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***Fifty-fifth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of
WIPO
(October 5 to 14, 2015, Geneva)***

Item 5 - General Statements

Mr. Chairman,

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the statements made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and by Romania on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

I would like to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairs on your election. I would also like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for the preparatory work they have undertaken as well as for all the work carried out throughout the year.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me assure you of our continuous support to the considerable work of WIPO in the pursuance of its strategic goals. We welcome the substantial results achieved in 2014 and 2015. The recent successful conclusion of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications is a significant contribution to the modern international intellectual property system. We firmly believe the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement will attract a wider membership to the Lisbon System.

Talking about the norm-setting activities of WIPO I would also like to express our hope that the Member States will finally reach an agreement on convening a diplomatic conference for adopting the Design Law Treaty at these Assemblies.

At the same time we should not forget the international regimes already in place. Our support is also extended to the significant work aimed at improving the PCT, Hague and Madrid systems in order to respond adequately to the dynamic and evolving needs of IP users worldwide.

At national level we make continuous efforts to generate greater public awareness on international intellectual property regime among all Bulgarians. In this context several workshops on IP enforcement, PCT and mediation were organized jointly by the Bulgarian Patent Office and WIPO in 2014 and at the beginning of 2015. We also upgraded and automated the business procedure in the administration and management of IP through the Intellectual Property Automation System (IPAS).

Finally, we highly appreciate WIPO support for the current development of the Bulgarian Intellectual Property Strategy for the period 2016-2020. We express our hope that the cooperation between Bulgaria and WIPO will be further strengthened and deepened.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.