

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Sixty-Third Series of Meetings
Geneva, July 14 – July 22, 2022
Agenda item 4: GENERAL STATEMENTS

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

Madam Chair,

The delegation of Croatia wishes to thank you as well as the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Daren Tang and Secretariat for their efforts and successful organisation of this meeting in these continuously challenging times.

As this organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), we recall that the UN is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members, and all its Members are obliged to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace, security, and justice, are not endangered. All Members should refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Therefore, Croatia condemns the Russian Federation's unjustified military aggression against Ukraine that has been causing enormous number of human casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and economic decline of Ukraine as a WIPO and UN Member. The Russian aggression also represent a threat to global peace, security, prosperity and principles that derive from international legal order. We call upon all the WIPO Members to act in support of principles and obligations of the UN Charter. In this regard, Croatia expresses its solidarity and provides full support to Ukraine and its IP sector, including through the agenda Item "Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and IP System".

Croatia wishes to express particular appreciation for the efforts and activities undertaken by the WIPO in the last two years that ensured the implementation of its main programmes during the global pandemic. We hope that these Assemblies will mark a return to fully fledged operations of the WIPO in promoting, developing and strengthening the international system of intellectual property as a leverage for innovation and creativity. In these times we need innovative and creative solutions to global crises more than ever.

In this regard, Croatia has embraced digital transformation and since last Assemblies doubled its efforts to streamline and make its proceedings for granting industrial property rights more efficient, consistent and user friendly. We recognize the significance and value of data and we have taken additional measures to make our data regarding the registered industrial property not only available to the public through the different user services, but also secure and reliable.

As the micro, small and medium sized enterprises make 99.7% of all enterprises in Croatia, we have strengthened our support in increasing their capacities to protect and manage intellectual property, among others through a dedicated financial support provided by a special SME Fund established under the European Intellectual Property Network.

Croatia will continue to make our best efforts to deal with the global economic turmoil caused by the Russian aggression and support recovery of our economies. We commit ourself to contribute in a positive and constructive manner to a successful 63nd series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States and invites other Member States to join hands in constructive contribution to the goals of the WIPO and in support of the principles of the UN Charter.

I thank you.