The 66th Series of Meetings of Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Geneva, Switzerland

July 8, 2025

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chair, Director General, Distinguished delegates,

Unfortunately, this is a fourth Assembly where Ukraine is compelled to address Russia's unprovoked and ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine – a war that disrupts the international IP ecosystem, and challenges core principles of international law.

Each day, the scale of destruction is staggering, extending far beyond Ukraine's borders. Joint Assessment supported by the UN shows that over **524 billion US dollars** are needed for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction

To put this in context, that is over **500 times** WIPO's projected biennial income. The challenges we face far exceed the capabilities of any single organization.

Since 2022, over **2,200 cultural infrastructure sites** have been damaged or destroyed, including libraries, museums, and historical monuments; hundreds of artists have been killed and millions of archival and museum items have been stolen or destroyed.

Just last month, Russian attack damaged the **St. Sophia Cathedral** in Kyiv - a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of our shared human heritage.

Russia systematically violates international IP law – stealing Ukrainian IP rights and cultural works, while enabling piracy and parallel imports. The blatant misappropriation by Russia of the Ukrainian geographical indication *Melitopol Cherry*, exposed during previous WIPO Assemblies, reflects a wider Russian policy of erasing Ukraine's cultural identity through systematic IP theft.

Many WIPO Members have also been victims of Russia's state-backed IP theft, which undermines the integrity of the global IP system and WIPO's very mandate.

A country that implements such policies does not deserve a seat at this Assembly, nor any privilege to host a WIPO external office.

Mr. Chair,

Despite Russia's aggression, Ukraine's Government continues to prioritize the development of a national IP system – delivering numerous IP reforms despite constant Russian attacks and leveraging WIPO's resources to their fullest.

We are grateful to WIPO for its invaluable assistance – both at the policy level through the support in drafting a National IP Strategy, and at the technical level with targeted projects for affected Ukrainian institutions and communities.

We urge the International Bureau to maintain and deepen its cooperation by focusing on mitigating the effects of this war and assisting in our recovery.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Ukraine continues to fight not only for its sovereignty but for the fundamental values of freedom, culture, and creativity. We are confident that IP is not just a technical issue – it is a pillar of identity, innovation, and resilience.

Your support helps us to protect what Russia seeks to erase. We urge WIPO and its Member States to remain steadfast, to act decisively, and to ensure that IP and this forum continue to serve development, not destruction.

Thank you.