

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

WIPO Assemblies
54th Series of Meetings, 22nd to 30th September 2014

- Opening Statement of the German Delegation (to be held in the GA) -

Thank you Madam Chairman,

The German Government is pleased to see you chairing this year's Assembly in the splendid new conference hall. We would like to express our appreciation for your dedication to the multifaceted activities of WIPO. We thank the International Bureau of WIPO for its structured and comprehensive preparation of the documentation, and the Senior Management Team for its proficiency and commitment over the last years. We congratulate the Director General on his reappointment. We trust in his continuous dedication and guidance, which we consider essential to pave the way for the coming years and especially to achieve the best possible results on the many items on this year's agenda.

Germany is ready to engage fully in a constructive and fruitful dialogue. We align ourselves with the statements made by Group B and the European Union. We consider intellectual property rights to be essential legal, economic and cultural assets for enterprises and society as a whole. WIPO, as the premier global organization for IP, serves as an important focal point for global discussion in this respect.

Germany attaches great importance to the seamless functioning of WIPO registration services which constitute a core activity of WIPO and its main source of income. German users file a high number of applications and very much benefit from this service.

The German Government supports an international IP framework which balances different interests and concerns, encourages innovation and fosters development. One good example is the Marrakesh Treaty, which was signed by Germany and many other Member States. WIPO should also keep other areas for international legal harmonization on the agenda. Germany is committed to improving the protection of broadcasting organizations and supports the convening of a diplomatic conference on a Design Law Treaty in 2015. The draft text of the Design Law Treaty is ready for adoption. In the interest of clarity, this General Assembly should make a decision to convene a diplomatic conference next year. However, if such agreement is not possible, further negotiations on the Design Law Treaty should be suspended. We remain committed to future work on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional cultural expression and folklore. At the same time, the issues at stake in the IGC are too important to ask for a quick outcome instead of a well thought out solution.

In view of WIPO's global role, Germany subscribes to the idea of a small, limited, strategically positioned and geographically representative network of WIPO external offices with true added value to the organization on the basis of a clear set of principles. We welcome the progress made in the development of guiding principles.

Germany is of the opinion that careful consideration should be given to the important topic of WIPO governance. We stress the importance of good governance within WIPO and its leadership. This includes transparent and clear management structures and readily comprehensible decision-making processes. Moreover, Member States should engage in an in-depth discussion in order to find balanced and sustainable solutions within the current framework of the Convention. Practical measures relating to the management of meetings and documentation could serve as a starting point. Serious consideration should also be given to a reduction of the frequency of meetings and the efficient use of meetings of experts nominated by Member States. Our common goal should be to have a constructive debate in order to overcome the currently prevailing deadlock in several Committees.

We reiterate our support for WIPO in its mission to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all Member States through a balanced and effective IP system.