

Opening Statement of the Republic of Turkey

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Turkish Delegation. I would like to congratulate Mr. Chair on his election as the Chairperson of the Assemblies. I am confident that under the leadership of Chair and vice-chairs, the Assemblies will produce fruitful results. We observe with great satisfaction that, under the guidance of Director General Mr. Gurry, the organization continues to function as a result-oriented agency.

Distinguished delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that our efforts to modernize the Turkish industrial property system have produced a major success on January 10, 2017 with the ratification of the new Industrial Property Code.

The new IP Code has been drafted to re-design the Turkish IP system with a more user-friendly structure to facilitate examination processes, reducing the average registration periods, enhancing the instruments for enforcement of IP rights, encouraging commercialization and increasing the administrative capacity of the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office.

Having mentioned this important step, I gladly note that TURKPATENT is in the list of top ten offices with respect to number of trademark and design applications. Last year we received around 107,000 trademark, 40,000 design and 16,000 patent applications. However, we expect an even higher increases at the end of the year as a response to our first year of becoming an International

Search Authority and other initiatives we have taken, including the updated IP Code.

Our cooperation with WIPO Academy produced excellent results and the Master's Program's first students graduated last year from the Ankara University. Furthermore, the Turkish IP Academy has been established and we look forward to cooperating with WIPO and other national IP Academies to ensure our Academy becomes a center for excellence in IP teaching in our region.

Concerning the normative agenda, Turkey appreciates the progress in the discussions under Design Law Treaty and IGC, and trusts that Member States will find common grounds in concluding the negotiations.

As regards the Program and Budget, my delegation aligns itself with the statement of Group B and congratulates the Organization for its sound financial management.

We believe that the Program and Budget for the year 2018-19 will be adopted under your leadership with the constructive engagement of all the Member States before the end of this GA.

Mr Chair, as regards opening WIPO External Offices, we would like to highlight that we have an abiding interest in hosting an EO. While we respect the summary by Chair in last GA, it is our understanding that it does not exclude a couple of countries wishing to host EOs. and that those should be considered at par with other candidates. All proposals should be accorded equal treatment based on their national and international representative right. This may be

especially true for Turkey's proposal. Turkey has concrete proposal to host External Office.

Accordingly, we believe that an inclusive, transparent, objective, merit-based and nonparty methodology for the selection among the candidate countries needs to be agreed on. The language has to be crafted within the scope of consensus reflecting the spirit of all the candidates for hosting EOs.

Turkey has valid applications for both 2016-17 and 2018-19 biennia, which would create synergy with the prospective Technology Bank for LDCs.

In conclusion of my statement, I am confident that this Assembly will be a success and we thank the Secretariat for their hard work.

Thank you very much.