

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Sixty-fourth Series of Meetings
July 6 to 14, 2023
Written General Statement AUSTRIA (Agenda Item 5)

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[Honorable Chair, Director General,
Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,]

First, the Delegation of Austria would like to align itself with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the European Union and its Member States as well as the statement delivered by [Switzerland] on behalf of Group B.

We would like to especially support and echo the statements delivered in regard to the Russian Federation's unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. We specifically welcome the WIPO Secretariat's report on assistance and support for Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and intellectual property system, on the basis of the decision taken at the last General Assemblies.

We would like to express our thanks to the WIPO Secretariat for the preparation of the Assemblies and to all WIPO staff for upholding premium services to the IP Community in the last months.

We would also like to deposit our appreciation and congratulate Director General Daren Tang and his senior management team for successfully leading WIPO during another challenging year, with special emphasis on the ability of intellectual property protection and rights to contribute to global economic recovery. Based on the positive reports of the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD) and the External Auditor we note with appreciation the assessed financial health of WIPO and the uninterrupted continuation of providing first class services to the world-wide IP-Community.

Austria would like to thank the **Program and Budget Committee (PBC)** for its intensive and challenging work and stands ready to follow its recommendations as documented in its List of Decisions. We particularly welcome the recommendations on the Mechanism to further involve Member States in the Preparation of the Program of Work and Budget.

We greatly appreciate the efforts that have been made so far for arranging a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the **Design Law Treaty** on Design Application formalities and would like to support them in every direction in order to pave the way for a successful conclusion.

We would like to underline the importance of a successful completion of the DLT, as this would be a great benefit for designers all around the globe by simplifying and harmonizing design applications and registration procedure formalities.

With regard to the **Madrid System** we stand ready to adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol as contained in Document

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MM/A/57/1 and especially welcome the proposed minimum time limit to respond to a notification of provisional refusal and to clearly indicate the start and end date of this time limit. These changes will definitely help holders of International Registrations administering their rights.

Austria takes positive note of the respective report and welcomes the progress achieved in the discussions in the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (**SCP**), the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (**CDIP**), the Committee on WIPO Standards (**CWS**), the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Design and Geographical Indications (**SCT**) and – last but not least – the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (**IGC**). Regarding the IGC, Austria would like to thank it for its continued hard work and stands ready to approve its proposed mandate for the 2024/2025 biennium.

On another note, we would like to deposit our preference for the traditional and customary date of the General Assemblies in autumn avoiding overlaps with meetings of other senior bodies of international organizations here in Geneva and elsewhere in summer.

Finally, we like to assure the membership and the top management of WIPO of Austria's on-going support to the pursuit of WIPO's global goals.

[Thank you.]