

General Statement delivered by Third World Network (TWN)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

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Statements from the Africa Group, Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), Asia-Pacific Group, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and individual Member States during the last two days conveyed a consistent and urgent message: intellectual property must contribute to economic and social development.

Over the years, intellectual property has become a major vehicle for transferring resources from the Global South to the Global North. In 2023 alone, low- and middle-income countries paid USD 97.9 billion in IP royalties while receiving only USD 16.6 billion, resulting in a deficit of 589%. This shows how intellectual property can function as a new instrument of extraction.

In 2024–2025, India received 31,940 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications from foreign applicants, while only 3,598 international PCT applications originated from India. This illustrates how treaties such as the PCT primarily serve large companies in developed countries by facilitating multi-jurisdictional patent protection.

We call on Member States to reassess the assumption that intellectual property automatically drives development, and reiterate our concern over Group B's (developed and industrialized countries) inequitable representation in WIPO's senior management.

Thank you.

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