

**58th Assembly of the Member States of WIPO
General Statement of the Republic of the Philippines**

Mr. President, Director General Francis Gurry, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, on behalf of the Philippine government, we are pleased to be participate in this 58th General Assembly of the WIPO Member States.

The Philippine delegation extends our sincerest congratulations to you, Mr. President, for taking the helm of the General Assembly. We are proud to see a fellow member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations chair the Assembly at a time when we are faced with crucial issues such as the establishment of External Offices and the various proposals to ensure geographic balance and representation in relevant bodies of WIPO. We are confident that under your able leadership, the Assemblies will be productive and successful this year.

Mr. President, inspired by past gains and guided by the SMELT-IP agenda, the Philippines sustained its efforts in advancing innovation and promoting intellectual property.

We are pleased to inform the Assembly that we completed the preparation of the National IP Strategy using the whole-of-government approach. The NIPS enhances the innovation agenda of the country through the use of IP by industries and businesses with particular focus on small and medium-scale enterprises.

In addition, we organized the high-level Intellectual Property Convergence where Dr. Francis Gurry served as Keynote Speaker. The conference attended by delegates from the academe, industries, government agencies, chambers of commerce, bilateral partners as well as small and medium enterprises was the highlight and

culmination of the month-long national IP rights month celebration in April.

Mr. President, our growing network of 85 Innovation and Technology Support Offices (ITSO) also known as Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) is bearing concrete results in IP creation. The compounded average growth of ITSO applications from 2014 until 2017 is very promising at 82% for invention, 91% for utility models, 138% for industrial design and 46 % for trademarks. We are optimistic that commercialization of these IP assets will be facilitated especially with WIPO's Enabling IP Environment to Increase the Capacity of Developing and Least Developed Countries for Technology Development, Management and Commercialization (EIPE) program.

The is growing national innovative output coupled with the increasing use of the PCT system both by Southeast Asia and Asia provide the ideal environment for us to commence our operation as the 23rd international authority by April 2019.

The Philippines is laying the legal and institutional foundation for IP commercialization with the signing of Republic Act No. 11057 otherwise known as the *Personal Property Security Act* by President Rodrigo Duterte. The Act is envisaged to increase access to least cost credit by micro, small and medium enterprises by using personal property including intellectual property as security. The Implementing Rules and Regulations are now being drafted to hasten the operationalization of this law.

Mr. President, guided by your leadership and with spirit of constructive engagement of member-states in WIPO, the Philippines hopes to see progress on fundamental issues concerning the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. We note the hard work of the Standing Committee on Copyrights and Related Rights towards narrowing gaps on issues such as objectives, scope,

and object of protection and remain positive about the prospect of a Diplomatic Conference once a suitable level of readiness is reached.

In addition, we hope that to see positive development to ensure the protection of non-traditional IP at the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

To close, we express our utmost gratitude to WIPO as well as to our bilateral partners for the continuous support to the Philippines. Inspired by the progress and gains of other member states, the Philippines remains a committed partner in promoting a robust and well-balanced IP system direct contributing to economic progress and national development.

Thank you. Mr. President.