



WIPO General Assemblies 2024 General Statement

Iceland

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Iceland would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang, Director General, on his continuing solid leadership and steady achievements within the Organization. We furthermore thank Mr. Tang and the WIPO Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing these Assemblies and wish Mr. Chair every success in leading the Assemblies to successful conclusions.

We also thank WIPO for continued support and fruitful co-operation and support in various aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Filing numbers have been steady the last few years and interest in the international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and The Hague systems is continuous in Iceland. We thank WIPO for its continued focus on providing excellent services under these systems, it is of utmost importance for users to have simplified access to global networks and IP services in securing their IP rights. We note with pleasure the importance placed by WIPO on modernizing, simplifying and streamlining rules and procedures under these Agreements.

Concerning Country Names and specifically the Country Name Iceland, we continue to actively participate in the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT). At least since March 2017, concerns have been raised as to the seemingly insufficient protection in several countries against the registration of Country Names as Trademarks. Even though a final decision has not yet been reached, the EUIPO's Grand Board deeming the name of the country of Iceland descriptive and thus not registrable, recognizes the importance of Country Names for countries sovereignty and self-determination. The protection of Country Names should thus equal the protection of Flags, Armorial bearings and other State emblems under Article 6ter of the Paris Convention.

As to this Assemblies Agenda, we thank the Secretariat for preparing the Report on the Outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources and congratulate WIPO and its Member States on the conclusions reached on a historic new Treaty last May. We look forward to participating in the Diplomatic Conference later this year on the DLT in Riyadh. We also thank WIPO for the Report on the Assistance and support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System. The people and the whole economic system of Ukraine continue to be faced with difficult challenges and Iceland strongly supports the continued assistance and support provided to the innovative system of Ukraine.

We welcome the continuous effort of WIPO in mapping the global IP landscape. *The Global Innovation Index* has been of utmost importance for years now and the recent report on *World Intangible Investment Highlights*, published last June, will undoubtedly serve as a useful tool in relation to underlining IP as valuable assets.

Iceland actively participates in the World IP Day each year and this year we focused on IP and Sustainability. We welcome the theme introduced in Mr. Tang's Address on 9 July – IP and Music – and look forward to be able to intertwine artists and the musical platform with IP.

It is noticeable that WIPO continues to grow under strong leadership of Mr. Tang. Iceland wishes him and his team every success in the next years leading the Office.