

WIPO General Assemblies 59th session

General Opening Statement of delegation of LITHUANA

Mr Chair,

The delegation of Republic of Lithuania would like to thank you and the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of this General Assemblies meeting. We trust that your wise leadership will help us achieve tangible results during this session.

Our delegation aligns itself to the statements made by Finland on behalf of European Union and its Member States, and by Croatia, made on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

It is undeniable that adequate protection of IP rights is one of the main incentives for innovation, whereas innovation leads to major improvements in the quality of our lives. We would like to express appreciation to WIPO and its Director General for the efforts to promote innovation and creativity through the successful core activities of this international organization, for continuously developing the international IP regulatory framework and registration systems in an everchanging environment, which requires adaptation of visions and means.

At the same time, we would like to thank WIPO and its staff for excellent cooperation with Lithuanian institutions. On the national level we are currently implementing the Recommendations for the IP strategy, drawn by WIPO experts, that involve analysis and suggestions for institutional and regulatory framework for IP protection in Lithuania. These recommendations helped to take stock and evaluate peculiarities of Lithuanian IP system, look for new and more efficient ways to organise interinstitutional coordination and discuss certain issues, identified by the experts, among the main actors of the IP protection system. Cooperation with WIPO in the area of public education on IP is ongoing with initiatives for different target groups. We would also like to mention WIPO initiative for the Technology transfer offices of Universities, which has brought together different TTOs not only to improve their competence and knowledge, but also to share it among themselves and look for ways to work together in facing common challenges.

Recently more attention was paid to the theme of mediation in IP, and on the basis of the cooperation agreement with WIPO in this area Lithuanian institutions have organised several events, where WIPO representatives participated, including the conference on Mediation in May.

Concerning WIPO employment policy, Lithuania is now represented in WIPO staff; however, we would like to emphasize need to further apply the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Emphasising the importance of the legislative agenda in these General Assemblies, our delegation hopes that progress can be achieved on the issue of convening the Diplomatic Conference for adopting the Design Law Treaty, as harmonisation of design procedures is long awaited, and we hope that the obstacles the adoption of the Treaty can be overcome. We would also like to emphasize the importance of the discussions concerning the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, and we see it as one of the biggest priorities on WIPO's legislative agenda.

Our delegation welcomes the work done by various Standing Committees: on Copyright and Related rights; on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, as well as on the Law of Patents, where useful discussions on different aspects of respective systems and practices have taken place in recent sessions. We also welcome the consensus on the new Mandate reached during the last session of IGC.

The issue on External Offices will be an important one to address in this session. We believe that in these discussions we should evaluate the real necessities and follow the Guiding Principles, as well as and the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

To conclude, we we look forward to participating in these General Assemblies to further this work and seek to find together the solutions to standing issues in a positive spirit.

Thank you, Chair.