

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Sixty-Fifth Series of Meetings
Geneva, July 9 – July 17, 2024
Agenda item 4: GENERAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The delegation of Croatia would like to congratulate Director General Daren Tang on his successful leadership of the WIPO and we thank the Secretariat for preparation of this comprehensive meeting.

We are pleased to acknowledge financial health of organisation, despite negative changes in global circumstances.

We wish to express our support for WIPO's global goals and acknowledge its pivotal role for development of intellectual property rights system, a key element for enabling innovation and creativity. Recent successfully concluded *WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge* has returned optimism regarding the WIPO's legal work and we hope that this positive momentum will continue at the forthcoming diplomatic conference on Design Law Treaty.

Croatia appreciates set priorities of green and digital transition and medium sized enterprises in IPR ecosystem. We find that WIPO's ongoing project *Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies*, that also continued in 2024, is a very valuable platform for discussions and information sharing. We note with satisfaction related WIPO's recent publications, notably *Guide to Generative AI and Intellectual Property* and *Getting the innovation ecosystem ready for AI - An IP policy toolkit*.

We use this opportunity to invite Member States to actively contribute to preserving rule-based global order established by the UN Charter and related rules and principles. Croatia reiterates its call on Russian Federation to respect international law and immediately cease military aggression against Ukraine. Until then, we invite Member States to support our request that WIPO suspends operation of its External Office in Moscow since we find it unacceptable that a UN organization keeps an active non-humanitarian external office in a country that violates basic principles of international legal order and the UN Charter, as explicitly confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES 11/1 as well as five other related UN resolutions.

We would like to recall that hosting a WIPO External Office is neither a right of a WIPO member state nor a precondition for cooperation with the WIPO or for receiving technical

assistance. On the contrary, only a handful of member states have privilege to host a WIPO External Office.

In the same vein we welcome the *WIPO Secretariat's report on assistance and support for Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and intellectual property system*, on the basis of the decision taken at the last General Assemblies and recognize the need for continuing support for rebuilding of the Ukrainian Intellectual Property infrastructure.

Croatia is looking forward to the 65th series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States and to engaging in constructive discussions.