

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF UZBEKISTAN
Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO:
Sixty-Second Series of Meetings
(October 4 to 8, 2021)**

Honourable Chair,
Director General Mr. Daren Tang,
distinguished delegates,

Allow me to greet you all and express my sincere respect on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It is a great pleasure to address the General Assembly offline, I express gratitude to the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and the Secretariat of the WIPO for their efforts in preparing for Sixty-Second Series of Meetings.

It should be noted that despite the challenging circumstances caused by the global pandemic it is crucial to continue our activities on further development of intellectual property (IP) rights.

Honourable Chair,

Considering the importance of the role of IP in the life of the state and society, Uzbekistan pays special attention to the development of this sector at the highest political level.

On October 12, 2020, an expanded meeting was held under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan, dedicated to measures to improve the system of IP protection. These measures have become a new impetus for the development of this sphere.

On January 28, 2021, the Resolution of the President of Uzbekistan on measures to further improve the system of protection of intellectual property objects was adopted, which provides for fundamental changes in the field.

Now the Intellectual Property Agency (Agency) under the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan is entrusted with new tasks – the task of ensuring the legal protection of intellectual property and coordination of the activities of other state bodies in this area.

Systematic work is underway to implement national legislation in the IP field, taking into account the requirements of generally recognized international standards, including the TRIPS Agreement.

For the first time the draft law “On geographical indications” was developed in cooperation with UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

I would like to thank the WIPO for organizing Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications and the Virtual Exhibition. It was a good chance for us for exchanging ideas and perspectives on issues related to GI.

One more law draft was developed – a draft law envisaging the strengthening of the existing in the current legislation measures of responsibility for the production and sale of counterfeit products, including the introduction of criminal liability of perpetrators and financial sanctions against legal entities.

In addition, on August 20, 2021, amendments to some laws of Uzbekistan were adopted. These amendments determine the amount of compensation for damage in the field of copyright and related rights. Also, the term of copyright has been extended from 50 to 70 years.

Measures taken to develop entrepreneurial and innovative activities in Uzbekistan caused a significant increase in the number of applications for registration of IP.

In particular, 8059 applications were filed in 2017 whereas despite the pandemic this figure was 8707 in 2020.

As a result of systematic and effective work on combat counterfeit products the number of IP disputes considered by the courts is growing every year. If in 2019 the courts considered only 60 cases, then in 2020 this figure increased 7 times and amounted to 400.

In addition, since 2020, the Agency was empowered to implement effective pre-trial measures, namely submissions, warnings and reports on administrative offenses.

At the same time, from February 15 to March 15 annually, the Agency, at the republican level, hold an event “A Month without Counterfeit”. During this month, preventive measures carry out jointly with the tax authorities.

It should be noted, that special attention is paid to raising public awareness of issues related to IP.

Dwelling on our future plans, I would like to especially note that for the first time in the history of my country, work is underway to develop a “National Strategy of Uzbekistan in the Development of Intellectual Property” with the support of the WIPO. This strategy sets the priorities for the development of intellectual property for 2022–2025.

We are continuing ratification of international treaties administered by the WIPO. Now the issue of Uzbekistan’s accession to the Marrakesh Treaty, the Singapore Treaty, the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement and the Rome Convention is considered. It is expected to complete this work at 2022.

In conclusion of my statement, I want to thank Section for Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European Countries, Division for Transition and Developed Countries of WIPO for their efforts in realizing mutual projects.

I wish you all success in the work of the Assemblies. Thank you!