

**ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO**

**Geneva July 9-17, 2024**

**General Statement of H. E. Mrs. Vasilika HYSI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Republic of Albania to United Nations Organisations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Your Excellency Director General,**

**Excellences,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Delegation of Albania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Moldova on behalf of the CEBS Group.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the excellent results achieved since the previous General Assembly Meeting.

On behalf of the Republic of Albania, let me reiterate our continuous support and solidarity with Ukraine and on that regard, Albania welcomes WIPO continuous support to Ukrainian IP stakeholders' recovery from the consequences of Russian aggression. Long-term international assistance will be necessary for a full recovery and return to normality.

Mr. Chairman,

The organization of the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources was one of the most important and historical moments during this year.

Albania reiterates its satisfaction for the outcome and the approval of a new Treaty marking a historic breakthrough that capped decades of negotiations. We are looking forward to the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference in Ryad and the adoption of the Design Law Treaty.

At the national level, Albania pays a great importance to the IP growth and development. Since the last General Assembly, some achievements have been registered in this field. Let me briefly put the emphasis on some of them.

Albania has undertaken a reform aiming to improve the legal framework related to IP which will be fully aligned with the EU acquis. We would like to thank WIPO for the comments provided on the draft Law "On patents" and the draft Law "On trademarks and Service Marks". All the suggestions are considered in the draft laws.

The drafting process of the new Copyright law was initiated in January 2024. In cooperation with WIPO and the Swiss Albanian Cooperation project, the new Tariffs and Methodology of Copyright and other related rights is in drafting process.

Besides the improving of the legal framework, several activities have been implemented aiming to strengthen the capacity building of professionals, judiciary, business etc. Albania expresses

the gratitude for the excellent cooperation with the WIPO Academy and WIPO Judicial Institute.

A workshop held in September 2023 in cooperation with WIPO, GDIP and the School of Magistrates aimed to improve the quality of decision-making by the two chambers and the appeal board, as well as to strengthen the judicial system for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. The module on “IP for judges and Prosecutors” will be translated and customized in Albanian Language and will be available. A series of training are organized online for the examiners from the different CEBS countries including Albania.

Albania is committed to promoting IP rights and the IP registration of the various businesses / start up-s, universities, and different categories in different districts of our country. Raising awareness among youth, scholars and business on IP was the priority of Albania.

35 pre-university system teachers have been trained on industrial property, copyright, related rights, traditional knowledge and geographical indications, thanks to the support provided by WIPO, the Korean Intellectual Property Office in cooperation with GDIP. Many raising awareness activities with schools were organized in the country to celebrate the World IP Day with the main focus to reach the young generation.

The two-day International Conference on "Women in Tradition, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship" held in October 2023, on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the General Directorate of Industrial Property of the Republic of Albania, was a great opportunity to share the best practices in the field.

Albania is looking forward to further strengthening the cooperation with WIPO—focusing mainly on the increasing of the administrative capacity, staff training, technical assistance in the legal framework, technical support for universities, as well as close cooperation with WIPO Academy.

In conclusion, let me extend our wishes for every success to WIPO Assemblies and our special thanks to WIPO staff. We welcome the implementation of WIPO Policy on Gender Equality, and we are happy to note the results of WIPO's Young Experts Programme and let me also to reaffirm our commitment to further develop the intellectual property system in Albania based on a solid collaboration with the organization.

Thank you!