

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WIPO  
The Sixty-Fourth Series of Meetings  
Geneva, July 6 – 14, 2023

General Statement of the Delegation of Montenegro

Honorable Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to express its appreciation for everlasting efforts of the WIPO aimed to retain its position of a leading IP Organization worldwide through a prudent and balanced approach to addressing demanding issues related to IPR protection, in nowadays surroundings of sophisticated technology and overall development, yet threatened by war devastation, poverty, hunger, post covid recovery, geo-economic crisis, climate changes and other global challenges.

Montenegro is fully committed to overcoming all the difficulties in the area of intellectual property and to further improvement of the IP system in our country. In such circumstances, the support of the WIPO, that we can always rely on, is precious for us. In a strive to provide for the high level of IPR protection, in last year we made significant steps towards this goal. The Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism (abbrev. the MEDT), as a leading IP authority in our country, undertakes its responsibility in a plan to design and implement various actions towards contributing to creation of a sustainable and efficient IP system. The MEDT elaborated *Law on Amendments to the Law on Trademarks* and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Patents, that entered into force in January 2023. In addition, Montenegro acceded to *Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks*. What we consider as a remarkable success in our work, achieved through joint efforts of the MEDT's and the EPO's teams, in the area of intellectual property in general, concretely in patents, is Montenegro's accession to the European Patent Convention and joining European Patent Organization. Montenegro is a member state of the European Patent Organization since 1 October 2022.

We are pleased to inform that the *Intellectual Property Strategy of Montenegro for the period 2023–2026*, that was developed with the WIPO expert support, will be adopted by the Government of Montenegro by the end of July 2023.

In the period from the WIPO Assemblies 2022, our cooperation with the WIPO was conducted through participation of the MEDT IP staff at webinars, seminars and meetings with Division for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) and Copyright Law Division.

A representative of Montenegro attended the 47th session of Intergovernmental Committee for Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, that was held in Geneva, 5-9 June 2023.

On occasion of the World Intellectual Property Day 2023, the MEDT coorganized with the Innovation Fund of Montenegro and the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro a hybrid seminar *Women and Intellectual Property: Fostering Innovation and Creativity*, that was held in the premises of University of Montenegro, on 26 April 2023. The event was participated by a representative of the WIPO and *a message of Mr Daren Tang, WIPO Director General, was broadcasted.*

We expect that our cooperation with the WIPO will be continued through various joint activities. We specifically look forward to an event on occasion of promoting IP Strategy of Montenegro 2023 - 2026, that will take place in Podgorica in the course of this year.

Let us reiterate our thanks to the WIPO 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 64th 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.