

CAMBODIA'S STATEMENT

Agenda Item 5 – 61st Session of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (GA)

Delivered by H.E. THAY Bunthon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

21 to 29 September 2020

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on behalf of **H.E. PAN Sorasak**, Minister of Commerce and Chair of National Committee for Intellectual Property of Cambodia, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of 61st Session of the Assemblies. We are confident in your leadership in steering our Assemblies to a successful conclusion. My thanks also go to the WIPO Secretariat for their excellent arrangements made to the assemblies.

Cambodia associate itself with the statement made by **Singapore** on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

We join other to congratulate and warmly welcome Mr. Daren Tang, the elected Director General of WIPO. We believe that under his strong commitment and leadership, WIPO will initiate new activities and would achieve further outcomes including the expansion of WIPO's global IP and increasing the participation of Least-Developed Countries to serve and play its active role in the relevant committees of this organization.

We would also like to express our sincere congratulations and thanks to Dr. Francis Gurry and his team for the leadership and efforts to achieve many accomplishments for this organization as we can see today.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the able leadership of our Prime Minister, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Cambodia attaches the importance of IP as one of the key drivers for economic growth and poverty reduction. It also has placed IP as an important part of its comprehensive economic policy to encourage innovative, creative and technological development as well as made great efforts to adopt IP laws and regulations since 2002. Currently, Cambodia is implementing various on-going projects such as the branding project, national IP strategy 2020-2025, modernization of administration system, establishment of technology and innovation support center as well as drafting and amending IP laws and regulations.

Moreover, in order to catch up with the world IP system and its development, the Royal Government has integrated itself to the international agreements, conventions and treaties. For instance, recently, Cambodia has become the 95th member of the Madrid Protocol, 151st member of PCT, 66th member of the Hague Agreement, 1st State party to join the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on

Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2018, Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances in 2019. And, in principle, Cambodia is ready to be a member of Berne Convention. The instrument of accession regarding the Berne Convention will be deposited with the Director General once COVID-19 constraints allow.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition, Cambodia is now preparing strategy for Industrial 4.0 and improves Information Communication Technology Infrastructure as well as encourages SMEs to utilize Intellectual Property for productive development and productive capacity into the global markets.

As the result of the above mentioned activities and efforts, many progresses have been made including Cambodia has risen in the overall rankings of Global Innovation Index and managed to achieve a GDP growth in average of more than 7% per annum for the last decades.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank WIPO and all relevant stakeholders for supporting IP development to ensure that the IP system serves its fundamental purposes of encouraging creativity and innovation in all countries under the principle of “leaving no one behind”. The continuous supports for implementing the National IP Strategy, branding of potential of local products, strengthening the IP administration, innovation, invention and enforcement are highly contributed to the development of Cambodia. We commit to work closely with the new elected Director General, all members and development partners with a positive spirit and constructive engagement.

Finally, my delegation wishes the 61st Assemblies a successful conclusion.

I thank you
