation; creation of the ANII, and provision of resources. All of this was achieved through cross party consensus that ensured continuity as a State policy and not simply as a government measure.

As far as international cooperation is concerned, this set of policies is hampered by the same difficulties as those faced by all our countries, namely the isolation in which every form of STI cooperation is initiated and implemented, always in parallel with all global cooperation efforts.

It is necessary to promote an enabling environment for innovation and science as critical tools for achieving sustainable global development; this requires us to agree on a new dimension of international cooperation.

I should now like to mention some of the successful innovation experiences at regional and bilateral level. Experience Description: exchange of evaluators exchanged with Argentina and Mexico; Call for researchers and enterprises together with Argentina; Cooperation with the FAPESP, as part of cooperation with the FAPESP in 2015, management of a trilateral fund with the United Kingdom and Brazil; Evaluator exchange service, exchange of evaluators with Paraguay, Ecuador, Panama and Mexico; support for the creation of the National Scholarships System (SNB) and the National Researcher System (SNI) Support in establishing the SNB and the SNI for Paraguay's CONACYT. Scientific Cooperation Agreement with Mexico's CONACYT; Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement with Paraguay's CONACyT; Cooperation Agreement with Peru's CONCYTEC; Agreement with Panama's SENACYT; Agreement with Argentina's MINCyT and CONICET; Agreement with the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), State of São Paulo, Brazil.

In Uruguay's case, even after a decade of sustained growth and a record of indicators such as those mentioned earlier, there are still structural shortcomings and weaknesses to be overcome.

In short, we believe that international cooperation has a strategic role to play in Uruguay's transition to a sustainable development model, by supplementing national resources with capacity building, technology transfer, regional cooperation programmes, triangular cooperation, and scientific cooperation scholarships, agreements and programmes in critical areas or focusing on high impact policy issues.

We note the progress made towards a form of cooperation that goes beyond aid based cooperation, involving local stakeholders and moving away from the model of straightforward transfer of resources; we recognize and support the trend towards cooperation for sustainable development rather than cooperation for economic growth.

12.14 India

My delegation would like to thank the delegations of the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, the United States and others for tabling an agenda item on IP and Innovation: Regional Innovation Models.

Innovation is only one element in a larger innovation ecosystem and IP laws alone do not promote technology development. According to the Trilateral study by WTO, WHO and WIPO on Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation: Intersections between public health, intellectual property and trade (2013) "(Page 126), "Patent law is not a stand-alone innovation system. It is only one element of the innovation process, and one which can be deployed differently in diverse innovation scenarios. Patent law has little bearing on many other factors that lead to the successful development of technologies, e.g. the nature and extent of demand, commercial advantages gained by marketing and ancillary services and support, commercial and technical viability of production processes, and compliance with regulatory requirements, including through effective management of clinical trials data."

The trilateral study also highlights that innovation in medical technologies for neglected diseases suffers from market failure as conventional IP-based incentives do not correspond with the nature of demand for treatment of these diseases. To overcome the market failure of the IP
system for neglected diseases, the trilateral study mentions about open innovation structures such as Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD) model of India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and collaborative research such as WIPO Re:Search Sharing Innovation in the Fight Against Neglected Tropical Diseases. The study also talks about the concept of delinking price of the final product from the costs of R&D by "push" mechanisms such as grant funding and tax credits for investment in R&D and by "pull" mechanisms that offer rewards for the final outcome of R&D of certain products like milestone or end prizes.

523. India declared the decade of 2011-2020 as the Decade of Innovation. The spirit of innovation has to permeate all sectors of economy from universities, business and government to people at all levels. India has announced a new national IPR policy in May this year to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced IPR system in India to: foster creativity and innovation and thereby, promote entrepreneurship and enhance socio-economic and cultural development; and focus on enhancing access to healthcare, food security and environmental protection, among other sectors of vital social, economic and technological importance.

