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***Fifty-seventh Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of
WIPO***

(October 2 to 11, 2017, Geneva)

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

Item 5 - General Statements

Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Director General,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first of all to extend our congratulations to the Chair and the other members of the Bureau on your election and to wish you every success in leading this assembly to successful results. Our thanks go also to the outgoing Chair for all his dedication and tireless efforts to move the agenda forward. I would also like to extend our special appreciation to the Director General and the Secretariat for all the activities carried out throughout the year and for their hard work in preparing this session.

Bulgaria aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and its Member States and to the statement presented by Georgia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and would like to reaffirm its commitment to the development of the intellectual property system and to advancing the WIPO agenda, in all of its aspects.

We highly appreciate the activities undertaken by WIPO to continue to develop the international legal framework in the field of intellectual property, to improve the maintenance and elaboration of the information standards needed, as well as to reach its strategic objectives in line with the ever growing requirements of the contemporary world. We note with satisfaction the results for the last year 2016, reflected in the report of the Director General. At the same time we share the opinion that still much remains to be done.

We appreciate the work done so far for the elaboration of a general Instruction to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications aiming at regulating the international registrations and safeguarding the long-term financial stability of the Lisbon Union.

We cannot but share the importance of a timely adoption of the Design Law Treaty. We welcome the decision for convening of diplomatic conference on the adoption of this treaty and we share the view that all efforts should be applied in order to overcome the existing obstacles during the present conference in order to achieve a workable solution for convening of such conference possibly before the end of 2018. This will undoubtedly be of particular help to users of the design system worldwide and will ease their way to obtain design protection.

We commend also the continuous growth of the Global IP services through the stable development and improvement of the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty). The continued provision of services through The Hague and Madrid systems for international registration in this regard provide substantial advantages to the applicants and the right holders worldwide and should be commended.

Concerning the WIPO normative agenda, Bulgaria positively notes the entry into force of the Marrakech treaty, as a beneficial WIPO achievement, and hopes that the international IP framework will continue to ensure the appropriate balance between rights holders' interests and the general public interest.

Bulgaria is in favor also of WIPO's Development Agenda and would like to reaffirm its support and commitment to the appropriate implementation of the recommendations on the framework of this agenda.

With regard to the cooperation between my country and WIPO I would like to point out with satisfaction that The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria works in close collaboration with WIPO and numerous activities have been carried out during 2016 aimed at the overall improvement of the IP system in the country. Let me assure you of our continuous support to the efforts of the World Intellectual Property Organization to act as an international forum for dialogue on intellectual property issues.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman my delegation would like to reaffirm once again the readiness of the Republic of Bulgaria to continue to support the Organization and its activities in

addressing the new challenges in the process of developing and sustaining a balance in the system for protection of intellectual property worldwide.

Thank you for your attention!