

**DRAFT (15 September 2020)**

**OPENING STATEMENT BY ASEAN**

**62<sup>nd</sup> Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

**4-8 October 2021, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Delivered by Attorney Rowel S. Barba,**

**Director General, Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL),  
Chairperson, ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property  
Cooperation (AWGIPC) On behalf of the AWGIPC**

*Mr. President,*

1. First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to you, Ambassador Omar Zniber, for the tremendous work you have done and continue to do, as Chairperson of these Assemblies. We are certain that under your chairmanship and guidance, we will have a very productive and efficient Meeting in the week ahead.

2. We would like to express our gratitude for the hard work and the excellent preparations that DG Daren Tang and the WIPO Secretariat have put in for these Assemblies. We welcome the Report of the DG and look forward to working with all the WIPO Member States in order to advance our work in the ASEAN region.

3. We would like to commend the DG on the launch of WIPO's Medium Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, which is exactly what everyone needs to successfully navigate through all the challenges that we, as IP Offices, practitioners, and stakeholders are facing during this pandemic. Fortunately, its launch coincided with the publication of the 2016-2025 ASEAN IPR Action Plan Version 2.0, with seven (7) new deliverables to respond to recent developments in the region and globally. We would like to thank WIPO for expressing its interest in supporting these new deliverables.

4. We would also like to express our appreciation for the excellent support and coordination that the WIPO Division for Asia and the Pacific (DAP) extends to the AWGIPC, and the successful e-HIPOC meeting held in April 2021. We would particularly like to commend the WIPO-DAP on the successful completion of the Regional Plan (RP) for the ASEAN region, as well as the ongoing consultations for the Country Plans (CPs) for each of the ASEAN Member States. This has given us a

**comprehensive and effective monitoring tool for the support and technical assistance that WIPO provides to the region.**

**5. We would also like to thank the WIPO Singapore Office (WSO) for its continuous support to the ASEAN region.**

**6. We congratulate WIPO on the successful launch of the GII for 2021. We are pleased to note the performances of Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, VietNam, Philippines and Malaysia.**

**7. On accession to the WIPO administered treaties, we are pleased to inform that Lao PDR has acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Treaty on 20 November 2020, Viet Nam has acceded to the Budapest Treaty on 1 March 2021, and the Philippines has acceded to the Beijing treaty on 28 April 2021. We greatly appreciate the technical support and assistance that WIPO provided in making these milestones possible.**

**8. The AWGIPC will continue to prioritize the strengthening of the IP systems in the ASEAN region through digital transformation. ASEAN IP Offices are working closely to modernize our processes, quickly adapt to changes, and maximize opportunities to increase efficiency and improve the delivery of services to our stakeholders, especially the MSMEs. We look forward to the further enhancement and strengthening of our partnership with WIPO as well as the cooperation with all the other WIPO Member States. On that note, the ten (10) Member States of ASEAN would like to express our firm commitment to continue to actively participate and contribute to the discussions during this General Assembly.**

**Thank you, Mr. President.**