

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
63rd SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES**

**Statement by the Singapore Delegation on Agenda Item 15 –
WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, including Domain Names**

Chair,

- 1 Thank you for giving me the floor.
- 2 Over the last few days, we have heard the commitment by WIPO and national IP Offices to support the growth of businesses, particularly SMEs and entrepreneurs, to use IP for growth and innovation.
- 3 **Central to a business' management and utilization of its IP and intangible assets is to be able to resolve disputes quickly and easily.** In this regard, we appreciate the critical role that the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center in Singapore plays to support regional alternative dispute resolution (or ADR) activities since 2011. The Center combines WIPO's IP expertise with Singapore's excellent infrastructure, highly qualified ADR professionals, and reputation for impartiality and integrity, to offer businesses a high-quality forum of choice for ADR.
- 4 **The WIPO Center, whether in Geneva or Singapore, allows disputing parties to resolve international, cross-border IP and technology disputes efficiently. The resort to alternative dispute resolution, with a neutral third party, is less costly when compared to traditional forms of dispute settlement and can help preserve business relationships.** Arbitral awards and settlement agreements are enforceable under the New York Convention and the Singapore Convention on Mediation respectively. Businesses are able to benefit from the high - quality, round the clock services of the WIPO Center in Geneva and Singapore.

- 5 **Singapore is committed to support ADR as a choice option for businesses, including SMES and entrepreneurs.** Our Revised Enhanced Mediation Promotion Scheme funds mediation undertaken by parties in disputes before the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), covering fees charged by the mediation service provider, mediator's fees and mediation-related lawyer fees up to a cap. This serves to encourage disputing parties to choose mediation as an attractive solution towards amicable dispute resolution. Previous iterations of this scheme had attracted a good number of cases administered by the WIPO Center.

- 6 **IPOS will continue to work closely with the WIPO Center to expand outreach on ADR to future innovators and entrepreneurs.** Amongst the line-up of joint activities is the Young IP Mediators Initiative where the participants participate in the mediation of actual IP disputes. We are pleased to share that two of our Young IP Mediators have joined WIPO ADR Young.

- 7 **The record performance in the number of cases handled by the WIPO Centre in the 2020/21 biennium is a sign that ADR is increasingly becoming a choice option for businesses, in resolving their IP and technology disputes.** IPOS looks forward to working more closely with the WIPO Centre in enhancing our services and programmes to cater to the needs of global businesses, especially SMEs and entrepreneurs in the IP ecosystem.

Thank you.