

WIPO Assemblies

61st Series of the Meetings, September 21- 25, 2020

Opening Statement (Agenda Item 5)

Delegation of the Slovak Republic

Honourable Chair,
respected Director General,
distinguished delegates,

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

We thank the Secretariat for organizing this General Assembly session and preparing all the relevant documents in a timely manner. We would like to use this opportunity to commend the arrangements, especially given the extraordinary circumstances. We are pleased to see that the work of the organization continues efficiently despite an ongoing global pandemic situation.

The delegation of the Slovak Republic thanks Director General Francis Gurry for his involvement and leadership in development of the intellectual property while leading this organization for the last twelve years. The tremendous efforts of Dr Gurry have contributed to the modernization of the WIPO and the international intellectual property system.

The Slovak delegation would like to congratulate Mr Daren Tang on his election as the Director General, and wishes him every success in leading this organization.

The Slovak delegation commends the International Bureau for its continued focus on securing the best available global services under the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for the benefit of the users - these issues are crucial for continued and increased use of the global IP-services even in the crisis as we face now.

As regards the working agenda, the Slovak delegation would like to thank the IAOC for the report and for the hard work in the domain of audit and oversight of the Organization. We note with particular interest the External Auditor's recommendations regarding the matter of WIPO External Offices. We believe that

these recommendations could facilitate the discussions among the Member States as well as the related decision making process.

We also thank WIPO for organizing two interesting events – the second session of WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property and Artificial Intelligence and the Global Digital Content Market Conference, which both helped us to exchange best practices, to point out to the actual topics, including copyright-related issues, and to trigger fruitful discussions with different stakeholders.

At the same time, we welcome the results of the audit and evaluation activities carried out this year. We expect the Secretariat to implement the recommendations in a timely manner.

Slovakia welcomes the excellent financial results for the biennium 2018/19 as presented in WIPO Performance Report. We commend the work of the Secretariat in this regard. We note with satisfaction that 73% of 484 performance indicators have been fully achieved.

Finally, we would like to thank WIPO Secretariat and in particular the Department for Transition and Developed Countries and WIPO Academy for the excellent cooperation and assistance rendered during the previous period.

In conclusion, we believe that WIPO will, even after these difficult pandemic times, still contribute to its crucial role of promoting innovation and developing the intellectual property system. Following this, the Slovak delegation would like to express its readiness to continue a close cooperation with the WIPO in the future.

Thank you very much Mr. Chair