

**55 SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER
STATES OF WIPO**

**GENERAL STATEMENT
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
AGENDA ITEM 5**

(FULL VERSION – TO BE PUT ON RECORD)

Chairman,

The delegation of the Republic of Poland would like to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the 55th Series of Assemblies of WIPO. We would also take this opportunity to congratulate the two vice Chairs on their election. We look to your able stewardship to lead our discussions towards fruitful outcomes.

We thank the outgoing Chair and vice Chair for all the dedication they have shown throughout their term in office. We also thank the WIPO Secretariat for their work and diligence in preparing the numerous comprehensive documents for these Assemblies and for their efforts made throughout the year.

At the outset let me stress that the Delegation of Poland associates itself with the statements made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and Romania on behalf of the Central Europe and Baltic States.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the presented reports which reflect the progress made and the results achieved by the Organization in 2014 and 2015. We note with satisfaction the numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report and would like to encourage the WIPO Secretariat to further improve, and even to

increase, its efforts and activities, thus maintaining viability and efficiency of the Organization.

Poland appreciates the progress made and the positive developments with regard to the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by the International Bureau. We welcome the growth in the international registration systems under the PCT, the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and its Protocol, as well as the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.

We welcome the works of the PCT Working Group, which have contributed to the further improvement of the PCT system to the benefit of both users and industrial property offices. Poland is looking forward to have an opportunity of adding, as a member of the future Visegrad Patent Institute – the VPI, to the good functioning of the system by providing high quality services to its users in Poland and from other countries who would like to appoint the VPI as an International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authority. We look forward to a full support of all WIPO member states to this Visegrad Patent Institute initiative.

Poland welcomes progress made during the 22th session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. Since the activity of the Committee is of significance to the whole membership of WIPO we would like to see developments there moving faster. We hope for substantive results in the near future and therefore we look forward to continuing work in the SCP on the basis of a balanced future work program, which will include consideration of the international harmonization of patent law.

As far as the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) is concerned – for Poland - the main priority of the Committee should be focusing on a way forward to finalize the proposal for the treaty on the protection of the broadcasting organizations with the objective of reaching the decision to convene a diplomatic conference in this regard in the nearest future. Ensuring adequate protection at the international level for broadcasting organizations is highly needed and an

updating for the 21st century is long overdue. Poland recognizes and supports the ongoing call of the broadcasters' environment to introduce the global solution to signal piracy, which jeopardizes their legitimate and necessary investments. We are of the view that the development of media is the key element of social cohesion, political pluralism as well as cultural enrichment of all societies.

With regard to the SCT, Poland would like these Assemblies to take a decision on a date for a diplomatic conference on the designs formalities treaty in 2016. The text that all of us have negotiated so long is mature. The issue of technical assistance, so important to so many among us, should not only be included but as well solved as soon as possible by the parties involved. We are flexible on the format of this inclusion. Any other outstanding issues – if they indeed exist - can be discussed at the DipCon itself. We are strongly convinced that the treaty will bring real benefits to Member State businesses wishing to operate abroad. Simplifying and aligning application procedures will render the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs more effective and this will significantly contribute to reducing costs and bureaucracy linked to exporting.

Poland recognizes the importance of the technical work of the Committee on WIPO Standards – CWS; and since it is technical throughout, it's work cannot and should not be politicized. We urge all parties to seek a consensus on the organizational and special rules of procedure of this body. The deliberations of this committee may be of value to all of us.

Poland places great value on the work on building respect for intellectual property rights and looks forward to intensify the work of WIPO itself in this regard. We are of the view that appropriate prevention and enforcement mechanisms are indispensable conditions for any efficiently working intellectual property system. In this regard Poland has been very supportive of a broad program of work for the Advisory Committee for Enforcement, sharing with other member states our own experience in this regard. That is why we are in favor of regular ACE meetings, on a yearly basis. Poland believes that there is a strong need to develop the

awareness part of the ACE mandate with concrete proposal of awareness raising activities, engaging media campaigns and education curricula activities.

Poland gives its' full support to the draft budget, as proposed by the Secretariat and amendments agreed during our last two PBC sessions. All outstanding issues should be resolved during this 55-th session of the General Assemblies.

As regards the on-going work on WIPO's Development Agenda, Poland would like to reaffirm its support and commitment to the appropriate implementation of the recommendations of the Development Agenda. WIPO's technical assistance and capacity building in the area of cooperation for development must be built on the basis of transparency, good governance, and best practice to ensure optimal added value. We fully acknowledge the need to further provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing and least developed countries.

Poland recognizes the importance of the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Poland remains willing to work towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome. We will be awaiting proposals of the Facilitator, before considering next steps.

Chairman,

Let me now devote a few words to Poland's national IP activities. During the previous year the Polish Patent Office has continued to focus on promoting industrial property by organizing a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops and trainings addressed to various institutions and professions. The Office was also undertaking educational activities targeting among others entrepreneurs, economists, lawyers, scientists, judges. Lectures, workshops and panel discussions were devoted to the latest issues connected with industrial property protection in various aspects and each time attracted a big audience.

I would like to draw your attention to a new and special initiative addressed to children: the Polish Patent Office organized in 2014 a competition for young inventors and constructors called “Ambassador of School Innovation”. The initiative enjoyed great popularity with over 100 projects.

The Polish Patent Office continued the implementation of a special project entitled: “*Supporting Effective Use of Industrial Property in an Innovative Economy*”. Its aim is to stimulate the use of industrial property rights in the development of Polish economy. We were targeting different groups: entrepreneurs (micro, small and medium-sized); business support institutions, including universities and scientific units, patent attorneys and other units and organizations engaged in the protection and use of industrial property.

Before concluding, Poland would like to welcome Georgia as a new member of the Central European and Baltic States Group at WIPO. We are confident that the delegation of Georgia will make a valuable contribution to the work of our group and WIPO.

Chairman, last but for sure not least: our thanks go to WIPO, the Director General and all its’ staff – but in particular to the Department for Transition and Developed Countries – for an outstanding cooperation and assistance delivered to Poland – contributing to the promotion of intellectual property rights in Poland.