

62nd Assembly of the Member States of WIPO
General Statement of the Republic of the Philippines

Mr. President, Director General Darren Tang, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, on behalf of the Philippine government, we are pleased to join the 62nd WIPO General Assemblies of Member States amidst these challenging times.

We are encouraged that the 2021 Global Innovation Index Report cites that the Philippines performs above our level of economic status and compared to last year, our Innovation Output ranking improved. We are steadfast in employing the whole-of-nation approach in prioritizing innovation in the country's agenda.

From January to June this year, IP filings we received grew by 20% or 22, 919 from 19,105 applications for the same period in 2020. It is significant to note that for the first half of the year, IP filings from our Innovation Support Technology Offices (ITSO) increased by almost 70% compared to last year.

As countries strive to recover individually, the need to collectively push innovation is most critical during these times especially in the health and medical fields and information communications technologies (ICT). Fully recognizing the urgency of immediately finding ways to treat and contain the Covid-19 virus, we have prepared and uploaded in our website nine (9) Patent Search Reports containing patent data of Covid-19 related drugs and medicines to facilitate the research and development of health agencies, research institutions, and pharmaceutical companies. We are making patent data accessible to relevant sectors and the public to promote and safeguard public health.

Mr. President, the Philippines is a committed partner in the international IP system. On April 28, 2021, we deposited our instrument of accession to the Beijing Treaty on Audio-visual Performance and presently, we are finalizing the Implementing Rules and Regulations. Last August, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Patent Cooperation Treaty's effectivity in the country with

PCT webinars for users, patent agents and the academe. As an international authority for the PCT, we are pleased to report that for 2020, we have 100% completion of international search reports (ISRs) and written opinions (WOs) and 100% compliance in the timeliness of transmittal to the International Bureau within the prescribed deadline of 9 months from priority date. For trademarks, we have implemented the Trademark International Registration Incentive Package (TMIRIP) in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and private industry association, to assist eligible micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to register their trademarks abroad through the Madrid System. This is on top of the Juana Make A Mark program where we have given 3,000 registrations for free to women led MSMEs and another 1,000 free registrations for this year. The TMIRIP complements the PCT Filing Assistance Program which we started implementing in 2019 to assist inventors.

On IPR protection and enforcement, our Alternative Dispute Resolution Program was accredited by the Department of Justice with IPOPHIL mediators being recognized neutrals in the field of mediation. We revised the Implementing Rules and Regulations on Enforcement which covers take-down procedures. Moreover, we have intensified our partnership with the private sector with 16 rights holders and e-commerce platforms to adopt a Code of Conduct between the parties to improve notice-and-take-down procedures for online sites, preventive measures including information sharing with government agencies to address repeat IPR infringements.

Mr. President, we continuously strive to provide accessible and efficient services to our customers. We have completely digitalized our services with the adoption of electronic filing of pleadings and online payment for inter partes and IP violation cases, electronic service of orders and notices for inter partes cases as well as automation of the Appeals process before the Office of the Director General.

Despite the restrictions brought by the pandemic, we harnessed the use of technology in providing IP education and capacity building to our customers, stakeholders and target industries. We offered online IP basic, intermediate and

advanced courses for learners and professional groups including the successful second run of the joint WIPO-IPOPHL Summer School. We will continue to enhance our IP education programs by increasing the number, range and content to suit the demands of our learners.

Mr. President, we thank the WIPO, all its sectors and units particularly the Asia Pacific Division for the partnership and support.

Inspired by the spirit of multilateralism, the Philippines looks forward to continuing the partnership with WIPO, bilateral and regional partners as we all collectively work to ensure that the IP system serves the greater good.

Guided by your able leadership, Mr. President, we look forward to productive and successful General Assemblies.

Thank you! Maraming Salamat!