

Third Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy

Closing Remarks of Dee Ann Weldon-Wilson President International Trademark Association

**January 31, 2007
Geneva, Switzerland**

FOR THE SAKE OF BREVITY I WOULD LIKE TO DEPART FROM MY PREPARED CLOSING REMARKS AND WOULD STRAIGHT AWAY SAY OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS 3RD GLOBAL CONGRESS A SUCCESS. ON BEHALF OF INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK ASSOCIATION, ITS MEMBERS, AND, IF I MAY PRESUME, ON THE BEHALF OF ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

- DIRECTOR GENERAL IDRIS FOR HOSTING THIS GLOBAL CONGRESS;
- SECRETARY GENERAL NOBEL AND SECRETARY GENERAL DANET FOR PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO THIS CONGRESS;
- THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO MADE THIS GLOBAL CONGRESS A REALITY; A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO AMBASSADOR RITA HAYES WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON THIS CONGRESS;
- THE SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND PARTICIPANTS WHOSE ENTHUSIASM AND EXPERTISE HAVE HELPED TO IDENTIFY NEW AND VERY TANGIBLE ACTION ITEMS FOR ALL OF US TO WORK ON;
- THANKS TO TOM CLARK FOR HIS FINE MODERATION OF THE CONGRESS; AND FINALLY;
- SINCERE THANKS TO THE WIPO STAFF FOR THEIR WARM HOSPITALITY AND SUPERB ORGANIZATION IN MAKING THIS 3RD GLOBAL CONGRESS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

IN THE PAST TWO DAYS WE HAVE HEARD MORE THAN FOUR DOZEN PRESENTATIONS BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY. MANY INSIGHTS AND IDEAS HAVE BEEN SHARED, AND SIGNIFICANT COMMON STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY TO FIGHT COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY.

TO CONCLUDE, THE BOTTOM LINE THAT I HAVE EXTRACTED FROM THIS CONGRESS HAS MADE ME CONSCIOUS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- WE SHARE THE MOST CLASSIC PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL FOR THIS PROBLEM

- AND, WE ALL HAVE NOTED THAT THERE IS GROWING INVOLVEMENT OF ORGANIZED CRIMINALS IN COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY. THE MONEY PAID BY CONSUMERS DOES NOT STAY IN THE STREET VENDORS' HANDS FOR VERY LONG; IT GOES TO CRIMINAL GANGS, WHICH USE THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS TO FUND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.
- THEREFORE, WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL DISCIPLINES FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT SO AS TO MAKE THE ILLEGAL BUSINESS OF COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY A DREADFULLY EXPENSIVE AND SERIOUSLY RISKY VENTURE.

ALL IN ALL, A VERY PRODUCTIVE TWO DAYS!
THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE THIRD GLOBAL CONGRESS.
