

Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic
at the General Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,
30 September to 9 October, 2019

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and with the statement made by Croatia on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

First and foremost, we thank the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat for their work and for preparing comprehensive documents for this meeting.

The Czech Republic wishes to express its continued support for the pivotal role of the WIPO as the global forum for the intellectual property services, policy, information, and cooperation. We attach great importance to the efficient and accessible IPR system, which is a key element in creating an environment for development of innovation and creativity. This system ensures legal framework for investment and commercialization of innovation and creativity, promotes the diffusion of knowledge and facilitates technology transfer for economic and social growth. We support all WIPO's activities, taking into account the needs of users of intellectual property system.

We continue to attach great value to the improvement of global intellectual property protection systems, the PCT, the Madrid System, the Hague System and the Lisbon System and other services provided to users.

The Czech delegation would like to stress and appreciate the effort of the Lisbon Union members in taking measures aimed at eliminating the budget deficit of this Union. We fully support the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System, in order to allow further discussions on solutions for the long-term financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union. We are actively engaged in the deliberations at this Working Group.

As regards the WIPO's normative activities, we still hope that the long anticipated decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty will be adopted and the remaining contentious points resolved. We remain convinced that the appropriate forum for discussion relating to the disclosure requirement is the IGC.

The Czech Republic is actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We believe that it could ultimately result in reaching consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations as a meaningful instrument for both current and future needs of the protection. We support the proposal to include the topic of the resale right on the agenda of the Committee.

We would like to express our satisfaction with the work progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). In this sense, we would like to recall our expectation

to reach more technical debate relating to substantive patent law harmonization at this Committee.

The Czech delegation also welcomes the fact that the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) at its 40th session managed to reach consensus on a recommendation to this General Assembly on the wording of its new mandate and work programme.

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

As for the IP enforcement, the Czech delegation highly appreciates the WIPO's initiative under the strategic goal "International Cooperation of Building Respect for IP". Enforcement is a global challenge. We continue to support the work of Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) which serves as the multilateral forum for sharing the best practice in this area. We welcome the growing engagements of the Member States from all regions.

Further, we would like to briefly accentuate and appreciate the WIPO activities in the area of IP teaching and education, the WIPO Academy, IP policies for universities and public research institutions. We pay increased attention to teaching intellectual property and increasing awareness of IPR protection and their subsequent commercialization. In October last year, we organized in Prague, in close cooperation with WIPO, a "WIPO Roving Seminar on WIPO Services and Initiatives". In this context, we use this opportunity to express many thanks to the WIPO Secretariat and in particular to Mr. Michal Svantner, Director of Department for Transition and Developed Countries (DTC) for the excellent cooperation and persistent assistance provided to us.

Let me also mention that our Office welcomes with pleasure all relevant study visits and internships organized in cooperation with WIPO.

The Czech delegation wishes to express its gratitude to WIPO and thank for the technical assistance provided on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Patent Office in Prague. We also highly appreciate the personal contribution of the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, to this memorable celebration.

In conclusion, the Czech delegation would like to express its readiness to continue a close cooperation with the WIPO in the future.

Thank you.