524. Coming to the Regional Innovation Models, I will focus only on regional trade agreements (RTAs). A number of mega-regional trade agreements and other regional trade agreements promoted by a few developed countries in recent years have done away with several flexibilities provided under the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha Declaration on Public Health. Moreover, many developing countries who are parties to such RTAs have been forced to accept standards of protection and enforcement of IPRs that exceed the standards under TRIPS Agreement. The TRIPS plus provisions in the many RTAs lengthen, broaden, and strengthen patent-related monopolies on medicines, which delay the entry of cheaper generic drugs and could adversely impact the availability of affordable medicines to people in the developing countries.

525. In this regard, the UN SG High-level Panel on Access to Medicines in its report released in September this year, made the following observations on the impact of RTAs on access to health technologies:

"Since the TRIPS Agreement came into effect, bilateral and regional free trade agreements concluded by several governments have progressively expanded and deepened patent and test data protection on health technologies. Such policies further exacerbate policy incoherence by narrowing the options provided by the TRIPS Agreement and Doha Declaration for governments to ensure that intellectual property protection and enforcement does not undermine their human rights obligations and public health priorities. A number of provisions found in bilateral and regional FTAs exceed the minimum standards for intellectual property protection and enforcement required by TRIPS Agreement. The TRIPS plus provisions in the many RTAs lengthen, broaden, and strengthen patent-related monopolies on medicines, which delay the entry of cheaper generic drugs and could adversely impact the availability of affordable medicines to people in the developing countries.

The recent Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, which is yet to come into force, is emblematic of a new generation of bilateral and multilateral trade and investment agreements which includes "TRIPS-Plus" provisions that progressively ratchet up intellectual property protection and enforcement. This new generation of trade and investment agreement often includes dispute settlement mechanisms that establish arbitration processes outside the national courts and allow private firms to challenge national laws for depriving them of future profits. Other provisions restrict government ability to regulate pharmaceutical prices and reimbursement mechanisms. Such provisions may impede access to health technologies, including those requiring governments to ease standards of patentability, drug regulatory authorities to link marketing approval to the absence of any claimed patent and the requiring of test data exclusivity instead of test data protection, to list a few.

The recent Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, which is yet to come into force, is emblematic of a new generation of bilateral and multilateral trade and investment agreements which includes "TRIPS-Plus" provisions that progressively ratchet up intellectual property protection and enforcement. This new generation of trade and investment agreement often includes dispute settlement mechanisms that establish arbitration processes outside the national courts and allow private firms to challenge national laws for depriving them of future profits. Other provisions restrict government ability to regulate pharmaceutical prices and reimbursement mechanisms. Such provisions significantly reduce the scope of measures that national governments can use to pursue public health priorities and fulfil the right to health. Ensuring that future trade agreements do not interfere with policies that guarantee the right to health for all is essential for resolving the incoherence between trade agreements and the human right to health."

526. The UN SG High-level Panel on Access to Medicines recommended that "Governments engaged in bilateral and regional trade and investment treaties should ensure that these agreements do not include provisions that interfere with their obligations to fulfil the right to health. As a first step, they must undertake public health impact assessments. These impact assessments should verify that the increased trade and economic benefits are not endangering or impeding the human rights and public health obligations of the nation and its people before entering into commitments. Such assessments should inform negotiations, be conducted transparently and made publicly available."
527. I conclude by quoting from our Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s statement during the launch of the Mission Innovation in Paris in November 2015:

"Our innovation initiative should be driven by public purpose, not just market incentives, including on intellectual property. That also means strong public commitment by suppliers to developing countries. That will make clean energy technology available, accessible and affordable for all. Innovation must be backed by means to make it affordable and ensure adoption."

12.15 Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN

528. I am making this statement on behalf of Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand Viet Nam to share on ASEAN’s experience in developing our IP capacity and becoming an innovation friendly region.

529. ASEAN which is composed of ten countries in South-East Asia has always placed emphasis on innovation as part of its vision towards an ASEAN economic community. We recognize the critical role that innovation plays in driving economic growth. This is encapsulated in the Asian Economic Community Blueprint 2025 which aims to build a competitive, innovative and dynamic ASEAN through improving areas such as productive driven growth, innovation, research and development and technology commercialization.

