

General Statement

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

October 3 to 11, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by extending warm congratulations of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to you and hope for the success of the Session under your excellent leadership.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's thanks to Director-General Dr. Francis Gurry and other members of WIPO Secretariat for their sincere efforts made in preparation of the Session.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK delegation appreciates all efforts that WIPO has made during the period under review in order to further strengthen system for the protection of the intellectual property rights in conformity with the era of knowledge-based economy.

It is a source of our encouragement that efforts are now being made for the Marrakesh Treaty's early entry into force and that the progress is being achieved in the drafting of the "Design Law Treaty" as well.

My delegation also refers to a series of proposals advanced for the operation of the Lisbon Union including, in particular, positive proposals for financial stability of the Organization as indicated in the decisions of the 55th Session.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK delegation is of the view that the decisions of the 55th Session have been properly implemented during the period under review

and wishes to make some of its observations on the future work of the WIPO.

First of all, we believe that activities of the Organization should be directed towards the protection of intellectual property rights which will substantially contribute to addressing global challenges on the basis of science and technology.

There is a need to establish the system for the protection of the intellectual property rights which is motivated by impartiality, ethics and morality, thus ensuring the protection of the rights of science and research personnel as well as the contribution of the scientific and technological achievements to the wellbeing of the humankind.

Second of all, we underline the importance of active assistance of WIPO to be rendered to the developing countries aimed at helping them in their efforts to build state system and strengthen national capacities in the field of intellectual property rights protection.

In particular, the assistance should be made in such a way as to enable developing countries to formulate and implement national strategies for the protection of intellectual property rights.

My delegation supports the proposal for the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the “Design Law Treaty” and, further, supports the position of the member states in favor of the inclusion of a provision for technical cooperation in the “Treaty”.

Lastly, we express our hope for greater enhancement of efficiency in the work of WIPO as well as for complete cessation of the politicization in the provision of assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the wise leadership of the respected comrade **KIM JONG UN**, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the government has recently put forward the Five-Year Strategy for National Economic Development (2016-2020), aimed at laying solid foundation of the national

economy through its revitalization and is now waging vigorous struggle for its realization.

The science and technology including the protection of intellectual property rights would play the pivotal role as engine in attaining the goals of Five-Year Strategy.

The validity and vitality of the DPRK's policy attaching importance to science and technology have been fully demonstrated through its launch in February this year of the earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong N0 4 which was domestically manufactured and the application satellites as an assembly of advanced technology will continue to be launched in the future.

In the DPRK, intellectual and creative activities corresponding to the requirements of knowledge-based economy have now been encouraged and pursued, while activities are under way in close cooperation with the WIPO to implement national strategy for the protection of intellectual property rights through its regular updates and improvements.

This year, the DPRK has ratified or acceded to 4 WIPO treaties and conventions including Beijing Convention and Marrakesh Treaty leading to the creation of favorable legal and practical environment and conditions for more active participation in the activities of WIPO.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the DPRK delegation reaffirms its readiness to continue to make every effort to further develop national protection of intellectual property rights and to consolidate international cooperation in the field of intellectual property rights protection.

Thank you.