



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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STATEMENT
by the delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the 51st Session of the WIPO's Assemblies
(Geneva, 24 September 2013)

Madame Chair,

Let me start by congratulating you for assuming this important task.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Director General, Francis Gurry, for his comprehensive and thoughtful analysis of the complex nature of the current challenges in the IP field.

Likewise, we wish to thank the WIPO Secretariat for preparing the documents for 2013 assemblies meetings, particularly the Program and Budget for the next biennium.

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement made earlier by Poland on behalf of CEBS Group and fully shares the views contained therein. However, please allow me to take this opportunity and briefly address some of the issues of particular concern for my country.

Madame Chair,
Honorable Director General Gurry,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Taking into consideration the role of intellectual property in the knowledge - based economy, the WIPO, with its dynamic and modern pattern of activities, can provide a substantive and meaningful contribution.

We are aware of WIPO's limited resources devoted to technical assistance and capacity building. This is why it is essential to continue to deliver the assistance in a transparent and efficient manner, tailoring it to the needs of a particular country or region.

Let me take this opportunity to express on behalf of my Government, the sincere appreciation for WIPO continuing support.

Madame Chair,

Being a small-sized country with limited human and natural resources, we fully recognize the need to base our growth on innovation and creativity.

Development of a national IP system that would encourage innovative and creative solution to the current challenges represents the overall objective of the *National Intellectual Property Strategy* adopted in November 2012.

“*Innovation and Competitiveness*” is also the main theme of the *Innovation Conference* to be held this November in Moldova (Chisinau, 19-20 November 2013) within the International Specialized Exhibition “INFOINVENT” that is organized every second year in Chisinau*.

Let me take this opportunity to invite the WIPO member states to attend this and future Chisinau conferences on innovation and to share with us their experience and knowledge in this specific area.

Madame Chair,

As many other offices in the region, the Moldovan IP Office strives to create a favorable climate for innovative investments both through providing the appropriate IP legal incentives and improving the IP services delivered by the Office.

In 2013, the IP Office has continued to work hard with a view to further consolidate its institutional capacities. I am pleased to inform that last July the Moldovan IP Office has been certified with ISO 9001 for Quality Management. This represents both an important achievement and a great responsibility to deliver at the highest standards in the future.

In line with the objective to offer better access to customers, on 1st of January 2013, we have launched the e-filing for all IP objects and offered to our partners a wide range of other related facilities, including e-payment, improved on-line, free access to IP databases, etc.

The decrease of counterfeiting and piracy remains a major priority. After a sound Public Awareness Campaign for Consumers “STOP Counterfeiting and Piracy!” in 2012, we continued to work on increasing the awareness in this area.

The first National Report on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova was made available to the public in May 2013. The report was elaborated by the AGEPI IPR Observatory with the support of IPR enforcement bodies and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). This publication reflects the current situation on counterfeiting and piracy in the country and provides statistical and analytical information.

There are also underway several national campaigns aimed at raising awareness of various segments of population – businessmen, judges, students and school children on the benefits of IPRs.

*The information on the Innovation Conference and INFOINVENT Exhibition is available on the webpage: www.infoinvent.md.

Moreover, in order to facilitate the settlement of IPR related litigations, we work on promoting the mediation as an alternative, more time-efficient and cost-saving tool for dispute resolution. Thus, a national workshop for mediators will be held soon, with the valuable support of WIPO Mediation and Arbitration Center.

Another high priority for us is the continuing consolidation of copyright and related rights collective management. Along with the improvement of the legal framework, we are looking for efficient mechanism that would ensure an efficient, transparent and balanced system for both: copyright holders and users of protected works. We are very supportive to the work of SCCR that has demonstrated a good capacity in identifying solutions for challenging copyright related problems.

Madame Chair,

In line with Moldova's aspiration to gradually integrate into the European Union, an agreement on validating the European patents on the territory of the Republic of Moldova has been negotiated between the Moldovan Government and the European Patent Organisation. This specific Agreement with the EU will be signed this October and we consider it an important step towards Moldova's joining to the common European patent space.

To conclude, Madame Chair, allow me to express my country's full support for WIPO's important work. We are confident that under the Director General Gurry's strong leadership the WIPO will continue to live up to the evolving challenges in the field of intellectual property.

Thank you for your attention.