

**64th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
(6-14 July 2023)**

Statement of Italy by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi

Distinguished Chair,

Distinguished Director General,

Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and with the one delivered by Switzerland on behalf of Group B.

In our view, fostering innovation and the protection of intellectual property remain a fundamental lever for boosting economic growth and for supporting the valorisation of our know-how and of our products and services on the global market.

Therefore, we confirm our commitment to strengthen business competitiveness, in particular for **small and medium-sized enterprises** and for **start-ups**, through easier access to IPRs at national, regional and international scale. In this regard, it is also key to support research centers and Academia and to further encourage public and private partnerships.

At the same time, Italy believes that WIPO Members States should renew their efforts towards the full implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. As a matter of fact, IP is an effective protection tool for critical and strategic technological areas, such as clean-tech and green-tech and it is directly linked with **SDG number 9**, which refers to Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

As part of the global IP community, we all need to take action and deliver results to the benefit of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, bearing in mind that intellectual property rights are strictly connected to investments in research and innovation, to technology transfer and to trade matters.

A more **inclusive and effective IP ecosystem**, which is closer and more connected to people, would benefit its users, both businesses and communities, in all parts of the world.

Thus, we remain engaged to support IP valorisation in the global market, while protecting intangible assets both offline and online. In this perspective, our support to WIPO's goals and to its work programme on the ongoing **normative agenda** and on the reinforced portfolio of business support initiatives remains unwavering.

Furthermore, we welcome with satisfaction the recent progress made by the **Lisbon System** in terms of its geographical representation and we look forward to further steps for an effective and broader functioning of the **Lisbon Registry**, in order to meet Member States expectations in a timely manner.

In this regard, we highlight the central role played nowadays by **geographical indications** as an engine for economic empowerment and for the valorization and development of small local producers, including in rural areas.

However, for this important potential to unfold, it is key that the Lisbon Registry is provided with adequate financial and human resources to meet the needs of its growing membership.

We are also looking forward to future developments in the field of copyright.

Thank you Mr Chair.