

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO Sixty-Third Series of Meetings

Geneva, July 14 – July 22, 2022

Opening Statement of the CEBS Group

1. Honorable Madam Chair, Ambassador Molcean, Honorable Ministers, Your Excellences, distinguished delegates, Slovakia is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.
2. Our Group would like to express its gratitude to you, your Excellency, for your engagement in preparation for the 63rd series of WIPO Assemblies. The CEBS Group is convinced in your able guidance of the work of the Assemblies and is hoping for achieving progress on pending issues.
3. Equally, our Group also extends compliments to the Director General for his leadership of the Organization that allowed to ensure WIPO's excellent performance in delivering IP services and to remain in sound and positive financial situation despite the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic. We also commend the Secretariat for their work, arrangements and efforts invested in preparation of these WIPO Assemblies.
4. Special appreciation of the CEBS Group goes to Department of Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) for ongoing support of CEBS countries. The CEBS Group highly benefits from the cooperation activities carried out by the TDC Team, in particular as regards the improvement of IP infrastructure and capacity building in our countries. We are looking forward to further strengthen this well-established collaboration.
5. The CEBS Group welcomes that throughout these challenging times WIPO continues to develop initiatives responding to the needs of various stakeholders, such as SMEs or individuals. Continuous support of green and digital solutions, IP commercialization or IP management can result in the country's economic growth and improvement of IP infrastructure in respective regions and hand in hand with innovation and technology should remain the priorities for WIPO.
6. We are of the view that WIPO, as the organization in charge of the promotion of innovation and creativity, will play a crucial role in overcoming the recent challenges and contributing to the global economic recovery and to the post COVID-19 world with ensuring balanced IP ecosystems in its Member States. We believe that during this General Assembly we would have the opportunity to see the first results of the Organization's new vision and strategy, as described in Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026.
7. Concerning the General Assemblies agenda, let me emphasize that the war in Ukraine led to tragic loss of human lives, destruction of independent country and affected also the work in WIPO. By expressing the solidarity with Ukraine we are ready to provide our support for rebuilding of Ukraine's IP infrastructure and ecosystem under the new agenda item "*Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and IP System*".

8. Madam Chair, the current session of the Assemblies should also devote special attention to the pending normative agenda. Let me restate the importance, which our Group attaches to the adoption of the Design Law Treaty. We regret the lack of agreement on finalizing the negotiations of the DLT during previous years. During the years of negotiations our Group has showed enough flexibility and has engaged in constructive discussions in order to find a universally acceptable compromise. Therefore, we would like to advance the work on DLT in respect of reaching a reasonable and positive outcome.
9. The CEBS Group also believes that the Member States will show more flexibility for finalizing the Treaty on the Protection of the Broadcasting Organizations. The CEBS Group would like to reiterate the necessity to take into account the rapidly developing technologies and to make sure that the Treaty addresses and reflects current needs of broadcasting organisations and provides them with adequate and effective legal protection.
10. In respect of the IGC, the CEBS Group takes note of the restarted deliberations and clear positions of regional groups and Member States expressed at two IGC sessions on the topic of genetic resources under the current mandate. Notwithstanding the lack of consensus on the draft text for genetic resources nor on the methodology for upcoming sessions, we would like to restate our commitment to constructively engage in further work during remaining four IGC sessions, which are in particular devoted to issues of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.
11. Last, but not least, restating the good financial performance of the Organization, we call upon continuing to strengthen the Unions of the Organization, especially PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Union.
12. In conclusion, Madam Chair, the CEBS Group is looking forward to a productive session of the General Assembly. Please, rest assured of the constructive commitment of our Group.
13. Thank you.