

GENERAL STATEMENT 2014 – **NORWAY** – WIPO Assemblies, 54th Series of Meetings, September 22 to 30, 2014

The Norwegian Delegation wishes to express its satisfaction seeing Madam Chair on the podium in this beautiful new conference hall and wishes her the best of luck in guiding this Assembly to a successful conclusion. We would also like to welcome the Vice-Chairs.

Further, we commend the Secretariat and Director General Francis Gurry for their excellent preparatory work for these assemblies.

Norway maintains the importance of improving the Member States' ability to monitor the economy and administration of WIPO and welcomes the continued efforts to this end.

The Norwegian delegation commends the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for the benefit of the users - these are crucial to continued and increased use of these global IP-services. The working groups under these systems are making progress for improving regulations, guidelines and practices. Norway is committed to this work, in the interest of the existing and future users of the systems.

This delegation notes some progress in the work of the Standing Committees but regrets the limited outcome on the substantive issues. Norway looks forward to the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of Design Law Treaty.

The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore has met three times in 2014 and worked hard. The three texts represent, however, work in progress and divergent views on core issues, therefore we support continued focused work.

In respect of the ongoing work on WIPO's Development Agenda this Delegation looks forward to continuing the work of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property and other agreed projects in relevant committees.

The issue of IT-standards and technological infrastructure remains an essential issue for WIPO expert discussions, and this delegation looks forward to continuing the work of the Committee on WIPO Standards, whose Member State experts in our view make a very significant and practical contribution to the international and national registration systems.

With regard to developments in Norway, the Patents Act was amended in May 2014 in order to allow for Norwegian accession to the London Agreement on translation arrangements for patents granted by the European Patent Office. Norway will prescribe that if the European patent is granted in or translated into English, a translation into Norwegian of the patent specification will not be required. At the same time amendments were made to also allow for filing national patent applications and granting national patents in English. The patent claims must in both cases be translated into Norwegian if the granted patent is in English. We expect that the accession to the London Agreement and the amendments to the Patents Act will enter into force 1 January 2015.

The Norwegian Copyright Act was amended this year in order to implement the EU amendments to the term protection directive (Directive 2011/77/EU amending directive 2006/116/EU on the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights). The term of protection in Norway is now extended from 50 to 70 years for sound recordings. An exception is made for sound recordings in audiovisual productions. The amendment entered into force in July 2014.

In June 2014 the 2013 Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled was signed by Norway.

By way of conclusion, the Norwegian Delegation underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive and constructive way to the success of these General Assemblies.