

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

64th Series of Meetings

Geneva, Switzerland

July 5 to July 14, 2023

General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark would like to congratulate the chairmanship on its election. We would also like to thank DG Daren Tang and the WIPO Secretariat for the significant preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

We would like to reiterate that Denmark strongly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Denmark continues to stand behind Ukraine and its people. We assure our Ukrainian customers that we will support them to safeguard their IP Rights. We do so by using the maximum flexibility available to us to consider requests for extensions of time, reinstatements, and restorations. To this end Denmark welcomes agenda Item 21: Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System. We thank the secretariat for preparing the Report on Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System, document A/64/8. Denmark welcomes the level of detail and analytical approach in the report. Continued cooperation between the International Bureau and Ukraine is vital in the efforts to support and rebuild Ukraine's IP infrastructure.

Innovation is a key driver of economic growth. There is a need for research and development to ensure sustainable growth and thereby combat the multitude of global challenges that society at all levels of development is facing. Therefore, there must be a proper incentive to ensure the return of the significant investment associated with the undertaking of such tasks.

Against this background, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for the benefit of development and economy, as well as for sharing knowledge and technology transfer. In this context, we notice that the IP framework has been instrumental in the historically fast development of vaccines to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, efforts must continuously be made to ensure that WIPO delivers cost-efficient IP services that are fit for purpose and thus provide users with premier products.

Denmark applauds WIPO's efforts to improve the global IP systems including the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems, and supports the continuing development of IT services for users and offices alike. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification, and cost savings for the benefit of the users are crucial to the continued and increased use of these global IP services.

Concerning the normative work taking place in WIPO's committees, Denmark acknowledges the progress made. We also note that there are two diplomatic conferences planned for 2024, on Design Law Treaty and for an international instrument on IP and genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Denmark have previously raised issues with hosting the Assemblies in the Month of July. By hosting the Assemblies in July, we shy away from a long-standing tradition of having it in autumn, which causes significant challenges for Denmark due to a plethora of other international meetings and obligations taking place in the period immediately before. Further to this, a number of Northern European WIPO Member States traditionally have their summer holidays in July meaning that schools and offices are shut down. We urge the Secretariat to rethink the timing of the Assemblies in 2024.

Denmark underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive, constructive, and pragmatic manner to WIPO and its bodies. The efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services stands very important for Danish users, and we wish to ensure that WIPO strives to deliver world-class services.

Thank you.