

5.10.2021

General Statement of FINLAND - WIPO Assemblies, 62nd Series of Meetings

The Finnish Delegation welcomes and congratulates the Chair and the Vice-Chairs on their election. Finland also thanks the Director General Mr. Daren Tang and the Secretariat for their excellent preparatory work for these assemblies.

Finland aligns itself with the opening statements by United Kingdom on behalf of the Group B and by Slovenia on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Innovations are crucial in order to ensure a sustainable economic growth. The IPR system faces huge challenges in the new digital environment and data economy. We are very grateful for WIPO's engagement during these exceptional times of the pandemic. WIPO can and should have a leading role in the discussions on AI and IP. In particular, we applaud the efforts of DG Mr. Daren Tang and the AI division led by Dr. Ulrike Till in organizing the excellent Frontier Technologies event this September. This is well in line with our national Artificial Intelligence strategy, the aim of which is to create preconditions for the advancement of digitalisation, in particular for SMEs and digital investments.

Finland also compliments WIPO for its efforts in improving the global IP services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems. Finland supports the continuing development of on global IP-services for the benefit of the users.

Finland believes it is crucial that the IP system is gradually digitalized, so that right holders and the society as a whole continue to benefit from the efficient operation of the IP framework. Digitalization of the IP system is key also in the creation of a new national IPR strategy in Finland. Among other initiatives, we are developing digital Copyright infrastructure. The initial step is to increase the capacity of stakeholders to understand the value of better identification of IP assets and right holders and interoperable standards for data exchange in the digital environment.

Finland is one of the countries that are taking steps to increase regional work. We believe that areas such as indigenous peoples' rights need more attention. Finland has raised the need for exchange of views on rights of the Sámi people to protection of their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions in the program of its Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. A conference will be held in November and we are particularly pleased that WIPO has promised organize a WIPO practical workshop for the Nordic countries in 2022 which is based on funds from Program 4.

Finland underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive and constructive manner to the success of these General Assemblies.

Thank you.