

Chair, Director General, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. Ireland is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. Firstly, we warmly congratulate you, Director General Tang, on your re-election, and we extend our sincere good wishes as you prepare to take up your second term of office on 1st October 2026. The renewed confidence placed in you by the membership reflects the progress WIPO has made under your stewardship, and the EU and its Member States express our full confidence in your leadership for the term ahead.
3. Chair, we wish to express our full confidence in your leadership and ability to guide the proceedings of these Assemblies towards successful and constructive outcomes. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the WIPO Secretariat for its diligent preparation and continued support in advance of these meetings.
4. The European Union and its Member States participate actively in the work of WIPO, guided by a firm conviction that intellectual property is a key enabler of innovation, economic growth, sustainable development, and prosperity. We commend WIPO's ongoing efforts to make the intellectual property system more accessible, user-oriented, and responsive to the needs of stakeholders worldwide, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, women, young people, and local communities. We welcome initiatives aimed at enhancing user-focused intellectual property services and activities and remain committed to contributing actively to these efforts. In this context, the EU and its Member States will continue to engage constructively across all areas of WIPO's work, fostering dialogue, promoting consensus, and acting as a bridge-builder in discussions and negotiations.
5. The EU and its Member States attach particular importance to the development of the PCT, Hague, Madrid and Lisbon systems. We remain committed to international efforts aimed at strengthening the Lisbon Agreement, including the Geneva Act, and to advancing the international protection of geographical indications, having regard to WIPO's core mission of the protection of intellectual property rights and recognising their role of GIs in fostering economic, social, and sustainable development in line with the WIPO Development Agenda, whilst supporting trade and creating new business opportunities. This matter continues to be of particular interest to the EU and its Member States.

6. We commend WIPO's work on energy and climate transition, including through 'WIPO Green', and its effort to harness IP for economic development, particularly in empowering women and youth. We support further engagement in these areas and recognise WIPO's multilateral contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Ongoing work on the interface between IP and artificial intelligence remains a high priority for us.
7. WIPO's assistance to Ukraine is of great importance to the EU and its Member States. It has proven to be a valuable instrument in the most critical time for Ukraine. The EU and its Member States are ready to engage in the discussion on the content of the report under the respective agenda item. We emphasise once again that we condemn the Russian Federation's unjustified and unprovoked war against Ukraine. The report provides clear evidence that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine drives us apart rather than bringing us closer together in our collective multilateral efforts, which are promoted by this organisation. The EU and its Member States express our continuous and unwavering support for and solidarity with Ukraine and with the Ukrainian people.
8. In conclusion, let me assure you we stand ready to engage constructively in all discussions during these WIPO Assemblies. We look forward to having a productive session under your able guidance.

Thank you.