

Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
on Agenda Item 21 “Assistance and Support for Ukraine’s Innovation and Creativity
Sector and Intellectual Property System”
at the 64th Series of Meetings Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
July 12, 2023

Madame Chair, Honourable Director General,

Ukraine would like to express its sincere gratitude to Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO, for his exceptional leadership in the preparation of this report and for his statement today. We also extend our thanks to Deputy Director General Hasan Kleib for his support, as well as to the Secretariat and all the departments of the WIPO International Bureau for their tremendous efforts in this endeavour. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the remarkable facilitation, balance, and objectivity demonstrated by Mr. Habip Asan, Director of the TDC Division, throughout the assessment process.

On behalf of Ukraine, we express our heartfelt appreciation to all the distinguished WIPO Member States that co-sponsored and supported last year's decision on Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System, as outlined in document A/63/8. Ukraine draws strength and determination from the overwhelming support and solidarity expressed by member states during this General Assembly.

The report effectively focuses on mitigating the adverse effects of the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and emphasizes the importance of rebuilding an innovative and creative ecosystem in Ukraine. Moreover, it highlights the adaptability and viability of the Ukrainian economy, underscoring its strengths in digitalization, SMEs endurance, and the potential of its human resources.

We noted the inclusion of vital aspects such as mental health and the losses faced by the creative industry in the report. Beyond the numerical figures, it is crucial to recognize the profound and enduring impact of the war of aggression against Ukraine on people's ability to create and work. This broader perspective helps us understand the daily context within which Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System operate.

Nevertheless, while this report represents a thoroughly objective and well researched assessment, it cannot be considered complete and comprehensive. This limitation is not a reflection on the WIPO International Bureau but rather an unfortunate consequence of the ongoing aggressive war waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. As long as Russian troops remain within Ukrainian territory and continue to target civilian objects with their missiles, this report can only conclude with an ellipsis.

The Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine had meant, above all, loss of life and livelihoods. Just a few days ago, while esteemed Member States made their general statements, Russian missiles struck the city of Lviv, located a mere 50 km from the Polish border, causing the deaths and injuries of dozens of Ukrainians.

Behind every decreasing percentage and number in the report, behind every source and calculation, lies the shattered lives of individuals. However, distinguished delegates, we address you today because it lies partly within your power to ensure that these opportunities are not lost forever.

We firmly believe that through close collaboration with WIPO and its esteemed Member States, Ukraine will be able to counteract the significant damages inflicted by the Russian Federation's aggressive actions on Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System. In this regard, the knowledge, experience, and resources of WIPO and its esteemed Member States will be invaluable in assisting Ukraine.

Therefore, we request your consideration of the extending grace periods for Ukrainian applicants, facilitating access to global IP services and knowledge sources, assisting internally displaced persons from Ukraine, and engaging in programs to support Ukraine's innovation, creativity, and IP system. Your actions in support of Ukraine are an investment in a sustainable and peaceful future for innovation and creativity globally.

We firmly invite you to join us in further efforts to isolate the Russian Federation from affecting international platforms and decision-making within these esteemed walls. The deliberate actions of Russian officials to exploit WIPO's resources in legitimizing the temporary occupation of Ukrainian territory, or to harness WIPO's resources and expertise to strengthen their armed aggression, must be stopped.

Only through unity and courage in the face of this threat can we achieve the high goals and mission of this Organization, for the threat posed by the Russian Federation has long transcended national and regional boundaries and has become a global concern.

Thank you!