

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO  
Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Sixty-Eighth Series of Meetings  
July 7 to 15, 2026  
Oral General Statement AUSTRIA (Agenda Item 4)

[Chair, Director General, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished Delegates]

[Austria fully aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished delegation of Ireland on behalf of the European Union and by the distinguished delegation of Germany on behalf of Group B.]

Austria highly values WIPO's role in fostering innovation and economic development worldwide. Let us reiterate our congratulations to you, Director General, on your reappointment. We confidently look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration during your next term.

Austria has continued its efforts in 2026 to strengthen the role of IP in supporting innovation and competitiveness. The Industrial Strategy adopted by the Austrian government in January includes measures to extend the recognition of IP in the balance sheet, and explore the use of intangible assets as collateral for loans.

In 2025, the Austrian Patent Office focused on strengthening cooperation with universities and research institutions. A key milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Technical Universities in Austria, whose member institutions rank among the country's leading universities in terms of patent applications.

Cooperation remains a key focus in 2026. Together with WIPO, the Austrian Patent Office is conducting a study on this year's focus topic, "Start-ups and SMEs." The findings will detail how Start-ups and SMEs use the IP system in Austria, highlight potential barriers, and support the development of tailored services.

Finally, Austria looks forward to the extension of the appointment of the Austrian Patent Office as International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT. Through the office's role as an ISA/IPEA for approximately 60 countries and its training activities for examiners and IP specialists, Austria is strongly committed to strengthening international cooperation and contributing to an IP system that benefits society in the best possible way.

[Thank you.]