

**Thank you Mr. Chair:**

The Republic of Korea would like to congratulate you on your election as chair. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for the effort of this General Assembly.

Especially, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the WIPO Director General for his excellent leadership.

**Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:**

The world has experienced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To overcome the difficulties, the Republic of Korea has put a lot of effort into encouraging creative and innovative activities.

As a result, PCT applications exceeded 20,000 last year, which was the 4th largest amount worldwide. The Republic of Korea is also growing as a copyright powerhouse along with the popularity of Korean content.

Further, the Republic of Korea received a high evaluation as the 5<sup>th</sup> most innovative country in the 2021 WIPO innovation index.

**Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:**

The pace of digital transformation is accelerating with the emergence of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and big data.

Accordingly, it is the proper time for the international community to discuss how we can improve the current IP system.

The Republic of Korea recently amended its Design Act to better protect new digital products, such as Graphic User Interface, and established separate patent examination guidelines on emerging technologies including AI and Internet of Things.

We are also amending the Copyright Act to reflect environmental changes in creation and use of works.

The Republic of Korea will closely cooperate with WIPO to facilitate the international discussion on "IP and Frontier Technologies" through sharing its experience and know-how.

**Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:**

International cooperation and solidarity are very important for coexistence and sustainable development in the post COVID-19 era.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea has carried out various projects through the Funds-In-Trust to bridge the IP knowledge gap between developed and developing countries.

Notably, a Whitepaper on Blockchain published last month will help developing countries to better understand frontier technologies.

We also plan to create a new podcast program containing understandable content to raise awareness of copyright protection worldwide.

The Republic of Korea will remain unchanged in its commitment to the prosperity of the international IP community as a steadfast partner for inclusive global cooperation.

Thank you.