

**ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
SIXTY-SECOND SERIES OF MEETINGS**

4 October 2021

GENEVA

GENERAL STATEMENT – AUSTRALIA

We would like to begin by welcoming you, Director General Daren Tang, and wish you great success in your first assemblies as Director General. You have assumed the leadership of WIPO in the most difficult of times, and we have appreciated your measured and pragmatic leadership in these challenging times.

We share your vision to simplify the international IP system and make it more accessible to innovators, creators and businesses everywhere, particularly small and medium enterprises. We look forward to working with WIPO and Member States not only to achieve this vision, but also to support the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia acknowledges the significant and devastating impact that COVID-19 continues to have on communities around the world, affecting both lives and livelihoods. It is of paramount importance that WIPO and the broader international IP system continue to play an active and urgent role in responding to the pandemic. The development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in record time is in many ways a testament to the IP system, and we must now ensure that the system continues to support timely, widespread and affordable access to these vaccines. We recognise the crucial work that WIPO has done, including in partnership with the World Trade Organization and the World Health Organization, to support these efforts. No one is safe until everyone is safe, and we recognise that global immunisation is our only path out of the pandemic.

As we continue to grapple with COVID-19, we will also continue to work with WIPO and Member States to adapt to all current and future challenges, and commend the Secretariat, Chairs and Vice-Chairs for continuing to arrange these hybrid physical and virtual meetings.

Australia welcomes continued cooperative and constructive discussions in WIPO's committees and working groups. We reiterate our strong support for ongoing improvements to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Madrid Protocol, and work towards a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organisations.

We continue to urge member states to join the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled to spread its clear humanitarian benefits.

In closing, Australia expresses its strong commitment to working with WIPO and Member States to ensure that the international IP system continues to fulfil its social and economic purposes and serves our innovators, creators, and businesses, as well as the broader public.