

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Sixty-Third Series of Meetings

Geneva, July 14 – July 22, 2022

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA**

Madam Chair,

The delegation of the Republic of Estonia appreciates that the Sixty-Third Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO are gathering again in person in Geneva after several years of health crisis, which has rocked the world of all WIPO Member States. Today, we are meeting during continuously demanding times, as the war in Ukraine threatens the existence and functioning of the entire multilateral system. Estonia fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by Slovakia on behalf of the CEBS group and by the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU. We find it very important that WIPO as an international organization can support and show solidarity with all its Members, who face an urgent need of assistance, as Ukraine does now. This is why we fully support agenda item 19 and look forward to a constructive approach by all Member States.

Estonia commends your skilful leadership, Director General Tang, as WIPO's performance continues to improve, even during times of crisis, and significant progress has already taken place in implementing the Medium Term Strategic Plan. Estonia also welcomes the efficient, effective and sound management of the organization's resources.

As regards the priorities and numerous contributions of WIPO to support the innovators and creators around the world, we would like to highlight a few, which are of particular importance to Estonia.

WIPO's work on innovation is outstanding. We follow closely our position in the Global Innovation Index on the highest political level and consider this to be an excellent tool and feedback to our country's efforts. WIPO's initiative to focus on SME-s and start-up-s, and the development of relevant tools to support the sector, is also greatly appreciated. It could not have come at a better time.

The current year is particularly important to our researchers, as the first Technology Transfer Offices Network was established in the Baltic States, as a result of WIPO's long-term contribution to the region. We hope to set an example and pave the way for the creation of other regional TTO networks.

Looking to the future, Estonia is following with growing interest the WIPO Conversation on IP and Frontier Technologies including AI. The world is developing at an enormous pace. WIPO must be well prepared or even better, ahead of the inevitable.

In conclusion, Estonia would like to express its strong support to the work WIPO is doing as a central multilateral organization for the development and promotion of the worldwide intellectual property system. We warmly thank the Director General and the whole WIPO team for the excellent preparation of these General Assemblies and we are looking forward to contribute constructively.

Thank you.