

**54 SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF  
WIPO**

**GENERAL STATEMENT  
OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
AGENDA ITEM 5**

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Poland would like to congratulate you and thank you for your ongoing efforts in chairing these Assemblies since last year – trying to find a comprehensive solution to all the outstanding issues.

We thank the WIPO staff for the presented reports which reflect the progress made and the results achieved by the Organization in 2013 and 2014. The Delegation notes with appreciation the transparency and efficiency with which the presented documents were drafted.

Madam Chair,

The Delegation of Poland associates itself with the statements made by Italy on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and Czech Republic on behalf of the Central Europe and Baltic States Group.

It is with great concern that we note an constantly increasing polarization of the debate in WIPO. Politics should not and cannot be the dominant

influencing factor of WIPO's work. Poland regrets such an development. WIPO, the secretariat, has to be allowed to implement the organization's charter.

In order to achieve the greatest impact, Poland believes that it is more important than ever to focus the programs and activities of WIPO on delivering on its strategic goals, particularly on those relating to our Global IP Systems, the global legal framework, global infrastructure, world reference resources and development. These are the areas where the Organization has a comparative advantage and where it can make its mark and contribution.

Poland attaches great importance to the creation and maintenance of a balanced and effective international IP system, and considers IP as an important tool for sustainable growth and wealth creation. WIPO is a crucial player in creating a secure environment for investment in scientific and industrial research and in fostering innovative products and services. For these reasons, we reiterate our support for WIPO in its mission to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system

Madam Chair,

We note with satisfaction the numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report and would like to encourage the WIPO Secretariat to further improve, and even to increase, its efforts and activities, thus maintaining viability and efficiency of the Organization. We are satisfied with WIPO's efforts to provide an international forum for in-depth dialogue, to promote effective use and protection of IP worldwide and to reinforce its global IP role. Those efforts will continue to foster economic, social and cultural development of all countries.

Good performance of the organization relies on the good management and efficiency of the work of various committees, therefore important steps to streamline and improve the coherence of the governance arrangements are needed. The current approach has proved to be unaffordable and the time has come for WIPO to reconsider working methods of the standing committees and working groups, the effectiveness of which is questionable. The most important element in improving meetings and results, which would benefit all stakeholders, is the separation of the substantive issues from politics.

Poland appreciates the progress made and the positive developments with regard to the effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by the International Bureau. We welcome the growth in the international registration systems under the PCT, the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and its Protocol, as well as the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Increases in the membership of those agreements contributed to furthering the global expansion of registration services for the benefit of all users. Recognizing the advantages of the Hague system and wishing to make easier for Polish entities to use the Community design registration procedure before OHIM, as well as the procedure for the international registration of industrial designs before WIPO, Poland acceded to the Locarno Agreement establishing an international classification for industrial designs with the effect from 23 January of 2014.

Poland welcomes progress made during the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. However, this delegation regrets that

developments in the SCP are rather slow although the activity of the Committee is of significance for all WIPO Members. We hope for substantive results in the near future and therefore we look forward to continuing work in the SCP on the basis of a balanced future work program, which will include consideration of the international harmonization of patent law.

With regard to the SCT, Poland would like this Assemblies to take a decision on a date for a Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty in 2015 in Geneva. We are strongly convinced that the treaty will bring real benefits for Member State businesses wishing to operate abroad. Simplifying and aligning application procedures will render the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs more effective and this will significantly contribute to reducing costs and bureaucracy linked to exporting.

As regards the CWS, Poland recognizes the importance of the technical work of this Committee and regrets that no consensus has yet been reached on the organizational and special rules of procedure of this body.

We turn now to the area of copyright where in the past years we saw two major Treaties concluded. We hope even more can be achieved. Poland considers that future work of the SCCR should primarily be focused on working out the proposal for the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations with the objective of reaching a decision to convene a Diplomatic Conference in this regard in 2016. Ensuring adequate protection at the international level for broadcasting organizations is highly needed and an up-dating for the 21st century is long overdue.

Poland is looking forward to further fruitful discussions and exchanges of views on the issues relating to the activities of libraries and archives as well as educational, research and teaching institutions – in the framework of existing international treaties and national laws. Those institutions play an important role in the society with regard to the dissemination of culture and research. We are of the view that the discussion and exchange of experience in the Committee should facilitate the functioning and effective application of the exceptions and limitations in these areas in both analogue and digital worlds.

Poland acknowledges the important work carried out by the IGC and remains committed to continuing discussions in the firm belief that the envisaged international instrument or instruments should be flexible, sufficiently clear and non-binding.

As regards activities at the national level, during the previous year the Polish Patent Office has continued to organize a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops and trainings addressed to various institutions and professions. Among the most important initiatives aiming at dissemination of knowledge on industrial property were, *inter alia*, the celebrations of World IP Day, in cooperation with WIPO, during which a conference on “*Patents for medicines. Intellectual property protection in pharmacy*” was held.

In early September 2014 the 10th International Symposium in the series ‘IP in Innovative Economy’ was held in Krakow. This year’s edition was entitled: “*Ideas to profit: Creating business from Innovation*”. The symposium was attended among others by representatives of the EPO, industrial property offices of a number of EU member states as well as experts from Poland,

Western Europe, United States of America, New Zealand and Far East countries.

In 2013, apart from the existing competition for academic dissertations and posters, organized by the Polish Patent Office, two new competitions were added – for a news release and a short film focusing on the promotion of the benefits generated by intellectual property protection.

As a consequence of further implementation by the Patent Office of a systemic project “*Supporting Effective Use of Industrial Property in Innovative Economy*” focused on stimulating the use of industrial property rights in the development of Polish economy, there were many initiatives addressed to various target groups, such as entrepreneurs, in particular micro, small and medium-sized, as well as business support institutions, including universities and scientific units, patent attorneys and other units and organizations engaged in the protection and use of industrial property.

Let me take this opportunity to thank WIPO, and in particular the Department for Transition and Developed Countries, its’ Director and whole staff for the ongoing cooperation and assistance in carrying out many initiatives undertaken by the Polish Patent Office. We very much appreciate the contribution of this and other WIPO Departments in promoting IPRs in Poland.

Thank you Madam Chair