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***Fifty-eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of
WIPO***

(September 24 to October 2, 2018, Geneva)

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

Item 5 - General Statements

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Allow me to join the previous speakers in extending our appreciation to you, your Excellency, and to the other members of the Bureau for your devotion and engagement in the preparation of the 58th series of WIPO Assemblies. We wish you every success in leading this assembly to successful results.

I would also like to extend our special appreciation to the Director General for his leadership and his hard work.

Bulgaria aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and to the statement presented by Lithuania, on behalf of the CEBS Group.

First of all I would like to express our support for the activities undertaken by WIPO to continue to develop the international legal framework, *to improve the maintenance and elaboration of the information standards needed*, as well as to reach its strategic objectives in line with the ever growing requirements of the contemporary world. We note with satisfaction the results achieved over the last year and especially the positive overall financial results, reflected in the report of the Director General.

We appreciate the work done so far and express our support for the ongoing efforts to find mutually satisfying solution which will give financial stability to the Lisbon Agreement in the long-term perspective.

My delegation would also like to express its satisfaction with the continuous development and improvement of PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty), Madrid and Hague Systems for international registration which give unique advantages and benefits to the IP applicants and holders at international level.

We cannot but share the importance of a timely adoption of the Design Law Treaty. We welcome the decision for convening of diplomatic conference on the adoption of this treaty and we share the view that all efforts should be applied in order to overcome the existing obstacles.

Bulgaria is in favor also of WIPO's Development Agenda and would like to reaffirm its support and commitment to the appropriate implementation of the recommendations on the framework of this agenda.

With regard to the cooperation between my country and WIPO I would like to point out with satisfaction that the Patent Office of Bulgaria works in close collaboration and highly values its cooperation with WIPO. I use this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to WIPO and to Director General Gurry personally for the extended support and participation as co-organizer of the International Conference “The Industrial Property Today and Tomorrow”, held in Sofia in March of this year under the auspices of the Bulgarian EU Presidency. In this regard I am pleased to mention the initiative for auditing the technology transfer system by WIPO experts, which has been considered at the Conference.

The 20-th anniversary of the WIPO Academy, which we celebrate this year, is another incentive to highlight the growing importance of knowledge and creativity resulting from IP development. *In our dynamic modern times the future of IP is, without doubt, related to the development of artificial intelligence. For a knowledge-driven economy the role of artificial intelligence in technologies and education is a base for the evolution in the 21st century.*

This year’s theme of the World’s IP Day - “Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity” is yet another important marker, pointing out on the women’s potential

as a creator of IP intangible assets, having in mind also female representatives from the less developed countries.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman my delegation would like to reaffirm once again our readiness to continue to support WIPO in its endeavors *to ensure proper use of IP rights and to promote IP knowledge worldwide.*

Thank you for your attention!