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General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. We also thank DG Francis Gurry and the Bureau for all their preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

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 society at all levels of development is faced with. Therefore, there must be a proper incentive to ensure return of the significant investment associated with the undertaking of such tasks.

Against this background Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for the benefit of development and economy, as well for sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology. WIPO plays a key role as this 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 acknowledges WIPO's efforts for improving the global IP systems including PCT and Madrid and the IT services for users and offices alike. We congratulate WIPO for increasing efficiency in its operations.

We also thank WIPO for its work to improve the governance of the organization. Denmark attaches importance to efficient and transparent governance and support continuous enhancements in this respect.

With regards to the normative work in the committees we observe the following:

We welcome the effort of the Secretariat in implementing the Development Agenda (DA). WIPO has an important role to play in bringing the issue of IP to the attention to all stakeholders regardless of level of development. The inclusion of the DA recommendations must be seen in conjunction with the overall goal of WIPO as stated in the WIPO Convention, "to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among states".

In relation to the Design Law Formality Treaty, Denmark continue to believe that the text achieved in 2014 is sufficient mature for a Diplomatic Conference.

Denmark appreciates the information exchange in the Advisory Committee on Enforcement in order to combat IPR infringements.

Denmark is supportive of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents work concerning development of patent law and hope these efforts will progress towards harmonization of patent laws to the benefit of users and society.

Denmark acknowledges the progress made on GR, TK and TCE's during the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) and look forward to continue the work.

Denmark is supportive of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property's (CDIP) work on the implementation of the development agenda (DA) recommendations. WIPO has an important role to play in realising innovation, creativity and the promotion of IP for the benefit of everyone.

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

The Danish government has decided to concentrate all investigations and criminal proceedings in relation to IPR crimes at the State Prosecutor for Serious Economic and International crime. This will ensure a better coordinated and strengthened effort against IPR crimes.

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 in 2017-2018. In 2017 the NPI was the only PCT authority to publish all PCT applications with an international search report.

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.

Thank you.