

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Sixty-Second Series of Meetings
Geneva, October 4 - October 8, 2021
Agenda item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The delegation of Croatia would like to thank Director General Daren Tang and the Secretariat for successfully organising Assemblies in these extraordinary circumstances for the second year in a row. We are very pleased that important intergovernmental work of the Organisation was not interrupted, as a result of great capacity for action and adaptiveness of the WIPO and Member States.

Croatia welcomes the Organisation's new vision and strategy under the leadership of Director General Tang. Croatia is looking forward to cooperation and constructive work of the Member States and the WIPO bodies in fulfilling the vision of a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by intellectual property, for the good of everyone.

We are pleased to see that the WIPO has managed to retain its stable financial situation in spite of the multiple and complex effects of the pandemics. We support sound approach to financial planning for the next biennium and we are pleased with further enhancements in programs and financial planning methodology and presentation.

The pandemic has evidently demonstrated that modern communication technology advancement enables us to work and communicate surpassing physical limits and borders. We hope that this fact, in the context of the preparatory work for the evaluation of the WIPO External Offices, will contribute to resolving this long-standing issue so we can redirect our work to the emerging pressing challenges.

During the last year, Croatia has been very actively engaged in adapting its national copyright legislative framework for the digital society, as a final stage of the related European Union legislative reform. We are pleased to inform you that the new *Copyright and Related Rights Act* was adopted at the Croatian Parliament just a few days ago. Our modernised copyright law adapts the existing legal framework to technological development that has changed the creation, production, distribution and exploitation of copyright protected works. New legal framework strives to incentivise creativity in bringing more fairness to revenue sharing among different stakeholders as well as to provide legal certainty in legitimate uses of copyright protected works in digital environment, thus facilitating dissemination of knowledge and access to culture.

Unfortunately, Croatia is among the Member States in which the pandemic has negatively affected intellectual property filing trends. Fast recovery of the Croatian economy in 2021, even beyond the expectations, has yet to be reflected in the filing trends and we are looking forward to the continuing cooperation with the WIPO in promoting the importance of innovation, creativity and intellectual property rights among general and professional public in Croatia.

The Delegation of Croatia would like to express its appreciation to all the Member States for their cooperation, wishing fruitful deliberations to all the Members States and a successful 62nd series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.