530. ASEAN’s regional cooperation in IP dates back to 1995 when the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation was signed. The Agreement recognizes the important role of IPRs in the context of TRIPS and the flow of investment among ASEAN members and has helped ASEAN members to improve their gains from the ASEAN FTA. Since then, ASEAN IP cooperation has expanded beyond that of just tapping on interregional trade. The ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation or AWGIPC is the main body driving IP cooperation in ASEAN and aims to transform ASEAN into an innovative and competitive region through the use of IP by improving the regional framework of IP policies and institutions. For instance, the AWGIPC has promoted accession of ASEAN members to international IP treaties. Most ASEAN Members have already acceded to WIPO’s Patent Cooperation Treaty and further accessions to the Madrid Protocol and HEX System are planned by 2020.

531. Another important area of work under the AWGIPC is that of harmonizing the region’s IP framework through the establishment of provisional IP platforms. So far, two such platforms have been established. The first is ASEAN TMview which was developed by ASEAN IP offices with the help of the EU. ASEAN TMview promotes transparency and information access by allowing stakeholders free online access to information on trademark registrations and application in participating ASEAN countries.

532. The second is the ASEAN Patent Examination Corporation or ASPEC which was launched in June 2009. The ASPEC facilitates patent filings by businesses across the region by having ASEAN IP offices share their search and examination results, thereby expediting the patent application process. ASPEC operates in English and is free of charge for the applicant.

533. The fruits of this effort are already emerging. For example, the ASPEC has received 154 requests to date – all of which have been granted. In addition, while non-resident filing still make up the majority of patent output from the region, ASEAN’s regional innovation indicators are also on the upswing having grown by nearly 40% in the last three years. ASEAN has also increased its share of the world scientific literature by 170% between 2006 and 2015. As the world’s largest market and sixth largest economy, there is still a wealth of untapped potential in ASEAN and room for greater economic growth through innovation and IP.

534. As an Asian economic community, ASEAN members will continue to work together to create the best enabling environment that will spur innovation and growth and ultimately deliver a better quality of life for our people.

12.16 Peru

535. We are members of the Pacific Alliance and we would like to add to and complement what Mexico has said on this matter. We are also involved in the technical group activities dealing with
IP within the Pacific Alliance and we are also involved in the list of harmonized terms and regional expressions which is aimed at strengthening the intellectual property and its benefits to countries in the Alliance. The idea is to provide system users with access to information and services provided by the competent bodies.

536. The countries that are members of this Alliance are committed to pursuing these endeavours in order to help users and to work towards the development of the region as a whole.

12.17 Russian Federation

537. The Russian Federation would like to thank the co-sponsors of Australia, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei and the United States for including the topic regarding the regional innovation models on the agenda of this TRIPS Council meeting.

538. Considering that in the framework of this topic it is planned to discuss two aspects, such as emergence of regional systems of intellectual property and development of regional innovation networks, we would like to share the following.

539. As for the formation of regional rules for the protection and enforcement of IPRs please note that, for example, in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Intergovernmental Council on the Issues of Legal Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property (MGSIS) favours regional rules for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

540. MGSIS is formed in accordance with the Agreement on cooperation in the field of legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property and creation of Intergovernmental council on the issues of legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property of 19 November 2010.

541. In the area of formation of common regional rules and approaches in the field of intellectual property, MGSIS carries out the following functions:

   a. - coordinating joint activities of member states on creation, development and enhancement of mechanisms for legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property;

   b. - facilitating exchange of legal, normative, methodical and other information;

   c. - developing recommendations on creation of systems for enhancing efficiency of legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property, combatting production and distribution of counterfeit products and improving mechanisms to protect industrial property rights, copyright and related rights;

   d. - preparation of proposals on cooperation development on the issues of legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property for consideration by the Council of heads of CIS governments and by the bodies of sectorial cooperation of CIS;

   e. - developing proposals on legal and normative regulation of relations among the member states in the field of legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property.

