

**The 61st Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of WIPO
(Geneva, 21 - 25 September 2020)**

Statement by Romania

ITEM 5 General Statements

Thank you Mr. Chair.

1. On behalf of the Romanian Government, I would like to congratulate you and the vice-chairs on your election. Allow me to wish you every success in your important task and to assure you of the full support of this delegation.
2. We would like to thank the International Bureau of WIPO for their hard work and dedication throughout this period of time and for their contribution to keeping the WIPO machinery working for the benefit of our societies.
3. Mr. Chair, Romania fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union as well as by the Group of Central European and Baltic States.
4. In spite of the constraints, WIPO has managed to continue its work, with Member States involved and interconnected, through, inter-alia, different WIPO webinars on the latest information and training on WIPO services and cooperation activities.
5. Mr. Chair, we would like to congratulate the Bureau of the Program and Budget Committee for their able guidance of the 31st session and for the progress achieved. We have supported the decisions adopted by the PBC and express our hope that the

postponed activities, included in the cooperation plans for 2020, will take place next year.

6. Likewise, we are hopeful that the work on the WIPO normative agenda will be resumed, as well as the activity of the Standing and Permanent Committees of the Organization. This delegation is fully committed to cooperate with all Member States, in a spirit of consensus, with the firm goal of achieving the expected progress on the pending issues on the WIPO agenda.

7. Furthermore, Romania expresses its readiness to participate in a constructive manner in the future discussions on the Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. While reiterating the offer for hosting a WIPO External Office, we reaffirm the importance of the Guiding Principles for the future review process.

8. Mr. Chair, I would like to use this opportunity and express the most sincere thanks to Director General Francis Gurry, for his leadership and contribution to the advancement of the intellectual property system. He should take the credit for what WIPO stands today and, I would like, on behalf of the Romanian Government, to wish him every success in his future endeavors.

9. At the same time, it is my distinct honor to congratulate, on behalf of Romania, Director General-elect, Mr. Daren Tang. I would like to assure him of the full determination of the Romanian Government in supporting his vision and strategy, with a view to developing an ever more balanced and effective global IP system.

I thank you.