

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
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Opening Statement of the Republic of Turkey

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

First of all, it is a pleasure for me to address the first General Assembly in this excellent conference hall. Madam Chair, On behalf of the Turkish delegation, I would like to congratulate you as the Chairperson of the General Assemblies. I also welcome your vice-chairs and I am confident that under your leadership, the Assemblies will produce fruitful outcomes.

On behalf of Turkish Delegation, we congratulate Dr. Francis Gurry for his re-election as the Director General of WIPO in his second term. We are certain that his determination will carry on in the new term with his new senior management. As we wish them success, we extend our thanks to their predecessors for their contributions.

Turkish Patent Institute has been undergoing a similar change. We have a new dynamic team actively seeking our strategic objectives, which are quite many. Our government very recently adopted the National Design Strategy at the High Planning Council chaired by our Prime Minister. This strategy foresees more than 30 priorities for raising our competitiveness in designs sector. Meanwhile, National IP Strategy Paper and National Strategy on Geographical Indications are in pipeline, aiming to further enhance the Turkish IP system.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Institute's establishment this year, I proudly note we are the highest trademark application receiving office in Europe and the second highest in designs. Last year we hosted PATLIB 2014 Conference with record of 300 participants from 38 countries, with 72 Turkish patent information centers. While university awareness raising project continued, we agreed with 14 universities in re-structuring their patent information centers. Our cooperation with national offices and WIPO keep producing good results. Very recently, Turkish Directorate General for Copyrights and WIPO jointly completed the study on "Surveying the Economic Contribution of the Copyright-based Industries".

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Now I would like to touch upon certain topics of the normative agenda. As regards the Design Law Treaty, Turkey appreciates the arduous work accomplished by the SCT and would like to give its full support for convening a diplomatic conference for its adoption in near future. Coming back to Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, we believe it is early to decide on a diplomatic conference despite the considerable progress made and the importance we attach to this subject.

As regards copyrights, we hope the synergy achieved in Marrakesh will be reflected in oncoming sessions on protection of broadcasting organizations, limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities. In this context, Turkey welcomes WIPO's efforts for creating a more efficient and balanced international copyright system.

Finally, we reiterate Turkey's willingness to host an external Office, which would create synergy with the prospective Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. Technology Bank in Turkey is another project being run under auspices of UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and SIDS.

Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion of my statement, I am confident that this Assembly will be a success in all manners and we thank the Secretariat for all their hard work, which greatly facilitates our discussions.

Thank you very much.