542. Regarding the development of regional innovation networks, we would like to mention the Interstate Programme of Innovation Development of the CIS Members for the period up to 2020. In accordance with the Council of CIS Heads of Government decision the innovation Foundation "Skolkovo" is appointed as operator of this programme.

543. The main objective of the Programme is the creation of an interstate innovative space that combines the capacity of national innovation systems. In order to achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Programme activities are aimed at addressing the following challenges: the development of interstate cooperation in the sphere of innovation; mobilization and development of scientific and technological capacity; formation of a system of staffing for interstate innovation cooperation; co-efficient use and development of innovation infrastructure; development of system of interstate innovation regulation.
544. The implementation of the Programme goals forms a regional network integrating the activities of government, academic and private organizations, including the CIS institutions in the financial and banking, legal, and scientific areas.

545. The implementation of the Programme allows to reach the community of institutions, principles and mechanisms of realization of the state scientific-technical and innovation policy, the harmonization of government programmes, standards and requirements for the formation and implementation of international innovative projects, the consistency of the law governing the operation and development of national systems of innovation, combined with equal opportunities to use the results of scientific and technological activities in the interests of CIS Members, their citizens and the Commonwealth as a whole.

546. In the course of implementation of the Programme, seven innovative projects implemented by scientists from at least three states of the Commonwealth were funded by the CIS members in 2015, of which four projects are already under implementation. In 2016, 47 projects have been submitted for the status of the participant of the Programme. Approximately 100 projects-participants are expected under the programme in 2017.

547. Taking into account that the Programme provides for the participation of teams from at least three CIS countries, the progress of its implementation shows the increase in the integration of the region’s innovation community, development of cooperation and, as a consequence, requires the creation of legal conditions for joint work.

548. Within the framework of the Programme there is a CIS Council of Young Scientists and intergovernmental working groups on the commercialization of innovative projects and technology transfer, which interact with the integrated structure of the CIS financial and business organizations, in particular the CIS Finance and Banking Council and the CIS Business Centre.

549. Thus, the implementation of the Programme, in addition to the development of cooperation among scientists, creates conditions for the establishment of joint small and medium enterprises working in the field of innovation. For example, 20 companies participating in the project "Skolkovo" have already carried out joint ventures or joint use of the results of their intellectual activity.

550. The status of Operator of the Programme allows the "Skolkovo" Foundation to attract project participants from the CIS countries and to assist project participants in the commercialization of their researches. Currently, several CIS Members decided to place some prospective researchers from their countries on the territory of the innovation centre "Skolkovo". Thus, we could say that the complex of the activities mentioned above creates the innovative space where young scientists and researchers could commercialize their inventions.

12.18 Brazil

551. Brazil welcomes the inclusion of this subject on the agenda of the TRIPS Council. As we all know, innovation is closely related to intellectual property and, as more and more policymakers worldwide are coming to realize, to trade as well. We believe that this TRIPS Council, by addressing these three issues in a coherent way, could provide valuable contributions to the design of effective, national and regional innovation policies. In its efforts to overcome the effects of the severe economic crisis, Brazil is focusing on innovation as a tool to increase productivity and improve standards of living. One of the challenges now facing us is how to ensure that the solid scientific production which has been growing for decades results in more and more innovative solutions responsive to the country's problems. We are convinced that, along with universal high-quality education and other elements, a balanced and effective IP system in line with the objectives set forth in Article 7 of TRIPS is key to achieving the sustainable innovation environment.

552. We are also attempting to address the innovation imperative by increasing international cooperation and partnerships. Most notably, Brazil’s research institutions in such areas as agriculture, public health, climate and others have been partnering with their counterparts in other MERCOSUR and Latin American countries. Embrapa, Brazil's agricultural research centre, along with its counterparts in Paraguay and Uruguay, developed computer programs aimed at the
management of genetic resources. In addition, Fiocruz, Brazil’s public health research foundation, has partnered with Argentina for the production of yellow fever vaccines.

