



13 July 2022

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Opening Statement by Sweden at the 63rd Series of WIPO Assemblies

Chair, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to you Chair, all Vice-chairs and the secretariat for all your hard work. We are looking forward to a productive meeting.

This delegation fully supports the opening statements made by Germany on behalf of Group B and by the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU and its member states. Sweden also wants to take this opportunity to strongly condemn the Russian Federation's unjustified military aggression against Ukraine.

Following two years of pandemic we can truly see the importance of IP for innovation. In record time new innovative vaccines has been created, we have managed to go digital in our daily work and the role of IP has become more crucial. For this trend to continue it is important that we explain how IP can bring innovation and benefit to all. We look forward to continued discussions on this, also at ministerial level.

One important contribution to creating this link is the advanced international training programmes between WIPO and the Swedish Intellectual Property Office financed by the Swedish international development cooperation agency, Sida. We would like to express our great appreciation for the excellent cooperation with WIPO on these.

The Swedish Delegation wish to express its concerns over the possible permanent change of dates for the General Assemblies from early fall to July which would create difficulties since several meetings of the governing bodies of related organisations take place during the same time.

Finally, a well-functioning intellectual property system is an essential ingredient in a knowledge-based economy. The full potential can only be reached when creative and innovative minds, regardless of gender, social and ethnic background, physical ability, religious belief or sexual orientation, meet, collaborate and innovate together.

We urge the WIPO secretariat to ensure better gender balance in senior posts within the secretariat and to enhance career opportunities for women in the secretariat.

Sweden looks forward to continuing its cooperation with WIPO on the development of the international intellectual property system to the benefit of economic, social, and cultural development for all.

Thank you Chair