

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
Sixty First Series of Meetings
21-25 September 2020

Statement of Italy
Delivered by Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado

1. Mr Chairman, Mr Director General, Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues, Italy aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and to the one of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B.

2. First of all let me express, in my national capacity, the Italian appreciation to the Chair and to the Director General for having made these Assemblies possible, during a time of tight operational constraints due to the pandemic.

We commend the DG for its sound administration of the Organization, currently in a strong financial position despite the COVID crisis, as well as we praise WIPO's senior management team and staff for keeping productivity levels high at a time of unprecedented challenges.

3. We also seize this last opportunity to express our appreciation to Director General Gurry for his excellent mandate and his tireless efforts to foster global awareness on intellectual property while making progress in the governance of WIPO as regards transparency, management effectiveness, fraud prevention, gender balance and geographical representation.

4. We appreciate the initiative of the WIPO Crisis Management Dashboard and we share the need for a focus area dedicated to the implications of Artificial intelligence for IP policy. We also welcome the recent launch of the WIPO Proof service and of the revised "Intellectual Property for Business" website.

5. Furthermore, Italy expresses its sincere gratitude to Director General Gurry for its active engagement in further promoting the normative agenda. We congratulate him on the high number of WIPO treaties that were concluded and entered into force during his mandate and we are very pleased with the increasing number of ratifications and accessions to international treaties concluded during the last year.

6. We confirm our continued interest in and commitment to a wider development of the global IP systems. In particular, we reaffirm our support to the international protection and registration of geographical indications through the Lisbon System, which we highly value for its remarkable potential benefits for the entire WIPO membership across the spectrum of development, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises and rural producers.

In this regard, let me welcome the entry into force of the Geneva Act last February, and call on WIPO to adequately underpin the renewed Lisbon System. We see merit for WIPO itself in undertaking focused promotional and technical assistance activities across the regions, including by virtual means, in order to further spread accurate information about the updated Lisbon system and fully harness the opportunities it offers to the business sector of both Developed and Developing or Least Developed Countries.

7. Finally, we look forward to consolidating such positive achievements through a joint work with the new DG-elect, Mr Daren Tang, and his team.

WIPO can count on Italy as a strong supporter of the promotion and development of a global, balanced, holistic and effective international Intellectual Property System, also taking into account the goals set by the United Nations in the Agenda 2030.

Thank you Mr Chair.