

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Geneva, September 23, 2013

Statement of Turkey

Honorable Madam Chair,

Distinguished Members of the Assemblies of WIPO,

On behalf of the Turkish Delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the General Assemblies. I also would like to welcome your two vice chairs. I am confident that under your chairmanship the Assemblies will produce fruitful outcomes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry, for his leadership in motivating a great number of actors in a multilateral environment. Last but not least, I thank the Secretariat for the background work illustrating the successful auspices of WIPO.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

This year, we all witnessed the signing of the Marrakesh Treaty, which should be exemplified as an achievement in norm setting and a step further in seeking balanced harmony of the interest among public and private domain. I am honored to hereby announce Turkey's willingness to sign the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as our internal procedures are finalized. In the same context, further progress on texts of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions are appreciated.

Distinguished Delegates,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly present some important developments in Turkey since the last Assembly.

Concerning IPR policies, I am pleased to acknowledge the continued political commitment of our government, which stipulates effective protection of IPR in the Turkish Government Action Plan. This commitment is clearly demonstrated by two new draft laws prepared in 2013 on industrial property rights and copyrights. Backed

up by this government support, our high level IP policy making platform; **the Intellectual Property Coordination Board** has drafted the **National IPR Strategy Paper**, which will be finalized by the end of this year. Meanwhile, **the Turkish Design Council** has already completed the National Designs Strategy and launched its action plan accordingly. In this regard, Turkey appreciates the intense efforts dedicated to convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of Design Law Treaty.

As regards enforcement, the Turkish police, customs and judiciary have been increasing their institutional capacities as demonstrated during the 7th Global Congress on Counterfeiting and Piracy that was organized in Istanbul in cooperation with WIPO, Interpol and WCO (World Customs Organization).

As regards creation of IP, Turkey perceives universities as a niche to play higher roles in innovation. The **Turkish Supreme Council for Science and Technology** has adopted a decree on developing policy tools to trigger innovation and entrepreneurship in universities. Furthermore, the draft IP law provides new instruments for commercializing of their inventions. Finally, the project **“Disseminating IP Knowledge in Universities”** has recently been launched together with an IP Awareness Campaign.

Coming back to IP statistics, we observe a continuous increase in demand for our registration services where patent and design applications have continued to rise above the world average and trademarks are still at the top of the list. The associated workload has been addressed by institutional re-organization, enhanced IT infrastructure and new business models. The subsidiary e-tools of WIPO have been very instrumental and integration to the Goods and Services Manager was successfully completed. Our integration to the OHIM's TMView is also a step forward in expanding our services EU-wide, which is in line with our objective to facilitate access and dissemination of IP knowledge as stated in **our Institutional Strategic Plan**.

In this context, we continued pursuing new partnerships with national offices such as China, France, Spain, and Sweden while fulfilling our existing projects in international environment, such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

As regards our future objectives, IP awareness and education is our top priority, which is an area where we and our region need international cooperation the most. To this end, we initiated two cooperation programs with WIPO: establishment of National IP Academy and launching of a graduate program at a selected university in Turkey. I strongly believe that if these delayed initiatives can be revitalized, we would observe a dramatic increase in awareness and respect for intellectual property in our region. As a further step, Turkey would be honored to host an external office of the WIPO at the intersection of three continents. Having said that, we fully encourage WIPO and the member states to setup a transparent process with precise guidelines in selection of future centers that should aim at making optimum use of resources with maximum possible effect.

Distinguished Delegates,

Concluding my statement, I am confident that this Assembly will be a success in reconciliation of different approaches. I thank all Member Countries for their cooperation and hard work in bringing the General Assembly to this stage and wish you fruitful deliberations.