

Mr. Chair,
Ministers,
Ambassadors and heads of delegation,
Distinguished guests and participants,

On behalf of Canada, I wish to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairs on your elections, and to assure you of the Canadian delegation's full support in making this year's Assemblies a success.

Mr. Chair, Canada views innovation as the path to inclusive growth and prosperity for everyone, opening new economic, social and environmental possibilities. That is why Canada is now pursuing an inclusive Innovation Agenda, a coordinated strategy to support innovation.

In this context, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office's forthcoming 2017-2022 Business Strategy will support Canada's Innovation Agenda by focusing on encouraging invention, discovery and commercial success through modernization, international harmonization, and more streamlined, efficient ways of getting IP business done.

Mr. Chair, as part of our commitment to improving our intellectual property regime, Canada continues to pursue an ambitious intellectual property modernization program. Canada indeed continues to move toward implementing the Madrid Protocol, the Singapore and Patent Law treaties, and the Hague and Nice agreements. On June 30, 2016, Canada acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty, and it is an honour to be counted among the countries that, together, have enabled its coming into force last week.

Mr. Chair, Canada strongly supports WIPO as the key forum for the development of international norms that promote an efficient, balanced and accessible intellectual property system. These goals clearly align with the themes of Canada's Innovation Agenda. However, we regret that the SCT remains unable to find consensus on a Design Law Treaty, including on the issue of disclosure – this continues to be a matter for discussion at the IGC. Canada looks forward to continue working with all Member States at the IGC, and elsewhere, toward balanced, mutually agreeable outcomes; we call on the IGC, and indeed WIPO as a whole, to resolve differences through fact-based processes.

Finally, Mr. Chair, Canada wishes to thank the Secretariat for its ongoing and invaluable support, including as Canada works to expand its participation in WIPO's Global IP Services.

Merci. Thank you.