

SPEAKER –FORM

First name	Christoph
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Title	Legal Officer and Officer-in Charge, Intellectual Property Unit, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Establishment	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Establishment Profile	<p>Established in 1964, UNCTAD has been the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade, development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, and investment. UNCTAD seeks to promote the integration of developing countries into the world economy by providing a forum for intergovernmental deliberations; research and policy analysis; and related technical assistance. UNCTAD's Programme on the Development Dimensions of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights seeks to help developing countries participate effectively in international discussions on IP rights and to help ensure at the national level that their IP policies are consonant with development objectives.</p> <p>Further information: http://unctad.org/ddip</p>
Biography	<p>Christoph Spennemann is in charge of the Intellectual Property (IP) Unit at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He oversees a program on IP-related technical cooperation and policy advice in areas such as access to medicines, transfer of technology, biodiversity and competition. Mr. Spennemann was a member of the Expert Advisory Group to the 2016 UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Medicines. Christoph holds a master degree in international economic law and European law of the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva and practised law in Berlin. His particular interests relate to patent law and the possibilities of striking an appropriate balance between exclusive rights and the public domain, with a view to promoting innovation and creativity. He has published and co-authored various articles in the areas of patent law, geographical indications and trademark law, particularly in the context of bilateral and regional free trade agreements.</p>
Presentation content	<p>Despite recent improvements, many people still have no access to affordable, safe and efficacious medicines. While there is a multitude of barriers to access, such as poor infrastructure, corruption and mismanagement, concerns have been voiced about the impact of exclusive intellectual property (IP) rights such as patents on the prices of medicines. Accordingly, the UN Secretary-General in 2015 established a High Level Panel on Access to Medicines to analyse the current system of IP and pharmaceutical innovation and to make recommendations on how to promote better access while maintaining incentives to innovate. The speaker will provide an overview of how the High Level Panel responded to this mandate, what were the most controversial issues and how the High Level Panel's work may be used in the future.</p>