

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

of the delegation of Ukraine at the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of WIPO IGC  
(03 - 07 March 2025)

**Dear Madam Chair, Dear Assistant Director General,**

Ukraine sincerely thanks you, the Vice-Chairs, and the WIPO Secretariat for preparing this session. We reaffirm our strong commitment to advancing the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

These days, we commemorate two tragic anniversaries - the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Crimea's resistance to occupation and the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine.

Once again, we must highlight the ongoing destruction inflicted by the Russian Federation on Ukraine's history, culture, and IP system.

Since the illegal occupation of Crimea, the indigenous Crimean Tatar people have faced systematic persecution, including intimidation, imprisonment, and forced conscription of over 50,000 people since 2015. Those rejecting Russian citizenship face threats and deportation.

Just last week, Russia unlawfully used the song by Crimean artist Zlata Ognevich for government propaganda, demonstrating yet again its blatant disregard for IP rights and the rights of Crimean peoples.

On February 26, a Russian drone strike in the Kyiv region killed journalist and author Tetyana Kulyk and her husband, Professor Pavlo Ivanchov, inventor, head of the Department of Surgery at Bogomolets National Medical University. Professor Ivanchov was the author of 21 patents for inventions and utility models, as well as numerous scientific articles.

Russia is killing our people - our inventors, authors, and cultural figures. It has damaged or destroyed more than 2,100 cultural infrastructure sites and continues its oppression of indigenous peoples.

We reiterate that the Russian Federation must bear the legal consequences of all its internationally wrongful acts and harassment against indigenous people and IP communities.

Russian war of aggression undermines the efforts of WIPO, UN agencies and contradicts UN Charter. Russia should be denied in any privileges or honours within WIPO.

**Madam Chair,** Ukraine expresses our deep gratitude to the Secretariat and all WIPO members who continue to provide unwavering support and solidarity to Ukraine and our people.

Thank you, Madam Chair.