

**WIPO Assemblies**

**59<sup>th</sup> Series of the Meetings, September 30 to October 9, 2019**

**Opening Statement (Agenda Item 5)**

**Delegation of the Slovak Republic**

Mr Chair,  
respected Director General,  
distinguished delegates,

We would like to warmly congratulate you Ambassador on your election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. We wish you all the success during these meetings of the WIPO Assemblies and look forward to fruitful discussions under your chairmanship.

We commend the Secretariat and Director General Francis Gurry for their excellent preparatory work for these assemblies.

The Slovak Republic fully endorses the opening statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and the opening statement made by Croatia on behalf of the Regional Group of Central European and Baltic States.

The Slovak delegation commends the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for the benefit of the users - these are crucial for continued and increased use of these global IP-services.

We note with pleasure that the working groups under these systems continue to make progress for improving regulations, guidelines and practices. Slovakia is committed to the work on global services, in the interest of the existing and future users of the systems.

The Slovak delegation would like to reaffirm its strong commitment to the adoption of the Design Law Treaty. As we highlighted on several occasions in the past years, the DLT, by simplifying and harmonizing design registration formalities, would be of great benefit for designers of developed and developing countries. The text of the DLT is final and mature enough to convene the long-awaited diplomatic conference. We urge Member States to find a solution acceptable for all.

Mr. Chairman, reiterating the necessity to take into account the rapid developments in the field of technologies and in the digital environment, we believe that the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights will ultimately result in reaching consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations as a meaningful international instrument for both - current and future needs of the broadcasting organisations.

The Slovak Republic recognizes the importance of the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. We welcomed the flexibility shown by all Member States during finalising the mandate at the last IGC meeting and we remain willing to work towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome according to the adopted mandate.

Slovakia recognizes and is satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues in this area. Further work in this area is beneficial to all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system.

We recognize the importance of the activities of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property. We support the WIPO's activities in the field of technical assistance and capacity building.

Finally, we would like to thank WIPO Secretariat and in particular the Department for Transition and Developed Countries for the excellent cooperation and assistance rendered during the previous period.

By way of conclusion, the Slovak delegation underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive and constructive way to the success of these General Assemblies.

Thank you very much Mr. Chair