553. Later this month, Brazil will be hosting the ninth Academic Meeting on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development, co-sponsored by our Industrial Property Institute and with the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

554. Brazil is also an active member of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries. We have been conducting a long-standing cooperation with African nations such as Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde and Sao Tome - again, focusing on agriculture and public health. In addition, Brazil and Portugal have just agreed, about two days ago, to a partnership for setting up the Azores International Research Centre - AIR Centre – which will house space observation facilities, a lab for monitoring atmospheric radiation as well as centres for oceanography and fishery studies.

555. As a member of the BRIC, Brazil has been supporting initiatives aimed at fostering increased research and development partnerships with Russia, India, China and South Africa. Among other initiatives, we have been discussing the creation of a joint agricultural research centre as well as programmes for the prevention of disaster in coastal regions.

556. To conclude, Brazil’s other international partnerships for innovation, notably with the United States, Canada, EU countries, Switzerland, Japan and other nations, are outside the purview of this discussion on regional innovation models while the initiatives I mentioned are concrete with encouraging results so far. We have a lot more to do. We look forward to continued discussions in the TRIPS Council and elsewhere to share experience with other countries and regions.

12.19 Egypt

557. I would also like to thank the United States, the EU and other co-sponsors that proposed the inclusion of this item on the agenda of our meeting.

558. It had not been my intention to intervene or to ask for the floor, but because the subject under discussion - namely the importance of innovation in regional strengthening and how the different regions have succeeded in promoting innovation in their territory - is such an important one, I felt I should make a few comments.

559. As we see it, this subject cannot be addressed without taking account of the different levels of development of each region and the difference in progress and development in each country.

560. For instance, according to the 2014 UNCTAD report on Transfer of Technology and Knowledge Sharing for Development, in 2011, 67% of patent applications in the world were registered in the developed countries, while only 3.2% were registered in the lower middle income countries. None were registered in the LDCs.

561. The report also highlights the importance of technology transfer in promoting innovation in the developing countries and the LDCs. These technology transfers take place through various channels: international trade, direct investment, licensing, movement of persons.

562. Moreover, the UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report 2015 points to the low participation of African countries in world exports of high technology products: in 2014 they accounted for no more than 0.3% of total exports of such products from the developing countries.

563. For all of these reasons, we believe that we should continue to discuss this subject under Article 66.2 on technology transfer, particularly to the LDCs, and Article 67 on technical cooperation.

564. We also propose the organization of a joint workshop between the TRIPS Council and the Committee on Trade and Development on: the role of technology transfer in fostering innovation; cooperation and technical assistance; and how they can contribute to the development of the LDCs and the developing countries.
12.20 Chile

565. We are pleased that you are conducting our proceedings, and wish to thank those who proposed that this item be placed on the agenda. Innovation, as indeed other areas, is increasingly developed in a cross border context, which means that the topic of regional innovation models is highly relevant. Delegations have been invited to share their experiences, and it has been very interesting to listen to Members outlining their different perspectives.

566. We thank the delegation of Mexico for expanding on the initiatives and projects that are being developed in the context of the Pacific Alliance's Technical Working Group on Intellectual Property. These initiatives, as mechanisms for cooperation between industrial property offices, are very useful and beneficial in strengthening our systems, and are designed to stimulate and promote regional innovation.

12.21 Guatemala

567. We would like to thank the sponsors of agenda item 12. My delegation would like to support what was said by the distinguished delegate of El Salvador. We welcome these sorts of initiatives outlined by that delegation as they play a key role. This is a way of providing inputs to governments when it comes to their innovation policies. All of this serves to strengthen or set up an IP System that in turn promotes economic development.

568. Guatemala is a part of a number of regional initiatives on these questions and this has given us the opportunity to become involved nationally in developing our IP Systems. We feel that it is very useful for us to discuss these matters here in the TRIPS Council. Our discussions provide us with the opportunity to hear from other regions on these issues.

