

Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,
7th to 15th July 2026

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by Ireland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and by Albania on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. Daren Tang on his reappointment as Director General of WIPO. With our best wishes for every success in his second term, we look forward to continuing our well-established cooperation with WIPO in the field of intellectual property. We assure him of our full support during his forthcoming tenure, especially in his endeavour to modernise the international IP registration systems.

We would like to thank the WIPO Secretariat for their dedicated work and for preparing the comprehensive documentation for this meeting.

The Czech Republic would like to voice its persistent support for and solidarity with Ukraine, which is facing a war of aggression of the Russian Federation for already more than four years. We condemn Russia's continued military actions, which have significant repercussions on people and businesses inside and outside Ukraine, including the IP community and stakeholders. We appreciate the assistance and support measures provided by the WIPO Secretariat based on the relevant Decision of the 65th General Assemblies, aiming to help Ukraine rebuild its innovation and creativity sector and intellectual property system, as described in the updated factual report (A/68/7). The report provides evidence of the negative impact of the Russian war on the Ukrainian IP ecosystem and innovative and creative sectors, as well as of the continued need of assistance from WIPO. We therefore urge WIPO to sustain its supporting activities in Ukraine as long as they are necessary.

We reaffirm our strong support for WIPO's central role as the global platform for intellectual property services, policy development, information exchange, and international cooperation. We attach great importance to well-functioning and accessible IP protection systems, which is vital for fostering innovation and creativity. Such a system provides a solid legal framework for investment in and commercialization of intellectual assets, while also facilitating the dissemination of knowledge and the transfer of technology, both of which drive economic and social progress. We support all WIPO initiatives that reflect the needs of IP system users, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Czech Republic continues to attach high importance to effective optimisation of global IP protection systems, including the PCT, the Madrid System, the Hague System, the Lisbon System, as well as other user-oriented services.

We are pleased to note the expansion of the Lisbon Union in recent years. Every accession strengthens the importance of GI protection under the Geneva Act. Since its entry into force on 26th February 2020, the Geneva Act has significantly expanded its membership, contributing to a steady increase in the overall reach of the Lisbon System, which now covers more than 70 countries through over 40 contracting parties. The Lisbon System continues to demonstrate solid operational activity, with a substantial number of international applications and transactions processed annually, supported by ongoing digitalisation efforts.

The eLisbon IT platform remains a key tool, enabling fully digital filing, management and monitoring of international registrations, thereby enhancing efficiency and accessibility for users. Following the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva

Act in 2025, we continue to appreciate the important role of outreach activities, including events organised by the Lisbon Registry.

The Czech Republic firmly believes that further expansion of the Lisbon System requires sustained, well-targeted promotional efforts and continued engagement with potential new members. We believe that the promotion of the system of protection of geographical indications is extremely important and that such initiatives are valuable opportunities to highlight the system's growing relevance and to encourage broader participation.

The Czech Republic has been continuously and actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). We remain committed to working with other Member States and WIPO to reach consensus on a meaningful international treaty for the protection of broadcasting organisations. We also remain supportive of having the topic of the resale right (*droit de suite*) maintained on the agenda of the Committee, and, if the SCCR agenda should be expanded, we remain strongly supportive of giving priority to this topic. We also look forward to the further exchange of information on copyright and artificial intelligence in the context of information sessions organised by the Secretariat.

The Czech Republic wishes to express its appreciation for the progress achieved by the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). In this context, we would like to reiterate our expectation that the Committee will advance towards a more technical discussion on the harmonisation of substantive patent law.

Artificial Intelligence remains a key priority for the Czech Republic. We therefore attach great importance to the ongoing discussions on AI from the perspective of intellectual property. In particular, we consider the regular exchange of knowledge and experience concerning the use of AI in IP examination procedures in national IP offices to be highly beneficial for all Member States. In this context, we also welcome the increased focus on the patentability of AI-related inventions, as well as on the issue of inventorship, as viewed from multiple perspectives.

We acknowledge the important work of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and continue to support WIPO's efforts in providing technical assistance.

The Czech delegation remains committed to achieving a balanced and effective work programme for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), in line with its current mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium.

In the area of IP enforcement, we continue to support the valuable work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), which serves as a key multilateral platform for the exchange of best practices in this field. We recognise the growing importance of the digital environment for IP infringements, the need to deploy technological tools (including AI), the necessity of strengthening the responsibility of actors in supply chains, and the importance of education and prevention. We welcome the increasing involvement of Member States from all regions in the Committee's activities in all its key areas.

The Czech Republic would also like to take this opportunity to underscore and express its appreciation for WIPO's efforts in the field of IP education and training, particularly those carried out by the WIPO Academy, as well as WIPO's support in developing IP policies at universities and public research institutions. We attach growing importance to IP education, particularly among younger generations, and to raising awareness about IP protection and commercialisation.

In this regard, we highly appreciate the excellent cooperation and support provided by the WIPO Secretariat—especially by colleagues from the Division for Transition and Developed Countries—in sharing up-to-date information on new WIPO services with the public and the broader IP community.

Moreover, considering the UN80 reform efforts, we are pleased to hear of WIPO's readiness to share its technologies and expertise which help boost its operational effectiveness, with other UN agencies.

Furthermore, we would like to underline our strong and well-established cooperation with WIPO in the field of mediation. Thanks to our bilateral collaboration, we have been able to strengthen our efforts to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms for IP disputes at the national level. We look forward to further deepening and expanding this cooperation, particularly in raising awareness of mediation and ADR methods among national IP stakeholders and practitioners.

The Czech Republic would like to express its appreciation for WIPO's cooperation on the preparation and execution of the visit of Czech IP experts and stakeholders in Geneva last September focused on IP commercialization. Our thanks go to all the involved WIPO representatives, especially to Ms. Virag Halgand Dani from the Division for Transition and Developed Countries and to Mr. Michael Mbogoro from the IP for Innovators Department, who also participated, as a follow-up to the visit, at the Creativity and Innovation Conference in South Bohemia in June.

In conclusion, the Czech delegation remains fully committed to constructive engagement in all discussions concerning intellectual property, while duly considering the needs and interests of all WIPO Member States. In this spirit, and under your leadership, we look forward to a productive and successful GA session.

Thank you.