

Distinguished Director Tang, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rapid technological development in recent years, at a level unprecedented in the history of mankind, imposes on us the need to constantly improve the legal system for IP protection on a global level. With this, also comes the need to continuously build up the professional and technical capabilities necessary for implementing these IP rights.

Small countries have a harder time following such dynamic changes. The Republic of Serbia holds WIPO as a key international institution capable of building a fair and balanced system of intellectual property protection. Although absolute equality is not possible, we believe that it is possible to establish a system on which each member state could derive the greatest possible benefit from intellectual property protection.

Regarding the cooperation between Serbia and WIPO in the course of 2023, let me mention that we have translated into Serbian language the WIPO publication titled "Enterprising Ideas: A Guide to Intellectual Property for Startups", which we promoted with the support of WIPO experts. This publication proved to be of great value for aspiring new companies in Serbia, that base their business on innovations.

Serbia has established four science and technology parks in its largest cities. The majority of these entrepreneurs' businesses are founded on innovations, mostly in the field of information and communication technologies. According to recent data, during 2023 Serbian ICT sector exports have increased by almost 35% and amounted to 3.4 billion euros.

WIPO's support makes going through that faster and easier.

I thank you for your attention.