

GENERAL STATEMENT 2018 – **NORWAY** – WIPO Assemblies, 58th Series of Meetings

The Norwegian Delegation wishes to express its satisfaction seeing the Chair, Ambassador Dzung, on the podium and wishes him the best of luck in guiding this Assembly to a successful conclusion. We also welcome and congratulate the Vice-Chairs. We commend the Secretariat and Director General Francis Gurry for their excellent preparatory work for these assemblies.

Norway maintains the importance of improving the Member States' ability to monitor the economy and administration of WIPO and welcomes the continued efforts and cooperation to this end.

The Norwegian delegation commends the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for the benefit of the users - these are crucial to continued and increased use of these global IP-services. We note with pleasure that the working groups under these systems continue to make progress for improving regulations, guidelines and practices. Norway is committed to the work on global services, in the interest of the existing and future users of the systems.

Norway looks forward to a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of Design Law Treaty and regrets the delay.

With regard to developments in Norway, a new Copyright Act was passed into law on 15 June, 2018 and entered into force on 1 July.

The main policy objective for the new Copyright Act is an overall revision to make the act easier to understand and use for all. The new Act aims to simplify and modernise the previous Copyright Act, from 1961. The 1961 Copyright act had been revised several times, inter alia to implement EU directives in the copyright field, but this is the first overall revision for over 50 years.

The main point for the government has been to present a new act that maintains the balance of copyright, and improves the rights of artists. This has been done in several areas and includes the following amendments:

A new, un-waivable right to fair remuneration when rights are transferred. This secures a fairer share of income for the artists that create copyrighted works and later decide to transfer the rights to others.

A codification of an interpretative measure to ensure that when an artist transfers the rights of a copyrighted work or performance, that transfer should only include the rights clearly included in the agreement. This shall ensure that the transfer agreement should be interpreted in favour of the artist.

The copyright enforcement measures (sanctions and damages) are strengthened and there are new measures regarding streaming from an illegal source. Artists and other right holders have asked for this reform.

By way of conclusion, the Norwegian Delegation underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive and constructive way to the success of these General Assemblies.