

**CANADA**

**National Statement**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

Ministers,

Ambassadors and heads of delegation,

Distinguished guests and participants,

On behalf of Canada, I assure you of the Canadian delegation's full support in making this year's Assemblies a success.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is committed to upholding the democratic values of pluralism, diversity, and inclusiveness. We are putting these values into action through various policy initiatives, including an Innovation and Skills Plan, which is designed to build Canada as a world-leading innovation economy that will create jobs and grow the middle class.

Recognizing the importance of intellectual property in an innovation ecosystem, the Plan includes a commitment to develop a new national IP strategy. This strategy will ensure Canada's IP regime continues to be modern and helps businesses to grow to scale, while ensuring that Canadian innovators have the awareness and incentive to strategically use IP. Particular attention will be paid to engage under-represented groups in the IP system, including women, Indigenous communities, youth and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Canada is also pursuing a Progressive Trade Agenda that addresses issues including labour, environment, gender equality, digital trade and innovation. In this respect, WIPO is a rich repository of information that helps inform our government initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, to help fulfill the goals of Canada's ambitious agenda, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office's 2017-2022 Business Strategy will enhance innovators' success in the knowledge economy by pursuing greater global collaboration. CIPO will build on the success of our work with various member states and the CIPO-WIPO Executive Management Workshop that in 2017 welcomed participants from across La Francophonie. We are pleased to announce today that we will be signing an MOU with WIPO GREEN, an initiative that aligns with Canada's own technology plan for a clean-growth future.

We hope that the PCT Assembly will respond favorably to our desire to continue providing International Searching and Authority and International Preliminary Examining services under the PCT.

Mr. Chairman, Canada remains a strong supporter of WIPO as the key forum for the development of international norms that promote an efficient, balanced, and accessible intellectual property system through good governance and fact-based discussions. These are priorities to which Canada has also committed itself domestically. However, we regret that Member States remain unable to find consensus on a Design Law Treaty. On the IGC, Canada supports the continuation

of work with a shared understanding of objectives and the practical implications of proposals all in a way that does not prejudge the outcome but informs and guides further discussions and work on the draft texts.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Canada wishes to thank the Secretariat for its ongoing and invaluable support as Canada continues to contribute to the work at WIPO and expand its participation in WIPO's Global IP Services through our work toward acceding to The Hague Agreement, Madrid Protocol, Singapore Agreement, Nice Agreement, and the *Patent Law Treaty*.

Thank you.