



**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SLOVENIAN INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE, Ms KARIN ŽVOKELJ,
AT WIPO GAs 2023**

Madame Chair,

The Republic of Slovenia aligns itself with the statements of the EU and its Member States and the CEBS Group.

We commend WIPO's efforts in building a well-balanced IP ecosystem as well as the positive results under the able guidance of the DG Tang and WIPO's staff. We welcome the continued focus on IP and frontier technologies, IP commercialization and intangible asset finance, along with green and digital transformation.

SMEs, start-ups, youth and women's participation in IP are among our priorities as well. Therefore, we gladly embraced this year's World IP Day campaign to help bridge the gender gap and highlight the importance of Slovenian women's contributions. We are participating in other WIPO projects, such as WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the CEBS Region, where a representative of Slovenian local community is learning how to better leverage the benefits of IP in connection with traditional textile - the "Idrija lace", as well as promote geographical indication, network and collaborate with other participants from the region and develop further skills with the help of the mentor.

Slovenia has always strived to provide a high level of protection and an internationally comparable system of IP. We greatly appreciate all of WIPO's support and assistance, most notably in the ongoing development of a comprehensive Slovenian national IP strategy. With this important strategic document we aim to increase visibility and respect for IP, its better understanding and use, facilitate acquisition and protection of

IP rights and contribute to the well-balanced development of innovation within a competitive economy.

In efforts to highlight the strategic role of IP, we are honoured to welcome WIPO's delegation, led by DG Tang in Slovenia this coming September. The visit will undoubtedly present an invaluable opportunity to enrich the discussions and promotion of IP benefits among researchers, innovators, creators and entrepreneurs as well as high-level government representatives.

Madam Chair,

We reiterate Slovenia's commitment to constructive work during these Assemblies and onwards, particularly the approval of the program and budget for the next biennium and progress towards a meaningful broadcasting treaty.

In conclusion, we look forward to a collaborative spirit and productive Assemblies.

Thank you.