

WIPO General Assembly, September 21 to September 25, 2020

Honorable Chair,

Director General Dr. Francis Gurry,

Excellences and distinguished delegates,

I am glad to be able to join this meeting remotely and I would like to express my gratitude to the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Omar Zniber, and the Secretariat of the WIPO for ensuring that this General Assembly can take place in a hybrid format, despite the challenging circumstances that we are currently facing.

On behalf of the delegation of Latvia, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, for his commitment to strengthen intellectual property rights system worldwide. We highly value your remarkable achievements and lasting legacy as a result of your outstanding career and as Director General of the WIPO for the last 12 years. For this reason, I appreciate the effective and close cooperation between our institutions, where we had an honour to welcome you twice in Riga, Latvia.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on taking up the duties of the Director General of the WIPO. I would like to wish you every success in achieving the established priorities and addressing important legislative matters. I am confident that under your leadership the WIPO will continue to enhance its role and mission and I am looking forward to working with you closely in the coming years.

It is becoming clear that the current Covid-19 pandemic has changed our daily lives drastically and its impact will last for indefinite period. However, the crisis demonstrates and reminds us that we must make decisions that enable the intellectual property system to be quick to adopt to changing circumstances. Furthermore, financial sustainability of the Organization should retain its importance as much as possible during the current situation.

We all share a collective power to make a lasting impact and I truly hope that we will be able to follow this approach during these WIPO General Assemblies.

Thank you.