



**GENERAL STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
AT THE 61ST SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
21 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Malaysia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of Asia and the Pacific Group (APG) and ASEAN.

2. At the outset, Malaysia wishes to congratulate Your Excellency Ambassador Omar Zniber, on your election as Chair and express our appreciation to you, the Vice Chairs and Secretariat for the preparation of this meeting. Malaysia assures you of our full support and cooperation in steering this meeting towards achieving its objectives.

3. Malaysia extends its appreciation to Mr. Francis Gurry for the comprehensive presentation of the Director General's Report yesterday. We also wish to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to Mr. Gurry for his leadership, dedication and remarkable contribution to WIPO throughout his career in the Organisation. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

4. Malaysia would also like to warmly welcome and congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO and hopes that the work of WIPO will continue to flourish under his leadership for the benefit of WIPO Member States.

5. Malaysia welcomes the global launch of the 2020 edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) and is pleased with the outcome of this year's assessment, which indicates Malaysia's improvement in global innovation performance. Malaysia is committed to further fostering innovation in strengthening and advancing our national IP policies and system.

Mr. Chair,

6. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a great toll on our lives and drastically changed the way we do our work. Malaysia would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere condolences to WIPO and everyone who have lost loved ones, relatives, friends and colleagues due to this dreadful virus.

7. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia in March 2020, most of on-site operations and services have been suspended. Several policies and procedures have been amended to adapt to this unprecedented situation. Through innovation and the use of digital technologies, Malaysia has been able to make the necessary adaptations to allow IP-related work to continue, despite restrictions faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Malaysia wishes to thank WIPO and other IP Offices for their continued efforts in fulfilling their mandate through organising activities such as virtual workshops and seminars during these challenging times. We believe a large number of participants have benefited from these programmes. We hope that similar programmes could be organised in the future to promote awareness and provide an opportunity to exchange views regarding various IP-related issues.

9. While taking note of the challenges posed by COVID-19 on the normative agenda of WIPO, Malaysia hopes that the normative work of WIPO will soon be resumed. In addition, Malaysia also wishes to reiterate the importance of a greater equitable geographical representation in all WIPO committees.

10. To conclude, let me once again reiterate our appreciation to WIPO's commendable work and we look forward to continue working with WIPO under the leadership of Mr Tang and his team.

Thank you.

Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia
21 September 2020