

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

62nd Series of Meetings

Geneva, Switzerland

October 4 to October 8, 2021

General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. Denmark also thank Director General Mr Daren Tang and the Secretariat for all their preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

Denmark would like to specifically congratulate Mr Daren Tang for his first year as Director General of WIPO. It has been a year with various challenges arising from the global pandemic and Denmark applaud WIPO's efforts in navigating successfully through the difficult times.

Innovation is a key driver for economic growth. There is a need for research and development to ensure a sustainable growth and thereby combat the multitude of global challenges that society at all levels of development is faced with. The need for a strong and balanced IP system has been demonstrated perhaps more than ever by the global pandemic, where a collaboration between public and private parties, that rely heavily on IPR, were able to create effective vaccines with unprecedented speed. Under difficult circumstances it seems particularly important that businesses can count on a robust support from the institutions managing IP.

IP is a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for the benefit of development and economy, as well as for sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology. WIPO plays a key role as the organization is established to promote the protection of IPR globally through cooperation between states.

In this context, efforts must continuously be made to ensure that WIPO deliver cost-efficient IP services that are fit for purpose and thus provide users with premier products.

Denmark applaud WIPO's efforts in improving the global IP systems including the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems, and supports the continuing development of IT services for the benefit of users and offices alike.

We would like to briefly inform about a few IP highlights in Denmark:

In 2021, the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business, and Financial Affairs has, for the first time, launched a national IP Action Plan. It is an ambitious plan to encourage more investment in research and development as well as to get more companies to protect their innovation against infringements by using IPR. The aim is to strengthen Danish companies' competitiveness in the increasing international competition. The IP Action

Plan consists of four focus areas with a total of 16 initiatives that strengthen the framework for Danish companies' use of IPR to create value, growth and jobs. The four focus areas are: Value creation with IP rights; A fair, efficient and well-functioning IPR system; Better knowledge of IPR; International engagement.

In 2021, The Danish Patent and Trademark Office carried out a successful awareness campaign against counterfeiting. The campaign was mainly targeted at youngsters and was launched on social media in collaboration with 7 influencers. A parallel campaign was launched in the press. Altogether, the campaign reached a large share of the Danish population.

The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) – a PCT search- and examination authority jointly founded by Iceland, Norway and Denmark – continued to deliver high quality products to its applicants.

Denmark underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive, constructive and pragmatic manner to WIPO and its bodies. The efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services is important for Danish users and we wish to ensure that WIPO strive to deliver world-class services. We look forward to the collaboration with WIPO in the years to come.

Thank you.