



**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SLOVENIAN INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE, MSc. KARIN ŽVOKELJ, AT WIPO GA 2022
15 JULY 2022**

Madame Chair,

The Republic of Slovenia aligns itself with the statements of the EU and its Member States and the CEBS Group.

We are pleased to entrust the proceedings of the Assemblies into the guidance of a capable female representative from our CEBS regional group.

We commend the able leadership of the DG Tang and his committed staff. In particular, we welcome the efforts for building a well-balanced IP ecosystem for SMEs, fostering the recognition of IPRs among younger generations, increasing women representation, as well as exploring the potentials of artificial intelligence (AI) and frontier technologies (FT).

This year Slovenia is marking 30 years of its WIPO membership. We are proud of our successful cooperation with WIPO on a number of projects and events, as well as all our contributions to the normative and institutional agendas.

30 years' anniversary of Slovenia's IP Office was used as an additional incentive to further promote creativity and innovation, an effective and internationally comparable system of intellectual property protection, the development of culture and industry, increase of competitiveness and improving quality of life.

We are actively engaging in projects that provide tangible support to SMEs. We are also focusing on young entrepreneurs, innovators, startup community, creators and women IP empowerment, to the benefit of everyone.

Digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI) remain priority topics of interest for Slovenia. We continue to support WIPO in the exploration and development of this field.

Madame Chair,

As the world is still trying to “build back better” from the pandemic, we are faced with new extraordinary crises. In full solidarity with Ukraine, we stand ready to contribute to rebuilding Ukraine's IP infrastructure and ecosystem under the new agenda item of the Assemblies.

To conclude, let me assure you that Slovenia is committed to continue its work in WIPO, in a collaborative spirit and constructive manner.

Thank you.