

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Fifty-Fifth Series of Meetings
Geneva, October 5 to 14, 2014

General Statement
by Hungary

Mister Chair,
Director General,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, allow me, Mister Chair to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the General Assembly. Our delegation believes that under your leadership Member States will be able to conclude their deliberations on key issues with positive outcomes. We would also like to thank the dedicated and extremely hard work and service done by the outgoing Chair of the GA in the last two years.

We are also grateful to the Director General and the Secretariat for their enormous efforts made for the preparation of meetings of the WIPO Assemblies, Committees and Working Groups over the last year.

Hungary associates itself with the statements made by Romania on behalf of the Regional Group of Central European and Baltic States, and Luxemburg on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Hungary remains a responsible and active WIPO Member State in contributing to the maintenance and improvement of a balanced and effective international IP system. We fully support the organization in delivering on its mandate.

The cooperation between WIPO and our country has always been excellent. The **Seminar on the Introduction of the ePCT**, organized in Budapest at the headquarters of the Hungarian IP Office, on June 3, 2015, turned to be a highlight of this cooperation since the last series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies. The Hungarian IP Office is grateful to the assistance provided by the WIPO Secretariat.

Please allow me, Mr Chair, to inform you that the **National IP Strategy of Hungary, the *Jedlik Plan*** will step into the last year of its implementation in 2016. We continuously count on the strong cooperation between WIPO and Hungary during the last phase of implementation.

Hungary would like to reaffirm its strong commitment to the adoption of the **Design Law Treaty**. We deeply regret that the General Assembly was not able to decide positively on the convening of a diplomatic conference at its last session. Harmonizing design law formalities will deliver important benefits for applicants and users from developed and developing countries and LDCs. We sincerely hope that this time the WIPO General Assembly will finally take a decision and convene the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the DLT.

Hungary has been a determined promoter of global protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin for long decades. Hence, we welcome the successful outcome of the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a **New Act of the Lisbon Agreement** for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (the Geneva Act). We firmly believe that the revision will make the system more user-friendly, more attractive and will transform it into a truly global registration system. We are convinced that the Geneva Act was negotiated in an open and inclusive manner, where all WIPO Member States were able to play an active role in the discussions.

Hungary supports the **draft Program and Budget for the 2016/17** Biennium, and also urge delegations to agree upon a compromise solution with regard to open issues in order to adopt the proposed budget. As regards the relatively small amount of deficit of the Lisbon System, we would like to underline that Hungary, as a member of the Lisbon Union, supports transparency and we believe that the financial sustainability of the Lisbon System shall be ensured in a long term. However, it is important to avoid mingling competences of WIPO bodies. Handling the deficit and making the necessary steps fall under the competence of the Lisbon Union Assembly.

Mr. Chair, let me take this opportunity to recall that the Visegrad Countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) have been working on the establishment of a new regional PCT Authority for years now. In a letter dated February 26, 2015, the Presidents of the IP Offices of the Visegrad Countries informed the Director General of WIPO that the Governments of these countries would like to seek the appointment by the PCT Union Assembly of the **Visegrad Patent Institute** as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the PCT, and requested that the issue be put before the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation (PCT/CTC), and that the matter be added to the agenda of the PCT Union Assembly for decision during this series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the PCT/CTC at its twenty-eighth session, held in Geneva at the end of May, 2015, unanimously agreed to recommend to the PCT Union Assembly that the Visegrad Patent Institute be appointed as an ISA/IPEA under the PCT.

The Assembly of the PCT Union is now invited to appoint the Visegrad Patent Institute as an ISA/IPEA with effect from the entry into force of the Agreement, to be concluded between the VPI and the International Bureau, until December 31, 2017.

The presence of the PCT Authority in Central and Eastern Europe would offer to the users of the patent system a favourable and efficient option for obtaining patent protection internationally. The users would also benefit from the possibility to communicate with the PCT Authority in their own language. Those advantages might contribute to fostering innovation and creativity and to promoting economic growth and competitiveness in the region.

This delegation would highly appreciate the supportive approach of other WIPO Member States for a positive decision by the PCT Union Assembly.

Mister Chair, our delegation hopes that our discussions will flow in a positive, broad-minded atmosphere to which our delegation will contribute in a constructive manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.