

16 OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Dates of the Council's meetings in 2013

16.1. The Chairman recalled that, at its meeting in November 2012, the Council had agreed on the dates for its meetings in 2013. Since then a conflict had arisen with a meeting of the General Council scheduled for the same date as the end-of-year TRIPS Council meeting. He suggested that the Council agree to reschedule that meeting for Thursday and Friday, 10-11 October.

16.2. The Council so agreed._____

16.2 Invitations to ARIPO, OAPI, GCC and EFTA

16.3. The Chairman recalled that, at its meetings in June 2010 and November 2012, the Council had agreed to grant ad hoc observer status on a meeting-to-meeting basis to the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). He suggested that the Council again invite these organizations to attend the Council's next formal meeting on an ad hoc basis.

16.4. The Council so agreed._____

16.3 Intellectual property, climate change and development

16.5. The representative of Ecuador said that his delegation had circulated a document entitled "Contribution of IP to Facilitating the Transfer of Environmentally Rational Technology" (IP/C/W/585, dated 5 March 2013). Ecuador believed that transfer of technology was a fundamental element in fighting climate change as well as in adapting and mitigating the harmful effects of climate change. The issue of IPRs and the debate on cooperation and technology was becoming a fundamental element concerning the best way to adapt to and slow down the effects of climate change, particularly for developing countries. This had been indicated by Members such as India a few years ago, and more recently by Bolivia and Venezuela in a document submitted to the Committee on Trade and the Environment. Ecuador had requested that this item be placed as a regular item on the agenda of the Council's meeting in June so that Members would be able to express and reflect their positions, their views and suggestions on the subject.

16.6. The representative of Nicaragua said that the document introduced by Ecuador had been sent back to capital and that, on a preliminary basis, Nicaragua would be interested in participating in discussions on it. The document was of benefit for developing and least developed countries as it referred to transfer of technology in terms of climate change.

16.7. The representative of Cuba thanked Ecuador for its submission. Given that the document had only recently been circulated, she was still awaiting her capital's assessment, yet hoped to be given new opportunities to discuss the document within the Council framework.

17 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

17.1. The Chairman said that, at its meeting of 25 February 2013, the General Council had noted the consensus on a slate of names of chairpersons for WTO bodies. On the basis of the understanding reached, he proposed that the Council for TRIPS elect H.E. Mr Alfredo Suescum from Panama as its Chairperson for the coming year by acclamation.

17.2. The Council so agreed._____
