

Honourable Chair, Excellences, and Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Georgian Delegation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the WIPO management and everyone involved in organizing the General Assembly. Georgia extends its thanks to all member states and reiterates our hope for a productive week, achieving consensus on the agenda topics during this General Assembly.

National intellectual property offices play a key role in the development of the IP field, and each has its responsibility to create and develop effective mechanisms for IP protection. For Sakpatenti, the past year was truly significant, a year full of novelties and reforms.

Last year, Georgia became a candidate country for the EU. Consequently, to fulfil EU directives and introduce modern international approaches, significant changes were implemented in both legislation and institutional development:

The crucial Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the European Patent Organization on Validation of European Patents entered into force.

The Law of Georgia “On Copyright and Related Rights” was significantly amended.

A new Law “On Appellations of Origin of Goods and Geographical Indications” was adopted.

The “Trademark Law” of Georgia was revised.

A reform was launched to strengthen the institution of patent attorneys, resulting in the adoption of the Law “On Patent Attorneys” for the first time in Georgia.

To fulfil the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, amendments were made to three laws, fully harmonizing Georgian legislation with the Marrakesh Treaty. In the near future, domestic legal procedures will be completed to recognize the Marrakesh Treaty as binding for Georgia.

Currently, on the initiative of Sakpatenti, domestic legal procedures are underway to recognize the Geneva Act on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications as binding for Georgia, which will result in Georgia becoming a member state of the Geneva Act.

I express gratitude to WIPO for a successful implementation of the joint project “Project on Collective Management, Branding and Commercialization of Selected Registered GIs in Georgia.”

As a result of these reforms and productive cooperation with international partners, Georgia has also advanced in international rankings, such as the “Global Innovation Index” and the “International Property Protection Index.”

We believe this progress will continue in the future, with your support being a key factor.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a successful Assembly.