

**64<sup>rd</sup> SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES  
OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO**

**July 6 to 14, 2023**

**Opening Statement (Agenda Item 5)**

**Delegation of the Slovak Republic**

Honorable Madam Chair,  
Director General Daren Tang,  
Excellences and distinguished delegates,

The delegation of the Slovak Republic would like to align itself with the statement made by the Poland on behalf of Group of Central European and Baltic States as well as with the statement made by the European Union.

At the outset, we would like to express our thanks to the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, and the WIPO Secretariat for the preparation of the Assemblies and to all WIPO staff for upholding services to the IP Community in the previous period.

We commend the able leadership of the DG Tang and his committed staff. In particular, we welcome the efforts for building a well-balanced IP ecosystem for SMEs, fostering the recognition of IPRs among younger generations, increasing women representation, as well as exploring the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) and frontier technologies.

The Slovak delegation acknowledges WIPO's continuing efforts for its focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems.

We note with pleasure that the working groups under these systems continue to make progress for improving rules, guidelines and practices. Slovakia is committed to the work on global services, in the interest of the existing and future users of the systems.

We very much welcome the compromise on several outstanding issues reached during the Program and Budget Committees and stand ready to support the adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2024/25.

Slovakia is looking forward to reach the positive and reasonable recommendations at this General Assembly, including e.g. also on the topic of broadcasting, which may

help us to come closer to finalize the text of the Treaty on the Protection of the Broadcasting Organizations.

As regards IGC, we welcome the constructive discussions that were held during four IGC sessions on the topic of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. At the same time, we are pleased to see that agreement was reached during last stock-taking IGC (IGC 47) on the proposed mandate of work for 2024/2025 biennium and we are looking forward to its approval.

The Slovak delegation recalls its appreciation of ongoing efforts of the Lisbon Union members aimed at eliminating the budget deficit of the Union and the current and future backlogs. We are engaged in the deliberations at the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System in order to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Union.

Slovakia acknowledges and is satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues in this area.

We recognize the importance of the activities of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property and support the WIPO's activities in the field of technical assistance.

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System. Addressing current damages will require long-term recovery efforts, in which support of WIPO and other international organizations is inevitable.

Last but not least, Slovak delegation wishes to highlight the great assistance and continued support of the WIPO Regional and National Development Sector and the Division for Transition and Developed Countries' team.

We look forward to making our collaboration even closer, and our activities on new ideas and projects becoming even more dynamic.

In that respect, let me express Mr Director General Tang my gratitude for your support and cooperation in organising the International Conference "Why is Mediation Beneficial for Innovative SMEs?", as well as the high-level event to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Slovak Innovation Ecosystem, recently in Šamorín. The positive feedback received indicates a genuine interest in future events focused on the topic of

mediation and we are ready to build on our successful cooperation further to develop joint activities in this area in the future.

SMEs are an important component of our economy, and we provide programmes to support them in using the IP system to bring their innovations and products to realisation in both domestic and foreign markets. We greatly appreciate and count on WIPO's assistance to offer IP-related support to SMEs. As well as SMEs, domestic investors, R&D specialists and innovators are also important stakeholders who can continuously rely on the support of our Office.

To conclude, Slovakia would like to reaffirm its readiness to continue the successful cooperation with WIPO on the development of international IP system, innovation and creativity to the benefit of economic, social and cultural development of all countries.

With this in mind, we look forward to a constructive meeting of the General Assemblies.

Thank you for your kind attention.