

**Agenda Item 4**  
**General/Opening Statement**

Madam Chair, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

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

1. Madam Chair, we would like to thank you for your excellent work throughout these challenging times and assure you of our complete trust in your leadership abilities and constructive approach. We would also like to thank the WIPO Secretariat for all its preparatory work.
2. The EU and its Member States fully support agenda item 19 as an integral part of the agenda of the WIPO General Assemblies.
3. We continue to condemn the Russian Federation's unjustified war against Ukraine, which is a gross violation of international law, as well as a significant obstacle to the work of WIPO, and to all that WIPO and its Member States collectively stand for.
4. We stand ready to discuss the specific contribution of WIPO to helping rebuild Ukraine's IP ecosystem. In addition, we are of the view that a fresh look at the operation of the current WIPO external offices might be necessary, taking into account some worrying developments in the IP field in certain host countries.
5. We are of the view that these GAs will provide an opportunity for the Director General to share the initial results of the new strategy, as outlined in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, which has been launched in recent months and which focuses on the management of each sector and its impact.
6. We are convinced that strong and balanced IP systems can and should contribute to global economic recovery. We continue to support WIPO in reaching out to business in an effort to ensure a swift economic upturn. We suggest focusing particularly on the green and digital transitions, building on well-balanced and forward-looking IP ecosystems. The question of sustainability and continuing discussions on IP and artificial intelligence remain high priorities for the EU.

7. As for membership of IP treaties administered by WIPO, we are pleased to inform you that on 26 February 2020 the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications entered into force in the EU.
8. Turning to the normative work of WIPO, we reiterate our commitment to progressing towards the conclusion of a meaningful Broadcasting Organisations Treaty that would take into account technological developments. We stand ready to further explore constructive proposals towards the finalisation of the Design Law Treaty. As regards patents, we continue to believe that the SCP should serve *inter alia* as a forum for discussions about the differences between existing patent law systems, as well as the harmonisation of substantive patent law in the future.
9. Concerning the new electoral cycle of officers of WIPO Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO, we take note of the proposed amendments and stand ready to discussing them under the respective agenda item.
10. In addition, we would like to express our expectation that as of the next GAs, we will return to the original autumn term of convening the GAs.
11. In conclusion, we remain committed to engaging constructively in all discussions during these WIPO Assemblies. We look forward to having a productive session under your able guidance.

Thank you.