

GENERAL STATEMENT 2019 – **NORWAY** – WIPO Assemblies, 59<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings

*The Norwegian Delegation* wishes to express its satisfaction seeing the Chair, Ambassador Duong, 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 supports a renewed mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

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

Norway continues to support the work in the SCCR towards a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations.

With regard to developments in Norway,

- amendments to the Acts relating to industrial property entered into force 1 July 2019, *inter alia* changing the criteria for reinstatement of rights in procedures before the Office to “unintentionally” in order to simplify procedures for applicants and right holders
- as well as an amendment to the Patents Act in order to allow for restoration of the right to priority in patent applications
- as well as an amendment in the Designs Act to remove mandatory mention of the designer
- amendment to the Copyright Act entered into force on 1 August 2019. The amendment introduces the EU Regulation 2017/1128 on cross-border portability of online content services in the European Economic Area

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.