

## **General Statement of FINLAND - WIPO Assemblies, 63<sup>rd</sup> Series of Meetings**

Madam Chair,

It is wonderful to be present once again in here Geneva and at WIPO. This occasion highlights the strength of the multilateral system, which has prevailed the challenges posed by the pandemic. The Russian Federation's unjustified military aggression against Ukraine is a big challenge to the multilateral system, not least because of the severe humanitarian and economic consequences of the conflict.

Dear Colleagues,

SME's, creators, innovators, youth, indigenous peoples and even politicians in all countries can and should make use of the IP system. WIPO has a vital role in sharing knowledge and in promoting discussion on these issues. Finland values highly the close co-operation it has had with WIPO for a long time, most recently in developing the copyright infrastructure, which is high priority for Finland and some other Member States, organisations and companies. It is an ambitious and multifaceted endeavor.

Finland is a strong advocate of innovation and we appreciate the efforts of Director General Tang regarding the WIPO Ministerial Forum on Innovation. We are looking forward to participating in the Ministerial Forum as soon as it takes place.

This year, the Finnish Patent and Registration Office celebrates its 80th anniversary as an independent administrative office. The first patent in Finland was granted as early as 180 years ago. Finland wants to ensure that also the future generations of right holders and the society as a whole is able to benefit from an efficient IP framework.

The newly published Finnish IP strategy contains 15 measures that spread over several ministers' areas of responsibility. These measures include improving skills in IP and related areas, making full use of data management. We continue to embrace new technologies while taking on the challenges of AI on the IP system. In line with the objectives of the IP strategy, national patent legislation is being updated, in close collaboration between ministries, agencies and relevant stakeholders.

The aim of the Finnish Government is to make Finland the world's most effective environment for experimenting with and developing innovations that produces sustainable solutions to societal challenges. One of the key means to remain at the forefront of innovation development is to raise R&D expenditure to four per cent of GDP by 2030. It is an ambitious goal and requires significant investments from both the public and private sectors. To support this, we must ensure that also other aspects of the RDI environment can promote innovation. This includes also a well-functioning IPR-system.

15.7.2022

Finland also believes that IP rights' importance for the indigenous peoples' rights need more attention regionally. We are actively working hard to think how the current IP system could better serve the interests and need of Sámi people from their point of view and needs.

Madame Chair, I thank you.