



## WIPO General Assemblies

## Iceland 2022

### General Statement

Iceland would like to begin by thanking the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang and the WIPO team for making these Assemblies possible. We also like to thank the Office for continued support and fruitful co-operation. We congratulate Mr. Tang on his strong leadership during this year and for a detailed and impressive report on WIPOs work during these Assemblies.

The world continues to be faced with difficult challenges and Iceland acknowledges the important initiative of WIPO in adding discussion on the invasion in Ukraine to the Assemblies agenda. The consequences of the invasion remain to be seen and Intellectual Property matters urgently need to be addressed in this respect on an international level.

Looking into the operations of the Icelandic Intellectual Property Office (ISIPO), the Office celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting a hybrid conference on 4 November 2021: *IP and sustainability: Innovation for a brighter future*. The theme was inspired by the continued importance placed by WIPO on sustainability matters, green technology and the theme for World IP Day this year. The ISIPO is grateful for and sincerely thanks Mr. Daren Tang for his inspirational greeting during the conference and kind words.

The ISIPO continues to promote and to exploit the vast services offered by WIPO and last year the Office's staff made use of various useful webinars. The ISIPO is furthermore constantly seeking ways to introduce digital and more user-friendly solutions and services and is pleased to see continuous rise and interest in the use of Madrid e-filing.

Despite still challenging times, the 2021 filing numbers increased in Iceland for Trademarks (+7%) and Designs (+53%) with a decrease however in patent filings (national: -26%). International trademark filing numbers were and continue to be quite stable as well as International Design filings, PCT-filings however decreased for a total of 52%. The Office is currently exploring measures to increase awareness and use of the patent system.

Following Parliamentary elections in autumn 2021 a new Ministry was established, *the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation*. Its role is to bring together universities, science, industry and innovation, thereby enhancing prosperity and creating knowledge-based jobs. The ministries vision is for intelligence to be the country's largest export sector. In this respect Iceland welcomes and supports the aim of bringing Ministers for IP matters together in a Ministerial Forum.

To underline the importance of intertwining Universities, science and Intellectual Property Rights, the ISIPO and the University of Iceland chose the theme of World IP Day 2022: *IP and youth – innovating for a better future*, to further enhance co-operation between these two important pillars to sign a co-operation agreement, focusing on enhancing education in the field of IPR within the University.

Finally, the awareness raising of the IP system in general is a continuous project, both for WIPO and its Member States. Iceland thus welcomes WIPOs focus on innovators and creators, empowering women in IP and sharing success stories in order to enhance understanding and promoting active use of the system. Iceland strongly supports any initiative in this respect and is looking forward to a close cooperation with the experts of the Office in awareness raising and other projects in the future.

WIPO continues to grow under strong leadership of Mr. Tang and Iceland wishes him and his team every success in the next years leading the Office.