

**Opening Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO
2 to 11 October 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement made by Estonia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and with the statement made by Georgia on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

We thank the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat for all their highly professional work and we would also like to thank Ambassador Karklins and you, Mr. Vice-President, for considerable efforts and engagement during the period since the last session of the Assemblies.

Mr. Vice-President,

The Czech economy is increasingly driven by innovation and creativity, so we attach a great importance to the IPR protection and recognize the key role of WIPO in this field. In our view, WIPO delivers on its program objectives and is generally in a healthy financial shape. We would like to commend the Secretariat for this, and it is also in this connection that we support the adoption of the Program and Budget for biennium 2018/2019 as proposed and we welcome the Capital Master Plan for 2018-27.

We continue to pay great attention to the improvement of all four global intellectual property protection systems, the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems and services provided to their users.

As regards the PCT, we support the extension of the appointment of the Visegrad Patent Institute as an International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authority, the only such authority in the CEBS region.

Regarding the Lisbon Union, my country has helped to cover its short-term financial deficit, and is ready for further discussions on solutions for its long-term financial sustainability.

Turning now to the WIPO's normative agenda, we hope that the remaining open issues will be resolved, and the long awaited decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty will be made.

The Czech Republic is actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We believe that this work will ultimately result in reaching consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations as a meaningful instrument for both current and future needs of the protection. We also support including the topic of the Resale Rights on the permanent agenda of the Committee.

We welcome the progress made in the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. We would welcome more technical debate relating to substantive patent harmonization.

The Czech delegation remains committed to achieving a reasonable work program for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) for the coming biennium.

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.

The Czech delegation highly appreciates the WIPO's activity under the strategic goal "Building respect for IP". Enforcement is a global challenge. We continue to support the work of Advisory Committee on Enforcement which represents the multilateral forum for sharing the best practices in this area.

Finally, we would like to thank WIPO Secretariat and in particular the Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) for the excellent cooperation and assistance provided to us. In February this year the Czech Industrial Property Office organized in Prague, in close cooperation with WIPO, „PCT workshop on the PCT system and the use of ePCT“. The workshop was highly appreciated by staff of our Office as well as by the public. Let me also mention that our Office welcomes with pleasure all relevant study visits and internships organized in cooperation with WIPO.

The Czech delegation would also like to express its thanks to WIPO for continuous fight against misleading offers/invoices.

We look forward to further cooperation with WIPO.

I thank you.