

(Check Against Delivery)

## **GENERAL STATEMENT**

### **DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate Excellency Mr. Duong Chi Dung on your election as the Chair of the 58<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies and look forward to successful outcome of this session under your able chairmanship.

At the same time, I would like to express my thanks to Director-General Mr. Francis Gurry and WIPO Secretariat for making sincere efforts for the preparation of the current session.

Mr. Chair,

The DPR Korea delegation commends WIPO for having achieved great success in the last one year in its work to develop the global IP system and to strengthen collaboration among Member States.

The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP/27) held in December 2017 addressed the issue of removing the constraints faced by developing and least developed countries in their access to patents and, in particular, in the access to patents for essential medicines. It was an inspiring milestone for Member States that demonstrated their will to contribute to achieving SDGs set forth by the United Nations through giving priority to ethics and morals highly relevant to the dignity and life of human being while actively using IP as a tool.

Based on the decision made by the 57<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies, Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and

Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) prepared the Consolidated Document Relating to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources Rev. 2, thus making it possible to submit the final document to the next Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies in 2019.

Up to now, over 40 countries have ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. This success is attributable to the Secretariat in promoting the Marrakesh Treaty, carrying out numerous national, regional and inter-regional projects and providing legal assistance for Member States for the ratification and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty during the last one year.

The DPRK delegation appreciates the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) that has made progress in preparing a framework for the Design Law Treaty. We hope that the Diplomatic Conference could be convened in the first half of 2019 to finally adopt the Design Law Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

In April this year, Comrade **KIM JONG UN**, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea set forth a new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on the socialist economic construction and has indicated ways to make great progress in production by relying on science and technology which are powerful driving forces of economic construction.

He also underscored the need to give priority and sustained strategic focus in the operation and guidance on the scientific and technological development, expansion of the national science and technology dissemination network to train the entire people as talents of science and technology, improving the operation of regional, sectoral and institutional centers for dissemination of science and technology under the strategic

motto: “Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!”.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, as a Member State of WIPO, is actively taking part in the IP protection activities and ratified, last August, the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) and approved Amendments to the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization and to other WIPO-Administered Treaties.

Mr. Chair,

To achieve the SDGs set by the United Nations, it is necessary to further promote scientific and technological development through the intellectual properties, widely introduce existing and developed scientific and technological achievements and promote sci-tech exchange and cooperation between countries.

However, unprecedented sanctions, inhumane and medieval in nature, are imposed on the DPRK today aimed at stifling our unique people-centered socialist system and hindering the improvement of people’s livelihood. Arbitrary barriers are created in the field of science and technology exchange and collaboration. It has now gone beyond the limit, even including the participation in the workshops and conferences organized by WIPO for IP experts of its Member States including DPRK, the sovereign Member State of the organization.

These artificial obstacles are no more than the adrenalin spurring the Korean People to further strengthen their will and spirit to safeguard the socialist system and to build a self-reliant and modern socialist economy, the knowledge economy.

The DPRK Government will further promote the scientific and technological developments with IP as a lever and strengthen the cooperation with WIPO and its Member States.

Thank you.