

Honorable President, distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to address the General Assembly on behalf of Turkey. At the very outset, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Director-General, Mr. Daren Tang, and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts to prepare the General Assemblies under the difficult times we are all going through.

The world is recovering from the covid-19 pandemic and many things, mainly some fields of the business sectors, have been severely affected and transformed. During this unprecedented period, we all have witnessed, among other things, the importance of innovation and collaboration on the path of recovery.

Along these lines, as adopted and already launched, the Medium-Term Strategic Plan MTSP sets out all priorities coherently with a fresh perspective. We attach great importance to MTSP, which will be serving as a source of inspiration and guidance for WIPO in the next 5-years period.

I also would like to thank WIPO for successfully preparing the Program of Work and Budget document. After intense negotiations and constructive engagements by the Member States, we believe that the Program of Work and Budget will pave the way for important achievements of WIPO in the next biennium.

Distinguished delegates,

Despite the persisting pandemic, the number of IPR applications has continued to rise in Turkey. The national patent applications have been increased by 1%, national trademark applications 31%, and national designs applications 7%. These numbers placed Turkey among the top 10 IP countries globally in national applications. On the other hand, although we are a very young office as an ISA authority, it was a great success for us to be among the top 10 ISA offices regarding the number of reports we prepared.

On the copyright front, Turkey's policy has been shaped around the development of copyright and creative industries, one of our country's growth axes in the 21st century. In this context, A Copyright Specialization Library was established within the General Directorate of Copyright in Ankara, and collaborations with several universities on copyright and creative industries were established.

The internal approval of the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty was adopted in the Parliament and published in the Official Gazette in March of this year. By ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty, Turkey has taken an essential step in facilitating the access of visually and reading impaired people to the works in our country and abroad.

The Intellectual Property Academy continues providing training on every aspect of IP with public institutions, professional associations, universities, and all stakeholders regarding educational activities. These training programs are from every segment of society, primarily members of the judiciary, academics, lawyers, experts, law enforcement officers, professional associations, and artists.

Finally, I would like to mention another important initiative that we have taken in recent years. As the total number of our IP filings and grants have been steadily increasing

year after year, we founded the Turkish IP Valuation Company (TURKSMD) as a TURKPATENT's subsidiary. With this initiative, our primary purpose was to create a high-quality IP valuation capacity in Turkey. I firmly believe that this initiative will play a critical role in facilitating IP commercialization in Turkey.

In conclusion,

My delegation expresses Turkey's alignment with the statements delivered on behalf of Group-B on this Assembly's agenda items. I am confident that this meeting will be a success, and I would like to thank all the distinguished delegations and the Secretariat for their valuable contributions. I assure you that my delegation stands ready to assist the Assemblies in their oncoming discussions with a constructive spirit.

Thank you very much.