

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

WIPO GA 2020 STATEMENT

Honorable President, distinguished delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the General Assembly on behalf of Turkey. We would like to also extend our appreciation to the Director General Gurry and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing this General Assembly through these unprecedented and difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries around the globe and overcoming this challenge will require a genuine cooperation.

As this is the last General Assembly under the presidency of Dr. Gurry, we would also like to express our appreciation to him for his dedication and hard work during his tenure to further improve and strengthen intellectual property rights worldwide to the benefit of all the Member States. WIPO has continued to be the main international platform for intellectual property matters under his able leadership.

On the other hand, Turkey would like to take this opportunity also to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang for his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. We firmly believe that he has all the qualities to lead WIPO out of these difficult times and into the future. The wide spread support Mr. Tang received during his nomination and appointment process shows the confidence of members in him. We also would like to confirm, hereby, continuation of Turkey's constructive support for Mr. Tang and his team for every ongoing or future challenges.

Distinguished Delegates,

The nature of IP continues to evolve in response to the rapidly changing innovation eco-systems. In this context, the drafted new IP Strategy Paper for the period 2019-2023 together with the recently enacted IPR code will ensure my country's alignment with the international best practices of IP governance.

In line with this new Strategy, quality and timeliness remains our priority in processing constantly increasing applications. Despite the all negative effects of COVID-19 Pandemic, surprisingly, we have experienced a remarkable increase in application numbers in Turkey for the first half of this year. For example, national patent applications have increased by 14%, utility model applications have increased by 30% and trademark applications have increased by 23,6%. This signals that TURKPATENT will keep its position among the top Offices by the end of the year.

In terms of copyright, the first Turkish National Report of 2014 on Assessing the Economic Contribution of Copyright-Based Industries, was updated this year, on the basis of four-year data encompassing the period between 2015 and 2018. This report demonstrates that the copyright-based industries hold a major position in Turkish economy and thus, an effective copyright protection system plays an important role in establishing and strengthening copyright industries in Turkey.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the period ahead, WIPO will play an important role in the post-COVID economic recovery. But, that process will also bring new challenges. Before the pandemic we all anticipated that WIPO would have to deal with challenges mainly from the accelerated changes in technology such as AI, big data and adapt to the new environment associated with those changes. Additionally, this pandemic era has underlined WIPO's position and importance, whereas some terminologies such as "vaccine

researches”, “test data”, “easy access to medicines”, “providing a balance between innovative companies and public at large”, “sustainable production of local products” and etc. have become ordinary discussion topics of mass media and a part of the daily language. In this regard, we believe that WIPO remains as the most important platform where we have the unique opportunity to decide on the future of global techno and eco-systems. In doing so, my delegation is ready to assist in the discussions to reach a common agreement on the issues that has been on our agenda for quite a long time.

With regard to the decision of GA in 2019 on the Terms of Reference of an evaluation for the entire network of WIPO External Offices, we are of the view that this document should be regulate a framework of an external and independent evaluation. We also believe that drafting process should be based on transparent and inclusive consultations among all interested members.

In conclusion of my statement, I am confident that this Assembly will be a success and I thank you all for your valuable contributions.