

Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,
24 September to 2 October, 2018

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and with the statement made by Lithuania on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

We thank the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat for their work and for preparing comprehensive documents for this meeting.

The Czech Republic wishes to express its continued support for the pivotal role of the WIPO as the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information, and cooperation. We attach great importance to the efficient and accessible IPR system, which is a key element in creating an environment for development of innovation and creativity. This system ensures legal framework for investment and commercialization of innovation and creativity, the diffusion of knowledge and facilitates technology transfer for economic and social growth. We support all WIPO's activities, taking into account the needs of users of the intellectual property system.

We continue to attach great value to the improvement of global intellectual property protection systems, the PCT, the Madrid System, the Hague System and the Lisbon System and other services provided to the users.

The Czech delegation would like to stress and appreciate the effort of the Lisbon Union members in taking measures aimed at eliminating the budget deficit of the Lisbon Union. We fully support work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System, in order to allow further discussions on solutions for long-term financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union and are actively engaged in the deliberations in this Working Group.

As regards WIPO normative activities, we hope that the long anticipated decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty will be adopted and the remaining contentious point resolved. We remain convinced that appropriate forum for discussion relating to the disclosure requirement is the IGC.

The Czech Republic is actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We believe that it could ultimately result in reaching consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations as a meaningful instrument for both the current and future needs of protection. We welcome that the topic of the Resale Right remains on the agenda of the Committee.

We welcome the progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. In this sense, we would like to recall our expectation to start with more technical discussion, relating to the substantive patent law harmonization in this Committee.

The Czech delegation remains committed to the current mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).

We recognize the importance of the activities of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property. We continue to support the WIPO's activities in the field of technical assistance.

In terms of IP rights enforcement, the Czech delegation highly appreciates WIPO initiative under the strategic goal "International Cooperation of Building Respect for IP". Enforcement is a global challenge. We continue to support the work of Advisory Committee on Enforcement, which represents the multilateral forum for sharing the best practices in this domain. We welcome growing engagement of the Member States from all regions.

Finally, we would like to briefly accentuate and appreciate WIPO activities in the area of IP teaching and education, the WIPO Academy and IP policies for universities and public research institutions. We pay increased attention to teaching intellectual property and increasing awareness of IPR protection and their subsequent commercialization. In October this year in Prague, we will organize, in close cooperation with WIPO, a "WIPO Roving Seminar on WIPO Services and Initiatives". In this context, we take this opportunity to express many thanks to the WIPO Secretariat and in particular, to Mr. Michal Svantner, Director of Department for Transition and Development Countries (TDC) and his professional team for the excellent cooperation and assistance provided to us.

Let me also mention that our Office welcomes with pleasure all relevant study visits and internships organized in cooperation with WIPO. We wish to highlight especially the study visit of the Czech Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) patent examiners to the Nordic Patent Institute, which was organized in February 2018 thanks to the kind and highly appreciated support of WIPO. The visit deepened their knowledge regarding the ISA/IPEA procedures.

The Czech delegation pays close attention to the fight against misleading invoices and other offers. In this respect, we would also like to express our thanks to WIPO for ongoing cooperation and continuous efforts in this area.

In conclusion, the Czech delegation would like to express its readiness to continue in our close cooperation with WIPO in the future.

Thank you.