

63th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

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Statement of Italy by Chargé d’Affaires a.i. Min. Marie Sol FULCI

*Distinguished Chair,*

*Distinguished Director General,*

*Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,*

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and with the one delivered by Germany on behalf of Group B.

As we all know, this last year has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing both WIPO Members States and the Organization to cope with new and unprecedented working challenges. At the same time, this ongoing sanitary emergency has contributed to put Intellectual Property in the spotlight as never before.

Italy highly values WIPO's approach to the protection of intellectual property with a view to strengthening the competitiveness of companies, in particular of small and medium enterprises and start-ups, and to foster the activities of research centres and Academia. We also share the importance to extend WIPO outreach to a wider range of innovation stakeholders, including young people. Enhancing the system of protection of industrial property rights encourages investments in research and innovation, as well as fosters technology transfer, promoting the exploitation of research results and their commercialization on the market and as such, turning ideas into products.

Almost half of the Italian GDP and almost a third of Italian employees are linked to intellectual property rights, since intangible assets are being now at the core of the competitiveness of our companies in many strategic sectors, including Made in Italy industry. Therefore, we are engaged to support IP valorization to build respect for any type of IP in the global market, protecting assets both off-line and online. In this regard, an important IP reform at national level is ongoing and will soon be approved in order to provide users with a stronger IP protection,

streamline administrative procedures, and give access to improved databases and digital tools, that will also allow a wider use of the WIPO Digital Access Service.

Moreover we have been strengthening our collaboration with WIPO as regards the Patent Cooperation Treaty, since from 2020 Italy has launched the national PCT route.

In line with this approach, the Italian action in the multilateral field aims at promoting more broadly the culture of innovation, highlighting the positive role played by industrial property rights to support the post-Covid 19 economic recovery, the green and the digital transformation to face the growing energy and environmental challenges.

In this perspective, our support to WIPO's goals and to its work programme on the ongoing normative agenda and on the reinforced portfolio of business support initiatives and services, remains unwavering.

Likewise, we confirm our strong interest in promoting and expanding the international registration system of geographical indications, IP rights strongly connected to national and local identity and origin, that are part of cultural heritages. In this context, we welcome the recent accessions of member States to the Lisbon System and we are convinced that this will pave the way to further geographical enlargement in the near future. In this regard, we are confident that targeted promotional initiatives will be fostered by WIPO and that increased resources for the competent WIPO Department will be allocated.

Thank you Mr Chair.