

*Check against delivery!*

*Fifty-ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the member States of WIPO*  
(September 30 to October 9, 2019, Geneva)

**STATEMENT BY BULGARIA**

Item 5 - General Statements

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria I would like to express an appreciation to you, Excellency, and to all the members of the Bureau for your active engagement in the excellent preparation of this General Assembly and to express our confidence that under your able guidance this Assembly will achieve positive results.

Our appreciation goes also to the Director General for his leadership and to the Secretariat for all the activities carried out throughout the year and for the hard work in preparing this session.

Bulgaria aligns itself to the statements delivered by the European Union and its Member States and by Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group. I would like to add some views from a national perspective.

First of all I would like to express my country's continuous support for the overall activities of WIPO as a central multilateral institution for developing and promotion of an intellectual property protection system worldwide. We believe that, by helping

to promote creativity and economic growth, the Organization becomes a major factor for raising IP knowledge and supporting innovations on a global scale.

During the reporting period we have witnessed considerable work and efforts on all the outstanding issues, deliberated in the different committees. On the legislative front we must note with satisfaction the progress achieved in narrowing the positions on many long-standing topics.

As mentioned in the report of the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry, during the reporting period WIPO has consistently supported improvements in IP business systems and technical infrastructure of national and regional agencies in order to make them more efficient in providing better quality services for stakeholders and end users.

WIPO continues to sustain the development and modernization of intellectual property systems around the world and in this respect we are grateful for its support in favor of the intellectual property system in Bulgaria. The good partnership between the Organization and the Bulgarian Patent Office through the years has resulted in various initiatives. In this regard I would like to mention in particular two of the joint events that have been planned for this year in Bulgaria and have been already successfully completed:

- With the support of WIPO a series of discussion meetings took place in Sofia in April of this year, aimed at establishing the status of technology transfer centers in Bulgaria and supporting the activities of these centers for the benefit of educational and research institutions, as well as for the business in Bulgaria;
- A seminar, organized jointly by the Bulgarian Patent Office and WIPO, took place in Sofia on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, which focused on the services provided by the Organization to export-oriented small enterprises. WIPO representatives and international speakers introduced the participants to the capabilities and benefits of international systems for the protection of inventions, brands and designs. During the meetings actual current topics were analyzed, such as the conflict between domain names and internet-based trademarks and was demonstrated how WIPO's global database, tools and platforms can be used to assist small and medium-sized enterprises when they apply to protect their industrial property rights.

Such events are of considerable benefit for the business and that is why the Bulgarian patent Office explores the possibilities to facilitate the access of the local companies

to the IP system and to raise their awareness towards the opportunities it provides. WIPO has been our constant partner in this regard and Bulgaria will continue to support the Organization in its efforts to promote intellectual property rights and to raise IP knowledge worldwide responding adequately to the new developments and requirements.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, allow me on behalf of my delegation to wish proactive, constructive and solution-oriented deliberations to all participants during these Assemblies, aimed at moving forward and achieving tangible results on all outstanding issues.

Thank you for your attention!