

**WIPO General Assembly  
Fiftieth (27<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session  
September 24 to October 2, 2018 (Geneva, Switzerland)**

**General Statement of American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)**

Thank you, Chair. On behalf of AIPLA, allow me to express our condolences to Vietnam for the recent passing of the President of Vietnam. Please also allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as chair of the WIPO General Assembly. Our members represent both owners and users of IP. Our mission includes helping to establish and maintain fair and effective laws and policies that stimulate and reward invention while balancing the public's interest in healthy competition, reasonable costs, and basic fairness.

Mr. Chair, we would like to thank WIPO for its continued focus to provide a global policy forum to address evolving IP issues.

We would also like to thank WIPO for serving its mission "to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all." In this regard, AIPLA congratulates the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property for approving, during the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the CDIP, a project on "Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System." This project aims "to strengthen the innovative capacity of participating countries, focusing on increasing the participation of women inventors and innovators in

the national innovation system by supporting them in using the IP system more effectively to protect and commercialize their inventions.” Over the summer, AIPLA has been actively raising the awareness of this project in certain developing countries where AIPLA’s International Affiliate members reside, and facilitating consideration of project participation by such developing countries. So far, our facilitating efforts have resulted in AIPLA members in one country drafting a proposal to participate in the first pilot project for submission to CDIP with the support of their national IP Office, and AIPLA members in another country considering the opportunity. We look forward to continuing our facilitation efforts.

AIPLA further appreciates WIPO’s continued commitment to transparency and inclusiveness in its decision making and negotiating bodies.

We express our thanks to the WIPO secretariat for inviting AIPLA to attend the WIPO General Assemblies.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.