

GENERAL STATEMENT 2015 – **NORWAY** – WIPO Assemblies, 55th Series of Meetings, October 5 to 14, 2015

The Norwegian Delegation wishes to express its satisfaction seeing the Chair on the podium and wishes him the best of luck in guiding this Assembly to a successful conclusion. We would also like to welcome the Vice-Chairs. We commend the Secretariat and Director General Francis Gurry for their excellent preparatory work for these assemblies.

Norway maintains the importance of improving the Member States' ability to monitor the economy and administration of WIPO and welcomes the continued efforts to this end.

The Norwegian 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 are crucial to continued and increased use of these global IP-services. The working groups under these systems are making progress for improving regulations, guidelines and practices. Norway is committed to this work, in the interest of the existing and future users of the systems.

Norway looks forward to the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of Design Law Treaty. Norway regrets the delay in the adoption of this Treaty that will simplify the situation for a great number of innovators worldwide. The developments at the last meeting of 2014 were unfortunate. However, the constructive discussions taking place in March this year gave us hope that there can be a solution to the outstanding matters, allowing the committee to move forward with the preparations for this treaty.

After a year of standstill, Norway would welcome an agreement on a renewed mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Although there are diverging views on and interests in the work of the IGC, we believe it is possible to reach agreement on a mandate that allows further work in a manner acceptable to all parties. In this context, the ability to compromise is most essential - and highly encouraged by this delegation.

With regard to developments in Norway, the Patents Act was amended with effect from July 2015 in order to allow for special mortgage rights in patents, patent applications, supplementary protection certificates and licenses in such rights. The similar possibilities were established in the law on plant breeder's right. In cooperation with the Customs and the Ministry of Culture, the Norwegian Industrial Property Office with the financial support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, set up an Internet site (velgekte.no) promoting genuine goods, legal content and awareness building in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy. We have also set up a governmental network with nine participating authorities to better coordinate and cooperate in fighting such infringements. Both NORCODE and the Norwegian Industrial Property, in cooperation with WIPO Academy, have provided technical assistance in the form of various training programs the last year.

By way of conclusion, the Norwegian Delegation underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive and constructive way to the success of these General Assemblies.