



REGERINGSKANSLIET

24 September 2018

Ministry of Enterprise and  
Innovation

Sweden

**Opening Statement by Sweden at the 58:th Series of Meetings**

Chairperson,

First, we would like to congratulate Ambassador DUAONG CHI DUNG on the election as Chairperson for the biennium 2018-2019. Our congratulations also extend to the vice-chairs.

The secretariat should also be praised for all the preparatory work.

This delegation fully supports the statements made by Switzerland on behalf of Group B and by Austria, on behalf of EU and its member states.

Sweden would like to thank the Director General and Deputy Director Generals and Assistant Director Generals. We appreciate the work done and the contributions made to further the work of WIPO.

It is of great importance to this delegation that services of WIPO improve their efficiency as well as meeting its customers' needs for international protection of their intellectual property.

WIPO should continue to provide and develop the international legal intellectual property framework and the infrastructure, to make best use of IP as a driving force for economic development, creativity and innovation.

New developments provide opportunities and challenges the IP-system. Right now, we are experiencing a digital transformation of the industry, often referred to as the fourth industrial revolution, which involves

implementation of e.g. Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Blockchain. The outcome, in form of new technologies, has the potential to make major contributions in solving several global challenges relating to e.g. climate change, demography and scarce resources all relevant for the 2030 Agenda. This transformation has the potential to reshape our economy.

This development has several important consequences for the management of intangible assets, as these constitute a profound share of the total value among industry actors. The market and IP landscape are shifting drastically, as several new players are entering into traditional industrial areas and monitoring third party rights is becoming much more complex. At the same time, collaboration and open innovation is many times crucial to drive R&D all the way to market. Furthermore, the developments may widen the existing asymmetric technological capacity across the world.

This transformation is global, and the adaption of the IP-system also needs to be handled on the global level. Hence, Sweden believes that WIPO as an international organization and the home of the international IP community have a crucial role to identify which issues that need to be handled within the IP system and which policy questions that need to be addressed. We note with satisfaction the work in e.g. Artificial intelligence that WIPO has done and are doing. We also welcome the dialogue around these complex issues suggested by the Director General Francis Gurry in his report to this Assemblies.

Moreover, Intellectual property offices will surely be able to benefit from i.e. artificial intelligence to make internal processes, such as searching, image analyses and classification more effective. This will have implications for the global IP infrastructure and this development will also generate knowledge and capacity that need to be shared in the global IP-community.

This Delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the excellent cooperation between WIPO and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office in relation to advanced international training programmes financed by the Swedish international development cooperation agency, Sida.

In 2018 the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, PRV offer five international training programmes in cooperation with WIPO, three directed to aspects of Intellectual property for Least Developed

Countries and two programmes directed to “Intellectual property and genetic resources-in support of innovation”. The organisation of these programme is a co-operation between the Swedish Patent and Registration Office and, the LDC-division and the TK-division of WIPO respectively. We would like to thank the LDC-division and the TK-division for their enduring and invaluable work and support for these programmes.

Sweden attaches great importance to good governance. Therefore, this delegation continues to encourage, welcome and support measures leading to system for the use, control and monitoring of finances and activities that are clear, robust and transparent aiming at an effective WIPO.

Finally, Sweden looks forward to continuing its successful cooperation within WIPO on the development of the international intellectual property system to the benefit of economic, social and cultural development of all.

Thank you Chair