

DRAFT

Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,
6th to 14th July 2023

Madam Chair,

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

We thank the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, and the Secretariat for their work and for preparing comprehensive documents for this meeting.

The Czech Republic would like to voice its persistent support and solidarity with Ukraine, which is facing a continuous war of aggression of the Russian federation. We condemn Russia's military attack, which has significantly affected the lives of ordinary people inside and outside Ukraine. We welcome the WIPO Secretariat's report on assistance and support for Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and intellectual property system which provide clear objective evidence of the negative impact of the Russian war on the Ukrainian IP ecosystem and innovative and creative sectors. We highly recognize the need for continuing support for rebuilding of the Ukrainian Intellectual Property infrastructure.

We wish to express our continued support for the pivotal role of WIPO as the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information, and cooperation. We attach great importance to the efficient and accessible IPR system, which is a key element of the environment enabling innovation and creativity. This system ensures a legal framework for investment in and commercialization of intellectual creations, the diffusion of knowledge and technology transfer for economic and social growth. We support all WIPO's activities, considering the needs of the users of the IP system.

The Czech Republic continues to pay great attention to the improvement of global IP protection systems, the PCT, the Madrid System, the Hague System and the Lisbon System and other services provided to users.

We support the adoption of the amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. In our view, the proposed deletion of Rule 5 (4) will simplify and streamline the procedures under the Lisbon System and reduce the administrative burden for users. We note with pleasure the continuous enlargement of the membership of the Geneva Act over the course of last year. We welcome the accession of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) as well as the recent accession of the Republic of Tunisia. In view of the increasing membership of the Lisbon System, we also welcome the planned increase of the budget for the Lisbon system. We remain convinced that it is possible to find a way to provide financial support to the Lisbon Union in line with the long-standing principles of financial solidarity between the different WIPO Unions and equality of treatment for each area of IP. In this regard, the Czech Republic is also convinced that the focused promotion

activities to increase the membership of the Lisbon System, in particular the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, remain very important.

As regards the WIPO's normative activities, we took note of the decision of last GA to convene diplomatic conferences to conclude a Design Law Treaty as well as an International Legal Instrument Relating to IP, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources which will be held in 2024. We stand ready to engage in discussions within the respective Special Sessions to resolve the remaining contentious elements.

The Czech Republic has been continuously actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). As our priority remains to reach a consensus on a meaningful international treaty for protection of broadcasting organizations, we look forward to further discussion on the second revised text of the draft treaty. We again welcome that the topic of the resale right (*droit de suite*) has been maintained on the agenda of the Committee. If the SCCR agenda should be expanded, we strongly support to give the priority to the topic of the Author's Resale Right (*droit de suite*).

The Czech Republic welcomes the progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). Following on from this, we would like to reiterate our expectation of reaching a more technical debate related to substantive patent law harmonization at this Committee.

We recognize the importance of the activities of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). We continue to support WIPO's activities in the field of technical assistance.

The Czech delegation remains committed to achieving a reasonable work program for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) in accordance with its mandate. We appreciate the IGC recommendation to the GA on the renewal of the IGC mandate including the work program for 2024/2025 biennium.

In the field of IP enforcement, we continue to support the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), which serves as the multilateral forum for sharing best practice with respect to IP enforcement. We welcome the growing engagement of the Member States from all regions in this Committee.

Artificial Intelligence is one of the priority areas for the Czech Republic. Therefore, we strongly welcome the continuation of the debate on AI from an IP perspective going forward. Particularly, we believe that the sharing of knowledge and information on the use of AI for IP examination procedures at the national IP offices is highly beneficial for all Member States.

Finally, we would like to briefly accentuate and express our appreciation for the WIPO activities in IP teaching and education provided by the WIPO Academy and for IP policies for universities and public research institutions. We pay increased attention to teaching intellectual property, especially amongst younger generation, and increasing the awareness of IPR protection and its subsequent commercialisation. Therefore, we would like to highlight the excellent cooperation, assistance of, and highly useful sharing of IP related information about new WIPO services provided to the public and the IP community by the WIPO Secretariat, particularly by our colleagues from the Department for Transition and Developed Countries.

In this context, we would like to emphasize the excellent and well-developed cooperation with WIPO in the area of mediation. Based on our bilateral cooperation, we have been able to deepen our support for the use of ADR methods in resolving IP disputes at the national level. To raise awareness of mediation and ADR methods amongst national IP users and practitioners, we look forward to seeing further cooperation in this area.

Madam Chair, the Czech delegation remains fully committed to engaging constructively in all IP-related deliberations, while reflecting the needs and interests of all WIPO Member States. In this spirit, and under your guidance, we look forward to a productive session of this GAs.

Thank you.