

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PHILIPPINES

65th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
09-17 July 2024 | Geneva, Switzerland

[Mister] [Madam] Chair,

Director General Daren Tang,

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

A pleasant day to all of you.

The Philippine delegation congratulates all WIPO Member States, DG Daren, DDGs, ADGs and the WIPO Secretariat on the success of the recently concluded Diplomatic Conference, which adopted the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. A result of decades of negotiations, the treaty is a historic breakthrough, given that this is the first WIPO instrument to address the critical interface between IP and GRATK and ensure the protection and prevent misappropriation of intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We hope that Member States will work together in ensuring the effective implementation of the treaty we all worked hard to finalize.

The Philippines is optimistic that the GRATK Treaty will also be a pathway to accelerate the discussions and the negotiations of the draft Instruments, which will close the gap and complete the international legal framework for the Protection of TKs and TCEs in the coming year.

Similar to the Diplomatic Conference last May, we also look forward to the same level of engagement, cooperation, ambition, and positive outcome in the upcoming Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty. But hope that we will not extend until 3am for the adoption of the treaty this time. Streamlining the global system for the protection of industrial

designs will make it more accessible. Hence, this will be an opportunity for our respective local designers to easily protect their work as they enter and promote them in the global market. We also wish to take this opportunity to convey gratitude for the hosting this year of the DLT Diplomatic Conference to the Kingdom Saudi Arabia.

Truly, this year has been very eventful and productive for all of us. It is our fervent hope that we keep this momentum and enhanced level of cooperation among members and reach a decision on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, which is another important issue in WIPO's normative agenda.

The Philippines also wishes to convey hope that pending issues related to geographic representation in WIPO bodies and External offices be effectively dealt with in the Assemblies. We will be pleased to elaborate on this in our interventions. In this regard, the Philippines wishes to support the position of the Asia Pacific Group to achieve a fair and sustainable solution on geographic representation that considers the composition of and the importance for enhanced representation of the new membership.

Lastly, allow us [Mister] [Madam] Chair, to thank the WIPO Secretariat for the hard work and the excellent preparations for this meeting.

Thank you and we wish everyone a productive and successful GA.