

## General Statement, Republic of Serbia

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Director General, Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

On the behalf of Serbian delegation, let me start with expressing our full support for the statement made by the Delegation of the Republic of Croatia passed on behalf of the CEBS Group.

The Delegation of Serbia would also like to congratulate WIPO for the excellent results achieved since the previous general assembly meeting. Our compliments and thankfulness go to Director General, Mr. Fransis Gary and his team for the outstanding organization of this meeting and for the detailed and well prepared meeting documents.

In the course of 2019, the Republic of Serbia invested a lot of efforts in order to improve its IP legislation, particularly in the domain of copyright, patents and topography of integrated circuits. During its September sessions, Serbian Parliament enacted new laws in that particular field.

On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Government of the Republic of Serbia approved the *Intellectual Property Development Strategy for the period 2018-2022*. According to the Strategy, one of the indicators of Government`s success in the years to come will be the fight against counterfeiting and piracy. Following that political agenda, Serbian Prime Minister, Ms. Ana Brnabić, participated in regional seminar organized in Banja Luka, (Bosnia and Herzegovina), in June 2019. Her speech was dedicated to the main challenges on IP protection in digital age. Prime Minister spoke on the importance of IP rights for the Serbian economy and our efforts to foster the growth of our economy through the stronger protection of patents, trademarks and copyright.

For the sake of more efficient fight against counterfeiting and piracy, Serbian Government established Coordination Body for the efficient protection of intellectual property rights.

Regarding the activities of the Intellectual Property Office that concern public awareness raising, delivery of IP information and IP educational services, IP Office of Serbia continues to work hard and in a committed manner. Within the Education and Information Centre of IP Office, 41 seminars, lectures and workshops have been organized for different groups of beneficiaries with 1.323 participants.

Mr. Chairman, let me say just a few words on successful cooperation with the WIPO.

At the celebration of the 98th anniversary from the foundation of the Intellectual Property Office of Serbia, WIPO medals were awarded in five categories – for the best inventor, the best industrial design, for creativity, schoolchildren and for the most frequent use of the Madrid System.

On the first week of November, a seminar named “WIPO Tools for Universities” was held in the Intellectual Property Office in the frame of WIPO project “Commercialization of Results of Examination”.

Representatives of the Intellectual Property Office participated at the eight conferences and seminars that WIPO organized in cooperation with the other member states offices.

The Republic of Serbia shall continue the constructive cooperation with the WIPO and its member states in order to establish the well balanced and stable system of intellectual property.

Thank you for your attention.