

**64th SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES
OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

Geneva, 6-14 July 2023

**General statement of the Republic of Poland
on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group
under Agenda item 5**

1. Honorable Madam Chair, Ambassador Molcean, Honorable Ministers, Your Excellences, distinguished delegates, Poland 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 64th 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 geoeconomic and geopolitical challenges and the post Covid-19 pandemic recovery. 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. Innovation and Creativity are the driving force of the CEBS economies. New industries, growingly based on intangible assets, are the catalyst for growth and prosperity. They make the businesses flourish, offer new solutions and responses to modern challenges, create new opportunities for Youth and change our lives for the better. There is no Innovation and Creativity in absence of healthy IP ecosystem, friendly and well understood by its stakeholders. As standards setting, regulatory and normative dimension of IP are the integral part of the efforts aimed at strengthening IP environments across the globe, WIPO's role in developing sound, sustainable and balanced IP ecosystem is of paramount importance.
6. The CEBS Group appreciates all WIPO activities envisaged by the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, especially those aimed at supporting and assisting various stakeholders from IP. WIPO projects and initiatives engaging governments, regulators, SMEs, academia, innovators and individuals are the best way of building IP awareness, as well as

building capacity and expertise on the ground. Continuous support of creative industries, new green and digital solutions, IP commercialization or IP management should translate into economic growth. The observed improvement of IP infrastructure in respective regions, hand in hand with innovation and technology should remain in WIPO focus. The CEBS Group strongly supports enhanced WIPO efforts to support Women and Youth, build their awareness of IP, capacity to benefit from Intellectual Property and promote their greater engagement in IP related activities.

7. We thank the Secretariat for preparing the report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System as requested by the relevant decision of the 63th. WIPO General Assembly. The reported negative multidimensional impact on the Ukrainian IP ecosystem, caused by the Russian war of aggression, gives a clear evidence that no Innovation or Creativity can exist in absence of peace and stability. Addressing current damages will require long-term recovery efforts, in which support of WIPO and other international organizations is indispensable. We therefore see the need for WIPO to continue supporting Ukrainian IP stakeholders to mitigate the consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Geo-economic and geopolitical vulnerabilities and instabilities, being a direct effect of this war, have already entailed serious consequences, which are felt by WIPO and across national IP ecosystems. Therefore we once again demand on Russia to immediately stop this unprovoked and unjustified war as well as respect international law.
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 are ready to engage in the work during the October special session of SCT with an aim to narrow the existing gaps to the sufficient level that will allow for conclusion of work during the Diplomatic Conference, to be held in 2024.
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. In this regard we support continued work based on the Chair's text of Draft Treaty on the Protection of the Broadcasting Organizations, which serves as a good basis for the future work.
10. In respect of the IGC, the CEBS Group takes note of the deliberations and clear positions of regional groups and Member States expressed at four IGC sessions on the topic of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. We welcome the agreement reached during IGC 47 on the proposed mandate of work for 2024/2025 biennium. The CEBS group is also ready to engage in the work during the IGC special Session in September of this year with an aim to make progress on the issue of genetic resources, which will be the subject of the Diplomatic Conference in 2024.

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.

Thank you.