

**ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WIPO**

**The Sixty-third Series of Meetings**

**Geneva, 14 – 22 July 2022**

**General Statement of the Delegation of Montenegro**

Honorable Chair, Excellences and distinguished delegates,

We are holding this 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly against the backdrop of unprovoked and unjustified aggression of Russian Federation against Ukraine, which Montenegro continues to condemn in the strongest possible manner. At its most basic level, Russia's aggression has shaken the foundation of the rules-based international order.

The delegation of Montenegro welcomes WIPO's commitment to continue adapting to the ever-changing global environment, and to adequately respond to global challenges in the field of intellectual property. Also, as the world's leading organization for the protection of intellectual property rights, put its capacities in the function of supporting the activities and needs of its member states.

This also includes developing a balanced and efficient international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

Montenegro remains a reliable and dedicated partner in cooperation with WIPO, which is constantly developing and improving.

Let us now touch upon some of the cooperative activities we have been carrying out since the last session of the WIPO Assembly.

- Representatives of the Directorate for Internal Market and Competition in the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism (MEDT) - as the leading body in the Montenegrin system of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights - attended webinars, seminars, meetings and conferences organized by WIPO.

- WIPO provided expert support in the field of copyright and related rights, specifically through expert expertise, advice and recommendations for drafting amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights. Within this framework, representatives of the MEDT also attended training on issues in the field of collective management of copyright and related rights.

- Activities related to the accession to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks are underway.

- Representatives of MEDT were in study visit to IP Office of Republic of Serbia, organized by WIPO.

- Drafting of the National Strategy for Intellectual Property for the period 2023-2026 was at the top of our priorities. With the expert support of WIPO, we have developed a strategic document which is now in the process of consideration by WIPO and the European Commission. We expect its quick finalization, after which we will organize the presentation of this strategic document, which is an example of the most fruitful cooperation between Montenegro and WIPO.

We are fully aware of the global challenges and various threats to humanity (poverty, health crisis, etc.) which, combined with certain local problems, place before us very serious additional tasks in the field of intellectual property. We are committed to overcoming all difficulties and are grateful to be able to count on WIPO's support in this regard.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to WIPO and its Division for Transition and Developed Countries for excellent cooperation and full understanding of the needs of Montenegro's IPR protection and enforcement system.

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to congratulate to the WIPO Director General, WIPO Secretariat, WIPO Committees and all member states for excellence in preparing the 63<sup>rd</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of the WIPO and wish WIPO DG, WIPO Assemblies Chairperson and all the participants good and successful work.

We are also grateful to everyone who contributed to the successful organization of this assembly.

With that in mind, we wish everyone successful work.