

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
General Statement by Head of Delegation under agenda item 5
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Mr. Chair,

First of all, on behalf of the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and express my expectation that your able stewardship will lead this meeting to a good success.

I would also like to thank Mr. Daren Tang, Director General and Secretariat of WIPO for their sincere efforts to ensure the success of this meeting in the time of global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

During the past one year, WIPO has scored a number of successes including the increase in number of Parties to intellectual property agreements such as Patent Law Treaty, Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and Geneva Act to the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.

Especially, the agreement reached in June among WIPO, World Health Organization and World Trade Organization to cooperate in helping countries to have access to the medical technology so as to cope with COVID-19 has a great significance in the international efforts to put an end to the global pandemic at the earliest date.

Mr. Chair,

The humankind is now facing many challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and environmental pollution, and the science and technology play decisive role in tackling these challenges.

Comrade **KIM JONG UN**, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK re-defined development of science and technology as a crucial task and a most optimum policy in the socialist construction and set forth the tasks for putting primary efforts into sci-tech development and innovation in the historic 8th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and in the recent policy speech of the 5th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

The atmosphere of giving importance to science and technology is prevailing

throughout the country and all working people have wider access to the advanced science and technology through the nationwide network for the distribution of science and technology, the Sci-Tech Complex playing as a hub.

And thanks to the brisk massive technological innovation movement, valuable inventions and innovative ideas were created not only in the specialized research institutes but also among the working people, and these are widely introduced in the overall sectors of national economy.

The DPRK government takes the protection of intellectual properties as an important issue for the development of science and technology and pays great attention to that end, consolidating the legal system for protecting intellectual properties.

Under the attention of the government of our Republic, the apps aimed to raising awareness about the intellectual properties such as copyright, patent and trademarks have been developed to contribute to the public awareness on IP, and other innovative measures are taken to reinforce the national system for protecting IPs.

I appreciate the active efforts of the WIPO Academy for organizing the online workshops for the development of the IP system in the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Mr. Chair,

I think WIPO should consider the following issues in order to develop the international work for protecting intellectual properties.

First, more attention should be given to the development of the intellectual property rights in the developing countries.

The developing countries have quite a number of intellectual properties but they fail to gain due benefits and have difficulties in accessing the scientific and technological successes already available.

WIPO needs to prioritize the technological cooperation and the capacity building of the developing countries in accordance with the slogan of the Organization; "Promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world."

The adoption of the Design Law Treaty is at standstill for more than two decades because of the unresolved issue on the clause of technology transfer and capacity building to the developing countries. I am of the strong view that this issue should also be resolved as early as possible in the interests of the developing countries and for the sake of benefit for all countries.

Second, the protection of the intellectual properties should contribute not only to the sci-tech development of all countries but also to their economic development and creation of civilized culture.

WIPO should see to it that all the sci-tech achievements and cultural achievements created by the humankind are set to actively contribute to the achievements of SDGs and the socio-economic and cultural development of every member state.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will strengthen the relations of cooperation with WIPO in the future too and will make active contributions to the development of the international system for protecting intellectual properties.

Thank you.