

Sixty-Fifth Series of Meetings

Geneva, July 9 to 17, 2024

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia
under Agenda item 4 – Opening statement
July 9, 2024**

Honorable Director General, Distinguished Chair, Your Excellencies and esteemed delegates,

Thank you very much for giving us the floor. First and foremost, the Latvian delegation would like to emphasize that we align ourselves with the opening statements made by CEBS group and the European Union.

The Latvian delegation would also like to use this opportunity and express its sincere gratitude to the Director General, the Chair and the whole WIPO team for their dedication, tireless engagement and effort during the preparation phase for the 65th series of WIPO Assemblies.

Latvia strongly reiterates its alignment with WIPO's vision for IP. A vision that entails a holistic, focused and practical approach towards utilizing IP system with the aim to support the development of new inventions and creativity, as well as fostering that IP is accessible for everyone and can be one of the main drivers for economic development during this difficult and volatile period for all of us.

Therefore, Latvia would like to voice its sincere appreciation to WIPO's Regional and National Development Sector and its Division for Transition and Developed Countries for the support that has been provided to our IP users in Latvia through the years – starting from the support in developing innovation and technology support structures in the Baltic States (the Baltic TTO Network), to WIPO Mentorship program for Spin-offs of the Baltic States, as well as the on going support from the WIPO Judicial Institute on fostering and strengthening the competencies of professionals in the judiciary and enforcement institutions.

To sum up, let me assure that we are more than eager to keep working closely with WIPO in the future and to support and assist SMEs, innovators and other stakeholders in Latvia and beyond.

On a more horizontal note, our delegation would like to thank as well the WIPO Secretariat for the prepared report on the *Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and IP System*. It will not come as a surprise that one of our main priorities is the continuation of the WIPO's efforts in supporting Ukrainian IP system in light of the still ongoing Russian unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine which is also causing negative impact on the Ukrainian innovation and creativity sector. Distinguished Chair, we do understand that we might sound like a broken record, but for those of us who live in this reality and have not forgotten what facts and the truth is – it is quite clear, that damages caused by Russia's aggression will demand long-term recovery efforts. Therefore, please take note that WIPO will have our unwavering support in the future for all the activities that are directed towards the Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector.

Additionally, Latvia strongly believes that functioning of WIPO Office in the Russian Federation, that clearly violates UN Charter and international law, contradicts WIPO's core values. And not only that, but it is also clear that the allocation of resources to the External Office in Moscow do not correspond with the results delivered by this Office. Therefore, forgive us, but Latvia will continuously urge WIPO to rethink and reevaluate its approach in this matter.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to express our eagerness to participate in productive and result-oriented dialogues that await us during the General Assemblies.

Thank you!