

*Check against delivery!*

*Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO – Sixty-First Series of Meetings*  
(Geneva, September 21 - 25, 2020)

**STATEMENT BY BULGARIA**

Item 5 - General Statements

Mr. Chairman,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria, I would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Zniber and to all the members of the Bureau for their active engagement in the preparation of the present WIPO General Assemblies under the extraordinary conditions due to COVID-19 pandemic. Our gratitude goes also to the Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing the documentation and undertaking all necessary arrangements to make these Assemblies safe and possible.

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union and its Member States and by Latvia on behalf of the CEBS group. I would like to make the following observations from a national perspective.

This General Assembly is taking place in challenging times for the international community. The COVID -19 pandemic has affected the normal life and work of WIPO and other international organizations, of our countries' economies, and the national intellectual property offices as well. It has disrupted the normal process of negotiations on the normative agenda. Against this background, finding appropriate innovative ways to continue the work of the Organization has become of particular

importance. The hybrid format, chosen for the current General Assembly, allows Member States and organizations to stay in touch despite the implications caused by the virus.

I would like to express my delegation's conviction that at the same time this pandemic has become a reason for pushing the efforts even more vigorously towards opening new horizons on a global scale. The dynamics of technology innovations is increasing like never before. Digitalization and artificial intelligence require us to think creatively and be more flexible in strengthening the role and importance of intellectual property in the global economy. It is our duty, under the circumstances of coronavirus affecting businesses worldwide, to continue to build a strong and sustainable system for the protection of intellectual property, to encourage and harness innovation and promote a system that facilitates the relationship between business and creators as we continue to provide many new and different electronic services.

In this regard, my country commends WIPO with the development of a wide range of new electronic services, developed in recent months and made available to users all over the world. Among these, it is worth mentioning the launch of the new search facility for PATENTSCOPE database, the online Dashboard to monitor operations, WIPO Docket newsletter, the tool for tracking IP policy information in Member States during COVID-19 pandemic, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to express a special appreciation to Director General Francis Gury for his leadership and contribution for the promotion and modernization of the intellectual property system worldwide. As seen from the Report of the Director General to the 2020 Assemblies, over the past 12 years WIPO has experienced a period of growth and expansion and has made a substantial steps forward on the path of needed reforms and modernization, introducing significant number of new programs and services while keeping a sound budgetary performance.

For Bulgaria, the period has been characterized by building a fruitful and long lasting cooperation with WIPO through implementing a number of projects and organizing many events, aimed at promoting intellectual property incentives and stimulating the activity and creativity for the Bulgarian business. The joint initiatives have reached wider range of experts, intellectual property representatives, students and end users, opening their minds for the opportunities that intellectual property provides.

In this regard, we would also like to note the fruitful cooperation and support by the Department for Transition and Developed Countries.

Mr. Chairmen

We would like also to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his election as the Director General of WIPO and to wish him every success in his important responsibilities. Bulgaria is confident that Mr. Tang will contribute further to strengthening the role of WIPO in the development and modernization of the global intellectual property system in line with the new requirements and challenges of our time. My country looks forward for continued co-operation with Mr. Tang on all aspects of our relations and participation in WIPO in the future.

Finally, I allow me to extend our reassurance that Bulgaria will continue to participate actively in WIPO as a reliable partner in international fora dealing with intellectual property.

Thank you for your attention!