

WIPO STATEMENT TO 105TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

(Venue: Room XVII, Palais des Nations)

Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 10h00

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is pleased to be admitted as an Observer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM plays an important role as the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. WIPO's mission is to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international Intellectual Property (IP) system. WIPO recognizes the important work done by IOM in ensuring that the positive contributions of migrants to economic and social development are maximized, including in the area of science and technology.
- Distinguished delegates, the international mobility of skilled workers and the associated international knowledge diffusion, domestic innovation and brain drain/brain gain phenomena are important development challenges. In 2011 the seventh session of WIPO's Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) considered a project on "Intellectual Property and Brain Drain". The aim of this project was to address WIPO's Development Agenda Recommendation 39 that *"request[s] WIPO, within its core competence and mission, to assist developing countries, especially African countries, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, by conducting studies on brain drain and make recommendations accordingly"*.
- The WIPO Secretariat undertook this project from January 2012 to June 2013. The CDIP project focused on the linkages between intellectual property and the migration of knowledge workers and was implemented in two parts: The first part consisted of a mapping exercise of the migration of skilled labour. The second part convened an international workshop at WIPO Headquarters in Geneva. Experts gathered to discuss the relationships between skilled labour migration and the associated brain drain, on the one hand, and IP protection, international diffusion of knowledge, innovation and development, on the other.
- The international workshop brought together experts from academia as well as from international organizations. We were pleased to have representatives from the IOM take part in the workshop, as well as representatives from UNCTAD, the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WTO, ILO and OECD, among others. All the information on the project and the results of the research and expert workshop can be found on the WIPO website.
- Finally, we look forward to collaborating in future with the IOM and benefitting from the depth of knowledge and expertise the IOM has to offer. Thank you.