

**General Statement**

Iceland would like to sincerely thank the WIPO team for preparing and organizing this General Assemblies meeting in Geneva and congratulate Mr. Gurry on his continuing strong leadership and growing achievements within this Organization.

Iceland would also like to thank the Organization for continued steady and fruitful cooperation and support in various aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. It is of high importance to have access, not only to a wide variety of information, technical resources and guidelines but also to be able to interact with the Office's experts as needed.

The Organization has enjoyed Mr. Gurry's excellent leadership and it is admirable to follow WIPO's growth in line with technical developments and its healthy budget.

Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Icelandic Patent Office has changed its name to the Icelandic Intellectual Property Office. This was the result of a legal bill approved in the Icelandic Parliament in spring of 2019. The new name better represents the services offered by the Office and further strengthens the Office's role as a central service and information provider for Intellectual Property Rights.

Filing numbers in Iceland are growing and interest in the international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and The Hague systems is continuous. The year 2018 was a record year for patent filings and filings in 2019 are estimated to be similar in number. Accordingly, Iceland has moved up three places in the Global Innovation Index list for 2019, which is a very positive development.

An emphasis on innovation and IP in Iceland has been strengthened recently with the formation of TTO Iceland in December of 2018. TTO Iceland is a national technology and knowledge transfer office for all universities and public research organizations in Iceland with the mission of providing advice on intellectual property protection and analysis of the market and patent landscape for new inventions.

Iceland continues to actively participate in WIPO's SCT meetings and has, since March 2017, raised concerns as to the seemingly insufficient protection against the registration of Country Names as Trademarks. Iceland firmly believes that use of Country Names should be the fundamental right of every country, enjoying at least similar protection as State Emblems and Flags under Article 6ter of the Paris Convention.

A focus on awareness raising for innovative companies and start-ups is important to Iceland and is achieved through various projects, including awareness raising projects from the Organization which are planned to take place in 2020.

Finally, Iceland would like to reiterate our support for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty and our belief that the text is mature enough for convening a Diplomatic Conference in the year 2019.