

WIPO Assemblies 2019 – Agenda item 25 (Lisbon System)

Statement by Hungary

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly. We wish you every success in your position and assure you that you can count on our support. We also congratulate the Vice-Chairs for their election.

The international protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications is a key priority for Hungary. We welcome the positive developments in the Lisbon System, especially the filing of new applications, the international registrations and the three accessions to the Geneva Act and the Accession by Albania to the original Lisbon Agreement.

We also welcome that the share of international registrations from developing countries doubled in an 8-year period and increased to 13% in 2018. This considerable improvement shows the system's potentials and proves that the protection of AOs and GIs is getting more and more important in developing countries.

As a Member State of the European Union, Hungary looks forward to the accession by the EU to the Geneva Act before the end of this year. We are convinced that this accession will give a new impetus to the functioning of the Lisbon System and will pave the way for new accessions or ratifications and the entering into force of the Geneva Act.

As you may know Hungary was among the 15 countries who signed the Geneva Act until May 20, 2016 and intends to ratify it as soon as possible. Let me inform you that the preparation of the legislative procedure has already been started.

The Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System at its second session in May 2019 emphasized the importance of promotional activities to increase the membership of the Lisbon System. We welcome the enhanced and focused promotional work of WIPO on AOs and GIs and stand ready to cooperate in this matter with other Members and the Secretariat.

We are also open to cooperate with WIPO Member States not party to the Lisbon Agreement.

Please allow me to inform you that on the 7th of October the delegation of the IP Office of Indonesia, DGIP, will visit the Ministry of Justice of Hungary and the Hungarian IP Office for bilateral meetings on the protection of GIs in the respective countries. We look forward to this professional dialogue which is an excellent opportunity to promote national, regional and international GI protection systems.

As regards the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, the issue that has been on the agenda of WIPO meetings for many years, we still believe that a reasonable and balanced solution should be reached in order to establish the system's long-term viability. We would also like to see the Lisbon System as a well-functioning, self-sustainable global registration system. However, all possible future measures shall respect the long-standing principles of financial solidarity among Unions and budget programs, capacity to pay and the need for administrative cooperation among Unions.

We are confident that the upcoming entry into force of the Geneva Act and the future enlargement of the membership will make a positive impact on the Union's financial situation. Hence there is no need to introduce *ad hoc* solutions at the moment.

With this I'm closing my statement.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.