



**Statement by Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey,
Permanent Representative of India,
at the 62nd Series of Meetings of the General Assembly of WIPO
Geneva, on 4th October 2021.**

**Chair,
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,**

Chair, I join other speakers in conveying our appreciation and thanks for your leadership as the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and assure you of our full cooperation. I thank and commend Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, and the Secretariat for their meticulous preparation for this Assembly and the comprehensive update on WIPO's activities, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic.

Chair, India strongly believes that WIPO, as the principal global norm setting body in the field of intellectual property, has a key role to play in ensuring effective, balanced and development-oriented implementation of global IP system. Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the role of international institutions in supporting the efforts of member States in tackling global challenges. In this context, we welcome the WIPO's commitment to work towards striking the right balance between IP rights and development. In our view, the global IP regime should help in dealing with health emergencies and not become a hindrance. In this regard, we call for an early decision on India-South Africa joint proposal on the TRIPS Waiver at the WTO.

Chair, India has a well-established legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard Intellectual Property Rights, which meets our international obligations while addressing our developmental priorities. In recent years, India has taken several steps towards promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship and creation of a conducive IP regime. India has witnessed a jump of 35 places in the Global Innovation Index in the last 6 years. It is now home to 66 unicorns, including 3 decacorns. With Flagship programs, such as 'Make in India', 'Start-up India', India is poised to become a thriving global hub for manufacturing and innovation.

Chair,

We have been able to make limited progress on normative issues at WIPO, due to the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that, with constructive contribution from member States, we will be able to make progress on substantive issues, including in negotiations in the Intergovernmental Committee on IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, Standing Committee on Copyright etc.

We urge Member States to work constructively and creatively towards resolution of the impasse over opening of WIPO's External Offices as they have contributed in the past and will contribute in future in strengthening the IP ecosystem globally. The delay has only hurt the interests of the member States. While the evaluation of the functioning of the External Offices is a useful goal, it should not be used as a pretext to prevent or delay the opening of new Offices.

Chair,

We look forward to productive discussions during this Session of the General Assembly. We are committed to participating constructively in the deliberations.

Thank You Chair