

Draft General Statement of Japan at the 54<sup>th</sup> WIPO Assemblies

Thank you, Madam Chair.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Kairamo, on your continued dedication as the chairperson of this important Assembly. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Honorable Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, as well as all the staff members of WIPO Secretariat for their diligent work in preparing for this meeting.

Excellencies, Honorable Chair and distinguished delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of my government, I wish to convey our warmest congratulations to Dr. Gurry on his reappointment as Director General. I very much hope that the Director General and his new management team will take the lead in further advancing this organization and developing its activities.

Among the United Nations organizations, WIPO is the only specialized agency that is supported by its users. In that respect, I firmly believe that WIPO can continue to achieve excellent results by further enhancing relationships with users. In doing so, the most important thing is to improve the global IP services such as the PCT, Madrid, and Hague systems, in order for users to have access to more reliable and attractive services.

Norm-setting activities are also an important mission of this organization. In particular, industry has shown high expectation in the early adoption of the Design Law Treaty, DLT. It is my hope that the Member States can finally reach an agreement on convening a diplomatic conference for adopting the DLT at this Assembly. We would also like to contribute to the discussion on the Broadcasting Treaty, aiming to convene a diplomatic conference on it at an early date.

Japan also believes that WIPO has a significant role in international development of the IP system. To support this, we have welcomed approximately 1,500 trainees, sent IP experts, and held forums for developing countries in the Asia Pacific region and Africa using the WIPO/Japan Funds-in-trust. Last year, we significantly increased the annual amount of contributions, to approximately 5.9 million Swiss francs. We would like to continue contributing to the economic growth of developing countries in cooperation with WIPO.

In addition, under the aim of establishing a global IP infrastructure that enables users worldwide to freely access IP information, the Japan Patent Office, JPO, has been enhancing cooperation with WIPO. In March this year, the linkage system was established between JPO - One Portal Dossier (JPO-OPD) and WIPO-CASE, both of which enable search and examination results to be shared among participating IP offices. Through expanding and improving this system, we would like to continue working on advancing the global IP infrastructure.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my statement by sharing some of our recent activities.

In order to promote innovation, Japan has been working to become the world's leading "IP-based nation". In order to achieve this goal, the JPO is committed to achieving world-class examination in terms of both speed and quality. Among others, the JPO will shorten the examination period required for granting patent rights to 14 months or less on average by the end of FY2023. At the same time, the JPO will further enhance the quality of examination by introducing an evaluation system for quality management, which is administered by external experts.

Also, we finalized the amendment of the Design Act this May, which will enable Japan to accede to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. Our target is to accept international design applications under the Hague Agreement as early as next spring. In this connection, I very much appreciate the continued cooperation given by the International Bureau in enabling Japan to accede to the Act. I would also like to let you know that in June this year Japan became the fourth member state of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances.

Thank you.