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Computer & Communications Industry Association

**Intervention of CCIA
at the
45th Assemblies of the World Intellectual Property Organisation
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Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to speak today in this important debate.

CCIA members represent a broad cross-section of the information and communications technology (ICT) and Internet industries, and collectively represent more than \$200 billion in annual revenues across international technology markets. They have a substantial stake in the effective operation of the international system of Intellectual Property.

CCIA offers its congratulations to Dr. Francis Gurry on his election as Director-General of WIPO. We have no doubt that the the ICT, telecommunications, and Internet industries can continue to be relied on by all stakeholders as partners in the future work of WIPO, especially in the development of an affirmative agenda for the future of IP.

As Dr. Gurry noted so eloquently in his speech, humanity has always relied upon technology to help deal with challenges and to create opportunities to improve the human condition. CCIA believes that this will continue to be the case, and to the extent public policy in IP treats technological advancement fundamentally as an opportunity, rather than an obstacle or a threat, we will all benefit.

We know Dr. Gurry to be a creative problem-solver and someone who is attracted to pragmatic and practical solutions to problems. We believe this approach will bear real fruit, and hope in that context that projects such as the Broadcasting Treaty which have no prospect of a positive outcome in any meaningful time period will be firmly set aside. Instead, we submit that this institution engage in work programmes founded in practical measures which address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities available in the Information Age.

Finally, we welcome Dr. Gurry's comments on his intention to develop a division of WIPO to concentrate on increasing the Organisation's capacity to develop economic research and statistical information to support policy development. We believe that this is the right approach - policy or normative development should always be preceded by objective research, with appropriate levels of peer-review, to investigate matters under discussion and explore the opportunities and risks of various outcomes in advance of decision-making. Unfortunately, all too often of late, policy development in IP has become

driven by polemics or biased, even incorrect, assertions. It is CCIA's view that facts are always the best basis upon which to make decisions.

May we conclude with with our thanks to you, Madame Chair, for this opportunity and to this House for its kind attention.