

**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings  
Geneva, September 30 to October 9, 2019**

**Opening Statement/Georgia**

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

1. The delegation of Georgia is honored to express its gratitude to you, Chairing this General Assemblies. We believe that under your leadership and guidance Member States will be able to solve all pending issues during the current General Assemblies. I would also like to extend our special appreciation to the Director General and the Secretariat for all the activities carried out throughout the year.

2. We would like to thank all Member States and express hope for constructive engagement on the complex agenda ahead of us during the General Assemblies.

3. Georgia fully aligns with the statement made by delegation of Croatia on behalf of the CEBS group.

4. We would like to highlight excellent work of WIPO Academy carried out in order to raise public awareness and qualification in the field of IP. We welcome all the projects and initiatives of Academy, in particular customization of DL courses, supporting countries to set up national IP academies and extension of PDP programs in different countries. We thank WIPO Academy for launching the Distance Learning Georgian-language course - DL101GE, and successful completion of the project of TOT for Sakpatenti trainers. We also thank WIPO for its continuous support in conducting PDP program in Georgia which proved to be successful and enabled governmental officials from various countries to deepen knowledge and contributed in raising qualification of local staff as well.

5. We attach high importance to the academy project dedicated to the increasing qualification of judiciaries and count on further active support and cooperation of WIPO academy, and WIPO with Georgia as setting up a national IP training center and carrying out of joint projects has already proved to be successful and beneficial for Georgia, for the countries in the region and all over the world.

6. We wish to thank TDC and WIPO Academy for its usual and very active engagement and professional guidance on the planning and implementation of the priority projects for Georgia. We are pleased to see that the activities are continuously improving through regular evaluation and assessment of the projects and would like to see more upcoming projects with broader approach.

We would like to particularly note the brilliant role of TDC in supporting countries to elaborate IP strategies and give high assessment to TDC for supporting interested countries in further implementation of the strategies.

7. We also would like to note that in a result of very fruitful cooperation with the WIPO Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications Department, Sakpatenti has become the third of IP offices participating in the Madrid e-filing service – a more secure and simple way for applicants to expand the scope of international protection for their mark through the Madrid System.

8. The Delegation of Georgia welcomes the efforts and activities of WIPO in developing and strengthening Global IP system that through promoting innovation and creativity contributes to economic growth and social welfare. We express belief that WIPO will continue to respond to the needs of all Member States in the same efficient way. Moreover, we are convinced that WIPO will continue provision of services through PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems by allocating needed resources for their use and promotion providing the equal treatment to all systems including GIs.

9. We also emphasize the high level of organization of cultural and side-events in WIPO and would like to thank the Secretariat for the professional approach that helps to promote cultures and traditions of different countries.

10. Regarding legislative agenda, in particular Design Law Treaty we hope that agreement on convening the Diplomatic Conference for DLT, which has been finalized few years ago will be reached during this Assembly.

11. In relation to the WIPO external offices we are of the view that principle of equitable geographical distribution should not be neglected and the priorities should be given to regions without any external office. In this sense CEBS remains only region without external office and Romania is the country who applied for external offices. We should act in the best interest of this organization and honor and respect the history of long negotiations, thus we strongly support the opening of the office in Romania.

12. The Delegation of Georgia would like underline the importance of improving geographical representation in the WIPO of unrepresented or underrepresented countries and believe that in close cooperation with Member States geographical representation will be balanced in the near future.

Chair, we express belief that we will reach consensus on the approval of program and budget for 2020/21 at this session in order to ensure the effective functioning of this organization.

This being said, we are looking forward to a constructive discussion during the General Assemblies and retain our positive spirit to come to the agreement on the complex WIPO agenda.

I thank you, Mr. Chair