

INSTITUTE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

www.iipsj.org

Re: General Statement to the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Sixty-Eighth Series of Meetings (7 to 15 July 2026) (Agenda #4)

The Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (**IIPSJ**) is a WIPO Accredited Observer, seated in Washington DC, the United States of America, focused on matters domestically, and globally. **IIPSJ** investigates intellectual property (IP) laws, systems and policies to identify areas where the full participation of the disadvantaged, excluded and marginalised groups is prevented, and where IP systems may need correcting. Facing the multiple global challenges of instability, climate change, Artificial Intelligence or intersectional inequalities, **IIPSJ** remains committed to the idea that IP systems must balance economic and social aims equally, in a manner that offers access, inclusion, and empowerment for all creators and innovators. **IIPSJ** draws on the evidence collected by an extensive network of experts and sister organizations,¹ that are dedicated to understanding effects of IP systems on diverse groups of inventors and creatives. There are two areas that **IIPSJ** draws attention to, in this general statement:

1. UN SDGs and Development Agenda: Renewing Commitments.

Despite select statements made in different WIPO standing committees since 2025 about the nature and role of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **IIPSJ** stresses the need for WIPO to continue its work it is obligated to under the WIPO Development Agenda (DA), which is a WIPO instrument and was adopted by WIPO Member States in 2007. **IIPSJ** agrees with the majority view of Member States, that to build more inclusive IP systems must be a priority for WIPO, in order to ensure that all people contribute to the search of creative and innovative solutions to address global challenges we face today. **IIPSJ** also reinstates the importance of transparency, impact-measure tools and accountability in all DA projects, to ensure that limited resources are used in the most effective, and not merely performative manner.

2. WIPO IP Gender Action Plan: Evidence-Based Interventions.

For several years WIPO has worked with its Members on including more women into IP systems globally, culminating in the **WIPO IP Gender Action Plan** in 2023. **IIPSJ** calls for more work that investigates the systematic exclusion of women from these systems and collect required evidence (quantitative and qualitative) to understand the barriers, but also how to improve the conditions for women to fully participate in creative economies and innovation sectors. **IIPSJ** recommends that WIPO Member States and WIPO Secretariat develop a strategy to coordinate with the work, and expertise at the **UN**



Commission on Status for Women,ⁱⁱ on all work regarding Women and IP. UN CSW is a forum with specialised knowledge on gender equality (SDG5), through an intersectional lens (SDG10).

In 2026, at the 70th session of CSW, UN Member States discussed Access to Justice for All Women and Girls, noting that in most countries world-wide, women and girls do not enjoy the same legal rights, as men and boys. To address that, UN Member States adopted several Agreed Conclusions.ⁱⁱⁱ **IIPSJ** asks the WIPO Member States to coordinate its efforts under CSW Agreed Conclusions and WIPO's IP GAP to ensure:

“The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the **right to development**, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in society, and for **women's economic empowerment**, and **should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes** aiming at ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers.”^{iv}

IIPSJ urges WIPO Member States to develop a WIPO IP GAP strategy, that will align the DA with women's right to development and mainstream this work across all WIPO IP policies and programmes and assist all WIPO Member States to develop and implement inclusive and equitable IP laws, policies and practices. Finally, WIPO Member States are encouraged to develop processes and methodologies that will facilitate the introduction of the lived experience of women in all WIPO's projects, following the multiple models and examples implemented at UN CSW.

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ⁱ Including **The F-List for Music, CIC** (based in the United Kingdom): <https://thef-listmusic.uk>.

ⁱⁱ “The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.”

ⁱⁱⁱ CSW70 session outcomes or Agreed Conclusions: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw70-2026/session-outcomes>.

^{iv} Emphasis added. Agreed Conclusions (n iii) [4].