

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**General Statement under agenda item 5**  
**(64<sup>th</sup> SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO, Geneva 6-14 July 2023)**

Chair,

First of all, the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea) would like to express its expectation that the Sixty-Fourth Series of Meetings of WIPO will proceed successfully under your skillful leadership.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO and the Secretariat for their efforts to ensure the success of the meetings.

Chair,

During the past year, the number of parties to the intellectual property (IP) agreements including Geneva Act of Lisbon Agreement and Madrid Agreement has kept increasing, which proves that the recognition of the IP importance is growing day by day worldwide.

"WIPO Green Technology Book 2022" published on the occasion of the COP 27 of UNFCCC held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt last year shows how important science and technology is in human activities to respond to climate change and emphasizes the role of WIPO intensively in that regard.

Chair,

The science and technology is the Aladdin's lamp to address the worst challenges such as climate change, global pandemics, food insecurity and environment degradation, while IP protection becomes vital for science and technology development.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I'd like to share some views on the Organization's activities for IP promotion.

First, the Organization should pay greater attention to the promotion of IP and the perfection of IP system in developing countries.

The gap in the IP protection and its application between the North and the South is still huge and serious, and the developing countries do not enjoy sufficient access to the already commercialized science and technology.

This hampers the joint efforts of the international community to cope with the burning issues related to the existence of humankind and if such circumstances persist, even the UN SDGs 2030 will not be successfully attained.

In order to build a balanced system of IP protection worldwide, cooperation in technology transfer, capacity-building and access to advanced science and technology for the developing countries should be further expanded.

For the present, the IP frameworks under discussion such as the Design Law

Treaty and Convention on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, that are expected to be adopted in 2024, need to be finalized in full consideration of interests of the developing countries.

Second, ethical aspects must be sufficiently considered in the field of IP protection, so that IP protection is not abused for greedy pursuit of profits.

As experienced during the period of COVID-19 pandemic, some countries and pharmaceutical companies neglected the people's outcry for life safety, while focusing only on the patent rights; that goes against the human morality and ethics.

The development of sci-tech and IP protection can be said to fulfill their mission only when they ultimately become healthy and sound ones that contribute to the common progress of mankind.

I would like to stress that WIPO should verse its efforts to ensure that IP contributes both nominally and practically to the public welfare and development.

Chair,

Comrade **KIM JONG UN**, President of the State Affairs of the DPR Korea said that the science and technology should become a beacon to illuminate the future and lead the development.

The DPR Korea government, with the aim of building a sci-tech power and a highly-civilized socialist power, holds science and technology as the core strategy to confidently open the road to national revival and prosperity of self-support by self-effort, and attaches great importance to the IP protection.

Recently, the government of the DPR Korea re-created its IP Administration and re-organized national IP structure, in order to handle the overall IP protection work of the country in a more effective and integrated manner.

Besides, "National Exhibition of Children's Science Fiction and Model", "National Sci-Tech Exhibition", "21 May Architecture Exhibition" and "National Industrial Art Exhibition", etc. were held to raise awareness on the IP among the people, and sci-tech achievements are translated into the national economy to make a practical contribution.

During the 17th National Invention Exhibition held virtually in 3D through the national data network "Balmyong (Invention in Korean)", hundreds of units exposed more than 1,200 new technical products while exchanging technologies and experiences on this occasion.

In addition, the law and regulations related to the IP such as Law of Appellations of Origin were amended to spur its development reflecting the reality.

The DPRK government will actively promote the economic and cultural development, science and technology by further streamlining the national IP protection system in close cooperation with WIPO and its member states.

Thank you.