

Assemblies of Member States of WIPO
63rd Series of Meeting
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July 14-22, 2022

Opening Statement of Georgia

Honorable Chair, Excellences and Distinguished Guests, I would like to address you on behalf of Georgian Delegation:

1. As a Deputy Chairperson of National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia – SAKPATENTI, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to WIPO management and each individual engaged in organizing General Assembly and providing explicit support and assistance to each member state during the year.
2. Georgia would like to thank each member state and reiterate our aspiration for productive week and reaching consensus on agendas' topics over the week of General Assembly.
3. Georgia fully supports the statement of CEBS group made by Slovak Republic representative on behalf of the group members.
4. Last two years were an exam for the globe society and disturbed economies in one or another way. It has been a challenging two years, which affected IP environment as well. As an IP office of Georgia, we faced hardships but by the support of our international partners we promptly adjusted all the processes and maintained same level of high services that was offered to our Georgian applicants over last 30 years. Digitalization of databases and Georgia's exhaustive engagement in WIPO various online tools, allowed us to adopt hybrid and off site work environment easily. I would like to thank WIPO for enabling us to smoothly continue our everyday activities and efficiently transform our work environment to raised circumstances.
5. We believe that IP protection starts with education, therefore, we attach great importance to educational programs. Over last 10 years it has been one of the priorities of Georgia and I would like to express a gratitude to WIPO Academy for supporting our initiatives and allowing us to execute joint programs. We are motivated to continue our efforts towards providing various training and educational programs for target groups. We are confident that following programs will be beneficial and successful for local society and will allow Sakpatenti and WIPO to achieve its one of the main fundamental roles of raising awareness on IP. Following programs are envisioned in upcoming year: Distance Learning Program for Judges and we put great importance on given course, as it will allow our judicial system to enhance its knowledge in IPR; General Course in Intellectual Property – DL101; IP4Yourth&Teachers; IP Young Ambassador 2021; Intellectual Property Training Institutions (IPTIs) Project; Academic Institution Program;
6. I would like to point out Academic Institution Program – we are dedicated and motivated to launch negotiations on establishing joint master programs. Georgian State Universities and Sakpatenti are fully determined to provide full support to the program and enable students to receive postgraduate degree in IP. I am confident that our enthusiasm, previous fruitful cooperation and experience will allow us to succeed in our effort and reach the agreement to establish joint Master program with WIPO Academy.

7. Georgia's one of the priority directions is promotion of Geographical Indication system. We had submitted proposal to host next GI Worldwide symposium. Georgian's government is fully dedicated and motivated to ensure full engagement and aspiration to be granted a honor of host title.
8. The Delegation of Georgia would like to underline the importance of improving geographical representation in the WIPO of unrepresented or underrepresented countries and believe that in close cooperation with Member States geographical representation will be balanced in the nearest future and Georgian applicant's employment will be considered at WIPO as one of the underrepresented country representative(s).
9. Sakpatenti is delighted to have an opportunity to host Mr. Daren Tang this fall. We are confident that his visit will be beneficial for local governmental and private sector representatives. By meeting with local authorities, we will be able to discuss future cooperation activities and WIPO role in protecting IP right in region as well as strengthening educational programs in the country.
10. Herein I would like to emphasize our sincere gratitude to TDC in its effort to provide outstanding support and active engagement in implementing joint programs and providing substantial assistance to Georgia.

Finally, we are looking forward to a constructive discussion during the General Assemblies, and remain positive spirit to come to the agreement on the complex WIPO agenda.