

## **General Statement of Finland at WIPO General Assembly 2023**

Thank you, Madame Chairperson

I'm honored to take the floor on behalf of (the Republic of) Finland. We wish to align ourselves with the statement given by the European Union as well as with the statement given by Switzerland on behalf of Group B.

Artificial Intelligence has been an emerging theme in our societies. The sudden surge of generative AI applications has turned AI visions into reality. These applications are simplifying content creation for any purpose. This development may be as important as the invention of the telephone or the internet.

Finland believes that continued efficient operation of the IP framework is crucial for future generations of inventors and creators as well as the society as a whole. Thus, we welcome WIPO work in relation to AI.

The Finnish IP strategy 2030 published last year contains 15 measures aimed at improving the IPR operating environment in Finland. It includes actions aimed at improving skills in IP and related areas, such as data management. The measures extend to strengthening governance of IP in political decision-making, supporting commercialization of IP as well as developing the Finnish IPR system, including patent legislation.

Developing the copyright infrastructure is high priority for Finland and a few other Member States, organizations and companies. This year, Finland, Estonia and Latvia will apply for a European Digital Infrastructure Consortium to be established for the development of the copyright infrastructure. Fast evolving technologies should be harnessed for the good of the operation of the copyright system. This also is the way to promote the openness and interoperability of IP related data across public and private platforms.

Finland has worked intensively to develop the skills in IP rights for Indigenous Peoples' regionally. This year at the Barents and Euro-Arctic Presidency event, the Sámi Summit in the Parliament of the EU, the conference stressed the significance of the Sami as the EU's only indigenous people. We developed training material on how the IP system can be used by the Sámi people from their point of view and needs. Any new systems for the protection of the sui generis rights must fit together with the existing IP system.

Finally, I want to reiterate that last year the Assemblies made decisions to hold two diplomatic conferences. While we engage in the preparations of these upcoming diplomatic conferences to ensure their success, we wish to emphasize that WIPO should continue to be a Member State driven and consensus-based organization. This is the best way to achieve sustainable results on the multilateral level. Finland strongly believes in multilateralism and we are confident that WIPO work in various fields will continue successfully. We need to cooperate to make sure that SMEs, creators, innovators, youth, and even policy makers both in developed and developing countries want to address IP issues positively.

Let me assure you, Madame Chair, that Finland as Member of the European Union will continue to support you in successfully leading the General Assemblies.