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Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO, 4 to 8 October 2021

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and with the statement made by Georgia 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.

To overcome the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 epidemic in Europe and around the world, it was necessary to develop temporary working rules and principles, which have enabled the Organization to continue operate in such extraordinary situation.

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

We continue to attach great value 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.

The Czech delegation would like to stress and appreciate the effort of the Lisbon Union members in taking measures aimed at eliminating the budget deficit of the Lisbon Union. We fully support the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System, to allow further discussions on solutions for long-term financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, and we are actively engaged in those deliberations. In this context, the Czech Republic greatly appreciates the organization of the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications in September 2021. From our point of view, this is an important event that contributes to the promotion of the GIs system and helps to raise awareness of this system among its users.

As regards the WIPO's normative activities, we still hope that the long-anticipated decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty will be adopted soon and the remaining contentious points will be resolved. We remain open to consider any new and constructive ideas on DLT. However, we are still convinced that the appropriate forum for discussion relating to the disclosure requirement is the IGC.

The Czech Republic continues to be actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). Our priority is to reach a consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations that will be a meaningful instrument for both current and future needs of the protection. We welcome that the topic of the resale right (*droit de suite*) maintains on the agenda of the Committee, and we can also support this topic to become a standing item of the SCCR.

We welcome the work progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). In this sense, we would like to recall our expectation to reach more technical debate relating to substantive patent law harmonization at this Committee.

The Czech delegation remains committed to a reasonable work program for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) to continue the substantive work in this Committee. In this regard, we appreciate the IGC recommendation to the GA on the renewal of the IGC mandate for 2022/2023 biennium on the same terms as for the current biennium, with only updates related to the numbering of the documents and dates of sessions.

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

In the field of the IP enforcement, we continue to support the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), which serves as the multilateral forum for sharing the best practices with regard 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 the IP perspective in the future.

Finally, we would like to briefly accentuate and appreciate the WIPO activities in IP teaching and education, the WIPO Academy and in IP policies for universities and public research institutions. We pay increased attention to teaching intellectual property and increasing awareness of IPR protection and their subsequent commercialization. Therefore, we would like to highlight the excellent cooperation, assistance, and very useful sharing of IP related information on new WIPO services provided to public or IP community by the WIPO Secretariat, particularly by the colleagues from the Department for Transition and Developed Countries.

In particular, we would like to emphasize our excellent cooperation with WIPO in the field of mediation. Based on this bilateral cooperation, we have already started to support ADR methods in resolving IP disputes at the national level. To raise awareness of mediation and ADR methods amongst national IP practitioners, the WIPO Webinar on Mediation of IP Disputes was held virtually in June 2021.

Finally, the Czech delegation remains fully committed to engage constructively in any 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 this week.

Thank you.