

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
63rd Series of Meetings
Geneva, Switzerland
July 13 to July 22, 2022
General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. We also thank DG Daren Tang and the Secretariat for their significant preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

We would initially like to state that Denmark strongly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine and stands behind Ukraine and its people. We assure our Ukrainian customers that we will support them to safeguard their IP Rights. We will do so by using the maximum flexibility available to us in law to consider requests for extensions of time, reinstatements, and restorations.

Innovation is a key driver of economic growth. There is a need for research and development to ensure sustainable growth and thereby combat the multitude of global challenges that society at all levels of development is facing. Therefore, there must be a proper incentive to ensure the return of the significant investment associated with the undertaking of such tasks.

Against this background, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for the benefit of development and economy, as well as for sharing knowledge and technology transfer. In this context, we notice that the IP framework has been instrumental in the historically fast development of vaccines to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, efforts must continuously be made to ensure that WIPO delivers cost-efficient IP services that are fit for purpose and thus provide users with premier products.

Denmark applauds WIPO's efforts to improve the global IP systems including the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems, and supports the continuing development of IT services for users and offices alike. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification, and cost savings for the benefit of the users are crucial to the continued and increased use of these global IP services.

Concerning the normative work taking place in WIPO's committees, Denmark acknowledges the progress made despite the challenges posed by the pandemic's effect on the meeting activity.

Denmark takes note that the dates for the 2023 Assemblies are tentatively set to July 3 to 7. By hosting the Assemblies in July, we move away from a long-standing tradition of having it in autumn, which causes

significant challenges for Denmark due to a plethora of other international meetings and obligations taking place in the period immediately before. We urge the Secretariat to rethink the timing of the upcoming Assembly.

Denmark underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive, constructive, and pragmatic manner to WIPO and its bodies. The efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services stands very important for Danish users, and we wish to ensure that WIPO strives to deliver world-class services.

Thank you.