

Check Against Delivery

Agenda item 4: General Statements

Madam Chair, Honourable Ministers, Director General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. The delegation of Germany has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Group B. We would like to thank you for your leadership during this year and have full confidence in your abilities to lead this General Assembly to a successful and positive outcome.
2. We would also like to thank the Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat for their hard work in preparing these Assemblies.
3. I will mention the most urgent matter first: Group B strongly supports item 19 of the agenda just adopted. The invasion of Ukraine results in a tragic loss of human life and impacts Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and intellectual property system, including, among others, businesses, universities, museums, libraries, and intellectual property offices. Group B members are ready to discuss these consequences and to assist and support Ukraine in restoring and rebuilding its intellectual property ecosystem.
4. Let me now turn to other points: WIPO is operating under its new Medium-Term Strategic Plan and is in a position to define strategies and priorities and to see the first results of its work under the new mandate. Looking back at the past year, it is worth mentioning that the financial results for 2021 are the strongest to date. However, the demand for global IP services depends on the global economy and the situation is volatile. We therefore believe it is all the more important to continue prudent and cautious management, which remains key to positive performance in the coming years.
5. One of the core tasks of the Organization is to provide high quality IP services that deliver value to users around the world. This requires services that are technically up to date and fit for purpose. In that regard, we are pleased to see, that WIPO will continue to modernize the PCT infrastructure, which is an important step towards further digitization. We also welcome the fact that the Organization continued to grow in important areas like the Madrid and Hague Systems and the Arbitration and Mediation Centre services.
6. Regarding our normative agenda, we are ready to continue discussions in appropriate bodies and find constructive ways to resolve stalemates where possible.
7. Chair, shaping the global IP Ecosystem is a strategic goal of WIPO's work, which Group B fully endorses. We are pleased to see that the Organization successfully continued its engagement in the work of the UN system. We support the WIPO COVID-19 response package, including the recently launched Trilateral Technical Assistance Platform.

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8. Artificial Intelligence is a rapidly and dynamically developing field. This presents challenges to the IP system that are only partially known and may continue to evolve in the years ahead. In that regard, we believe it is important that WIPO serves as a global platform and as a catalyst for discussions that can shape the future of our IP system.
9. In closing, Madam Chair, please rest assured that you can count on the constructive engagement of all Group B delegations.

Thank you.