



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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**Ministry of Enterprise and
Innovation**

Sweden

Opening Statement by Sweden at the 61:th Series of WIPO Assemblies

Chairperson,

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to you ambassador Omar ZNIBER for all your work since October 2019. We are looking forward to a productive meeting under your guidance also in this novel hybrid format. Our gratitude also extends to the Vice-chairs.

The secretariat should also be commended for all the preparatory work and flexibility to enable us to meet in this hybrid format.

This delegation fully supports the statements made by United Kingdom on behalf of Group B and by Germany, on behalf of EU and its member states.

Sweden would like to thank the Director General Francis Gurry and Deputy Director Generals and Assistant Director Generals. We appreciate all the good work and the contributions made to further the work of WIPO during the last years.

In particular Sweden would like to thank outgoing Director General Dr Francis Gurry for his many extra-ordinary achievements in his service for WIPO. Your hard work and commitment will leave a positive impact on WIPO and the IP system for a long time. If we were to highlight just one achievement we would mention the strategic realignment program, reshaping WIPO focusing on cross-cutting issues by linking good-governance, such as result-based mangement, transparency and

accountability, with delivering on the mission of the organisation in a user-oriented manner. Your personal commitment has also been instrumental in adapting the IP-system through, among others, the Marrakesh treaty, which will benefit visually-impaired globally. We wish you all success in your future endeavours.

We would also like to congratulate Director General elect Daren Tang. We are looking forward to the countionous development of WIPO under your leadership in all areas that are important to WIPO and its users, eg. excellent services and relevant normative development. We expect that WIPO will continue to be a role-model of good-governance in the UN-system having a focus on transparency, accountability and financial prudence. In order to meet future changes and challenges and deliver on its mission WIPO need to be an attractive workplace. To continue to entice the brightest and most competent and innovative employees, WIPO need to be a modern and inclusive workplace open to any gender, social and ethnic background, physical ability, religious belief or sexual orientation. Sweden stands ready to support your work and welcome further collaboration with WIPO.

We would like to emphasize the great importance of WIPO:s Global Intellectual Property Services, and we stand ready to continue to contribute to the valuable work within the PCT and the Madrid systems.

The consequences of the on-going pandemic and its long-term effect on the global economy and the long-term demand for WIPO's services are yet to be seen. In light of recent global events we would like to emphasize the importance of a robust IP-system to meet the challenges ahead, where efficiency and transparency are important elements of the governance. WIPO started 2020 with a very strong financial situation. However, it is important with continued financial prudence and transparency to further benefit the present and future users of the global IP system.

Intellectual property is a driver of economic development, competitiveness and innovation and a well-functioning intellectual property law framework is an important basis for investments in knowledge-based capital.

Due to digitisation, Industry 4.0, artificial intelligence and the digital transformation of business eco-systems, economic development and competitiveness depend more and more on the generation and

exploitation of knowledge. IP management is a key success factor to create and protect new business models that emerge.

The digital transformation has seen several important consequences for the management of intangible assets, as these constitute a profound share of the total value among industry actors. We see new actors and new business ideas such as Zoom and AI-based translation tools shifting the market and the IP landscape drastically, also rendering third party rights much more complex. We welcome new ideas to tackle these challenges such as the new initiative WIPO for creators, established in cooperation with the Music Rights Awareness foundation in Sweden. At the same time, collaboration and open innovation is many times crucial to drive R&D all the way to market. We would also take the opportunity to highlight WIPO's effort WIPO PROOF which is a good initiative to safeguard digital files which otherwise can easily fall prey to misuse or misappropriation.

This transformation is global, and the adaption of the IP-system also needs to be handled on the global level. Sweden therefore supports WIPO's efforts to identify issues that need to be handled within the IP system and to start developing answers to policy questions that need to be addressed. We note with satisfaction the work in e.g. Artificial intelligence that WIPO has done and is doing. We also welcome the dialogue around these complex issues by outgoing Director General Francis Gurry and value the interest shown by the incoming DG Daren Tang.

Moreover, Intellectual property offices will surely be able to benefit from i.e. artificial intelligence to make internal processes, such as searching, image analyses and classification more effective. This will have implications for the global IP infrastructure and this development will also generate knowledge and capacity that need to be shared in the global IP-community.

In order to facilitate a green transition, we have to make sure that the IP-systems serve, support and promote innovation toward the sustainable development goals such as the climate goals in line with the Paris Agreement.

Here we would like to highlight WIPO's effort WIPO GREEN. It is genuinely a good example focusing on support to global efforts to address climate change by connecting providers and seekers of

environmentally friendly technologies and bringing together key players to catalyse green technology innovation and diffusion.

This Delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the excellent cooperation between WIPO and PRV – the Swedish Intellectual Property Office - in relation to the advanced international training programmes financed by the Swedish international development cooperation agency, Sida. Together with the LDC-division we offer programs directed to “Intellectual Property for Least Developed Countries”, and together with the TK-division we offer the program “Intellectual property and genetic resources-in support of innovation”. We would like to thank WIPO and in particular the LDC-division and the TK-division for their enduring and invaluable work and support for these programmes.

Finally, Sweden looks forward to continuing its successful cooperation with WIPO on the development of the international intellectual property system to the benefit of economic, social and cultural development for all.

Thank you Chair