

Thank you Mr. Chair:

The Republic of Korea would like to congratulate you on your election as chair. We appreciate the effort of the Secretariat for this meeting.

Especially, we express our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Gurry for his invaluable contributions during his terms.

Also, our congratulations go to Mr. Tang for his appointment as the next WIPO Director General.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

In the face of challenges due to COVID-19, international cooperation is a key strategy to overcome such difficulties.

WIPO has collaborated with member states in promoting global IP dialogue and sharing information on the COVID-19 measures of each IP office.

We hope that WIPO will provide a forum to spread the best practices of IP offices such as teleworking and video-consultation with users.

Creating a manual of COVID-19 measures can also be considered to have systematic response to an unexpected crisis in the future.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

The epidemic has been making substantial negative impact on the global economy. Despite this situation, more emphasis should be put on R&D and IP to stimulate innovation and creativity essential for economic growth.

As a part of advancing the global IP system, it is necessary for WIPO to expedite the digital transformation for users' accessibility and convenience.

Also, we should endeavor to remind IP stake-holders of the importance of IP creations and protections as well as R&D for the swift recovery of the global economy.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

We should not allow the recent crisis to stop our efforts to bridge the IP knowledge gap between developing and developed countries

Through the Korea Funds-in-Trust, many efforts have been made to build the IP capacity of our partner countries.

The Republic of Korea will continue to strive for the prosperity of the international IP community.

Thank you.