12.22 Colombia

569. We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the proponents of this agenda item. Like Peru, Chile and Mexico, we would like to highlight the work that has been done in recent years under the work of the auspices of the Pacific Alliance. As already has been said, there is good work being done by the technical IP group of that Alliance. This group has worked with others in our governments in order to promote and develop a number of tools of use to the uses of our regional intellectual property systems and this is of help regionally and nationally. This technical group has, among other things, developed a harmonized list of terms and regional expressions and has also developed a pilot project for accelerated patent registration. The list of terms and regional expressions has allowed us to develop terms that reflect regional expressions covering products that might be included in patent applications. These are terms that might not be included in the NICE System. This is of help to the IP Systems of countries in the region. It means that they are familiar with the terms and regional expressions and in a position to recognize them and therefore have been accepted by competent bodies when they appear in trademark applications that are registered outside the country of origin.

570. The pilot project for the accelerated system for patent granting in the Alliance allows our different IP offices to benefit from work carried out by others when it comes to patent examination. It allows patent applicants to have their patent applications processed as fast and effectively as possible.

571. The work being done by these four IP offices is a way of promoting the best international practices when it comes to regional cooperation and the development of IP Systems in the countries making up the Alliance.

12.23 ARIPO Secretariat

572. I thank the co-sponsors of this item for introducing it. ARIPO is one of the regional offices with 40 years of history and experience. One of the mandates of ARIPO which was set 40 years ago is to support its members in the acquisition of IP based technologies. This mandate is translated today in assisting Member States in their quest for transfer of technology and promotion of innovation.
573. Promoting innovation requires first and foremost the existence of a legal framework that protects IPRs related to innovation. The Harare Protocol provides protection at the regional level of patents, utility models and industrial designs. To date, 18 member States are part of this Protocol. We have also the Banjul Protocol which provides a system for the protection to trademarks and ten member States participate in this Protocol. It similarly requires well-functioning IP offices. ARIPO offers a very efficient mechanism of protection of rights at the regional level. With regard specifically to patents, the system provides a substantive examination mechanism that ensures grant of strong and reliable patent. ARIPO has also been very active in supporting the national IP offices to improve their systems of administration of intellectual property rights. Patents that cannot be examined at the national level due to lack of capacity are examined by ARIPO at the regional level. This service is offered for free to countries in view of their Membership to the organization.

574. In 2015 the Arusha Protocol was adopted by the member States for the protection of new plant varieties. We expect to see this Protocol enter into force soon.

575. Further, ARIPO has been training national officers to better deal with applications in their offices. In collaboration with WIPO and USPTO, it conducted training programmes to develop skills in examination procedures and patent drafting. With IP Australia and the Australian Patent Office (APO) we have also trained our examiners to further strengthen our capacity to grant high-quality patents that meet international standards. ARIPO has organized a number of other initiatives in the promotion of innovation at ARIPO and in the Member States. A conference was organized last year on "utility models" with the view to promoting its use to facilitate small-scale innovation in Africa.

576. I would like to highlight here the support that we received from the Republic of Korea, through KOICA, Korea's International Cooperation Agency, which funded the activity of our ICT system to the sum of $6 million. This allowed us to digitize our operations and to be one of the offices that offers e-services, namely e-filing, e-searches and e-payment, for the benefit of our member States and users. ARIPO also facilitates access to technological information through patent searches and monographs, providing a patent landscaping in specific technological areas relevant to the continent. With such initiatives, ARIPO assists researchers and innovators to avoid "reinventing the wheel" and fast-tracking their innovation initiatives.

577. ARIPO is also collaborating with a number of Universities in Ghana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in creating awareness among researchers on the importance of using IP to add value to their work. To that aim, ARIPO offers a package which includes awareness-raising initiatives targeting researchers, development of internal IP policies and the establishment of technology transfer offices in those institutions. It is our belief that this package will allow university and research institutions to use IP as a tool to turn research outputs into IP assets which will ultimately generate revenue and promote a linkage with industry, thus promoting innovation in the continent.

578. Finally, I am eager to share with you the ongoing preparations of the IP Conference on Innovation jointly organized by ARIPO and WIPO which will take place in Harare on 8-9 December as a final act of the current cohort of the Master Degree on IP.