

Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies
of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Statement of Italy

1. Mr Chairman, Mr. Director General, Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues, Italy aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and to that of Canada on behalf of Group B.
2. First of all, in my national capacity, let me express my appreciation to the Chair and to the Director General and his staff for the efforts carried out to enable WIPO to keep up with growing challenges in the field of IP law and IP management. In particular, I would like to congratulate the Director General on the several achievements reached in the last year, including the launch of the new IP Portal.
3. Italy reckons that WIPO's inherent mandate is the promotion and development of a global, balanced, holistic and effective international Intellectual Property System, in line with the UN goals, including the Development Agenda.
4. We strongly believe that such a global system should be built up by ensuring equal growth to all the IP systems administered by WIPO, granting worldwide adequate protection to any form of intellectual property (patents, trademarks, copyright, geographical indications, designs and traditional knowledge), in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity among WIPO Unions. In this regard, we hope Member States will overcome divergent interpretations of the concept of solidarity also for what concerns its financial implications.
5. Concerning the development of the international protection of geographical indications, to which we attach great importance, we welcome the new Contracting Parties acceding to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, and we look forward to the upcoming accession of the EU and to the projected entry into force of the Geneva Act next year.
6. As far as the normative agenda is concerned, we reiterate our hope that harmonization and simplification of industrial design registration formalities can be achieved through the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the

adoption of a Design Law Treaty, which would provide significant advantages to all Members States as well as to users and designers.

7. On the opening of WIPO External Offices, we reiterate our hope that this General Assembly can find the most appropriate way forward to implement this important decision, following the guiding principles adopted in 2015, in line with the strategic goals of the Organization and in order to ensure the most efficient and effective development of the global intellectual property system in all geographical areas.

9. Last but not least, together with Director General Francis Gurry I will inaugurate on October 1st at 18.00 hours the side event “ITALY ON STAGE: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, TRADITIONS... EMOTIONS”. The event, which will include also a music and dance concert, will showcase many Italian products of excellence and their geographic denomination, whose tradition and territorial unicity, technological content and attention to quality, make of the Bel Paese the country with the highest number of certified products worldwide. You are all warmly welcome to join us!

Thank you Mr. Chairman.