

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General/Opening Statement**

Chair, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellences, distinguished delegates.

Slovenia is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

1. Chair, we thank you for your dedicated work throughout these challenging times. We have full confidence that your able guidance will help us reach positive results and thus conclude this General Assembly with success. We also thank the Secretariat for the outstanding preparatory work.
  2. Firstly, we would like to congratulate DG Tang and his senior management team for leading WIPO this year. We acknowledge, with support, the demanding work of leading a multilateral organisation, especially in such extraordinary circumstances. The pandemic has shown the value of intellectual property rights, the protection and promotion of which is among the key priorities for the EU and its Member States.
  3. We look forward to seeing WIPO's newly outlined holistic vision and strategic approach come to life and to result in global innovation and creativity, supported by a balanced and effective system of IPR. We welcome proposals to reach out and to empower every member of the society, in an inclusive and undifferentiated manner. We are encouraged by focusing on concrete results supported by WIPO's horizontal and targeted measures and programs, for individuals and SMEs in particular.
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4. The EU and its Member States are pleased to note WIPO's efforts towards an effective and efficient response to COVID-19. Strong and balanced IP systems can and should contribute to overcoming health crises and to global economic recovery. The pandemic has been affecting people's lives for too long. We support WIPO in reaching out to business in the effort to swift economic recovery. To achieve that, we suggest focusing particularly on green and digital transitions, built on well-balanced and forward-looking IP ecosystems. Sustainability as well as continued discussions on IP and artificial intelligence remain high priorities of the EU.
5. Although we understand the difficulties of the current situation, we want to recall that the EU and its Member States stand ready to engage on policy discussions in all governing bodies and committees, as soon as the conditions permit us to meet in a safe negotiating environment.
6. The EU calls for progress in the negotiations for an ambitious Broadcasting Treaty that would take into account the technology developments. We are committed to engage constructively on the outstanding issues. We also support the renewal of the IGC mandate for 2022/2023 according to the recommendation adopted at IGC 41. Turning to the DLT, we are open to consider and discuss any constructive proposal on this matter.
7. We are encouraged by seeing the work progress in different committees, albeit curtailed, and thank other delegates for their continuous engagement and for consensuses reached.
8. In closing, let me reassure you that the EU and its Member States will continue to support successful and constructive work during this General Assembly.

Thank you.

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