

Check Against Delivery

Madam Chair,

At the outset , let me congratulate on your appointment as the chair of the 63<sup>rd</sup> WIPO Assemblies.

Sri Lanka also wishes to convey its congratulations to the Director General Mr. Daren Tang and the WIPO secretariat on the meticulous arrangements taken to organize this meeting. We appreciate the action oriented path on which the Director General is steering WIPO, and wish him the very best in advancing the Organisation's goals. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by India on behalf of the Asia pacific group.

Madam Chair,

Two years after the outbreak of COVID-19, the world is grappling with the unprecedented economic and social challenges posed by the pandemic. and we welcome the programs launched by WIPO to assist States to rebuild, such as the COVID-19 package and the creative economies project.

Madam Chair,

Sri Lanka has for many years now, worked in close cooperation with WIPO in a number of spheres including strengthening national systems and capacities in relation to IP and development. The Government of Sri Lanka has taken a number of such initiatives and the projects of Technology and Innovation Support Centre program and Enabling I P Environment program are currently being implemented successfully. We were also able to launch the IP diagnostic program.

We joined Marrakesh Treaty in 2016 and adopted a new Geographical Indication registration law in 2022.

Currently, we are working with the WIPO Business Solution Division, on a project on upgrading of the current NIPO IPAS system and the project on digitization of IP documents of the IP OFFICE.

We sought Technical Support for drafting A legal frame work, enabling us to access the Madrid Protocol- and also already sought assistance for WIPO Covid -19 package on technical support and Skills and Capacity building initiatives.

Furthermore, we appreciate the opportunities provided to Sri Lanka to join a number of Copyright and creative industry programs by the copyright division via online during the Covid 19 pandemic period.

Government of Sri Lanka intends to access WIPO Internet treaties in the next biennium.

Madam chair,

Today, Sri Lanka strives to remain resilient in the face of a grave economic crisis that has impacted the day to day life of its people. Hence, we rely on our multilateral and bilateral partners including WIPO to step up cooperation, and support national stakeholders including businesses, small and medium entrepreneurs, women, and youth, on using IP for development, especially on the Tourism industry.

We look forward to having close interactions with colleagues at WIPO on identifying new avenues of cooperation and enhancing existing synergies.. We wish to convey our appreciation to the Asia Pacific Division and the Copyright division for the support extended to us.

Thank you.