

## New Zealand General Statement WIPO GA July 2022

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā rau rangatira mā  
Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa

(To the authorities, the orators, the esteemed leaders  
I greet you, I greet you, I greet you all)

Honourable Chair, Director General, Excellency's, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

New Zealand thanks the Director General Daren Tang and the Secretariat for their work bringing together this General Assembly and wish the meeting every success. It great to be meeting you face to face again.

[As we meet today, the world is confronted with Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of the Ukraine that has caused widespread humanitarian consequences and resulted in the senseless deaths of innocent people and has also negatively impacted the innovation, creativity and cultural environment. Russia's actions undermine the principles that bring our group together.

Aotearoa New Zealand stands with the international community in condemning President Putin's unjustified and illegal attack on Ukraine. Russia's war in Ukraine has very real implications for global peace, security and economic stability. The actions of President Putin are a grave breach of international rules; the use of force to change borders is strictly prohibited under international law, as is targeting of civilians.]

New Zealand supports the continuing mandate of the IGC and is supportive of the IGC's work. The issues are of great importance to Māori. We look forward to contributing to the progress of meaningful and workable solutions in this forum, and we support making the Chair's text the main working document on genetic resources.

On 24 June 2022 Aotearoa New Zealand celebrated Matariki, the first public holiday celebrating te ao Maori (Māori world view). The predawn rising of Matariki, also known as the Pleiades star cluster in the mid-winter sky signals the changing of the seasons and the beginning of the Māori New Year.

This year we also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Māori Trade Marks Advisory Committee and next year we will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Māori Patents Advisory Committee. We are very grateful for the work of our Māori Advisory Committees to minimise the risk of the Crown inadvertently registering trade marks that are likely to cause offense to Māori or granting patents where the commercial exploitation of the invention would likely be contrary to Māori values.

We also expect that the Plant Varieties Rights Bill and accompanying regulations should soon be law in New Zealand. This Bill will provide for participation by Māori in the plant variety rights examination process for new varieties belonging to indigenous plant species. The Bill also creates a Māori Plant Variety Committee which will have a decision-making mandate.

Chair, reflecting on another year of the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is encouraging that the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand remains in a period of growth. We have had a record year of filings for both trade mark and patent applications including via the Madrid and PCT systems. To cater for this growth we continue to grow our patent, trade marks and

hearings teams. These increased filings indicate that even with economic pressures and business disruptions, New Zealanders continue to innovate and design for the future. New Zealand, as with the rest of the world, is transitioning into the next phase of the recovery and IP remains an important part of the solutions that will support us through these times.

Currently IPONZ is undertaking a strategic capability review to identify the medium to long term requirements which will enable IPONZ to be future-focussed, while supporting ongoing operations. The review describes the ideal capabilities that IPONZ should target and the level of shift required to achieve this. This will ensure IPONZ has the best skills and capabilities to continue providing high quality and robust intellectual property rights, offer world class services for our customers and to leverage international and domestic opportunities.

Thank you Chair for your leadership of this session and offer you our support to make these series of meetings a success.