

**Assemblies of the Member States of the WIPO  
Geneva, September 23 to October 2, 2013**

**Delegation of the Slovak Republic**

**General Statement (item 5)**

Madam. Chair, respected Director General, distinguished delegates,

The Slovak Republic associates with the statement made by Poland on behalf of CEBS Group and with the statement made by Lithuania on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Madam. Chair, on behalf of the Slovak delegation I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this General Assemblies. We also thank the WIPO Secretariat for its valuable work in preparing numerous documents for these Assemblies and their efforts made during the year.

We would like to congratulate both to WIPO for the success of the Diplomatic Conference on the Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities and to the Kingdom of Morocco for its hospitality and for its very efficient organisation of the Diplomatic Conference.

Slovakia attaches a great importance to the creation, maintenance and improvement of a balanced and effective international IP system which implies that WIPO provides high-quality technical assistance, combined with monitoring mechanisms, to offset disadvantages related to different levels of economic development.

Patent law has always been a cornerstone of the innovative global economy. Users of the patent system have been calling upon the SCP to improve that system further. The work of the SCP enables Member States to compare legal regimes and administrative processes, and to detect best practices. The Committee should ensure that it has a balanced agenda reflecting various demands for discussions expressed by developed and developing countries.

Referring to the last session of the SCT, the Delegation is convinced that the differences will be bridged and the consensus on technical assistance and capacity building will be reached. A multilateral agreement would consolidate the protection of designs and strengthen innovation and creativity. We support the convening of a diplomatic conference.

Figures on the filing of applications under the PCT show that the world economy is being recovering and that the PCT system is a key to functioning of the global patent system. The PCT Working Group has made a good progress with adjustments of PCT rules.

Slovakia is committed to continuing the negotiations on GRs, TK and TCEs. We welcome some steps made by this Committee along the path to completing the mandate adopted by the General Assembly in 2012.

We are looking forward to continue the work of the CDIP and other agreed projects in relevant committees.

Slovakia puts a great importance also to the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. We appreciate the great progress made and the results achieved during the previous year and we support the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015.

Declaring the great importance attached to the co-operation with WIPO, let me, Madam Chair, express my special thanks to the WIPO Secretariat for continuing support and the assistance provided for the Slovak IP Office during the previous period. We highly appreciate the presence and address of the WIPO representative at the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak IP Office. The event was well attended and received good political and media coverage.

The Slovak IP Office has been actively engaged in numerous activities relating to the IP education and awareness. On the occasion of World IP Day the special programme for local elementary schools was prepared. More than 600 students visited our IP Office for the excursions during previous year. We have been also involved in the programme of the Researchers' Night – the mega event taking place every year on a single September night in

about 300 cities all over Europe. In cooperation with Design Faculty of Technical University in Zvolen a poster exhibition of design has been held in the premises of IP Office. Curricula focused on IP and its utilisation has been launched with first lectures already this school year. In addition, our experts have made a lot of lectures on various IP topics for academic and business audiences.

This year Slovak IP Office initiated bilateral meetings with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Education. Expected results are very promising. Certain common grounds have been identified in respect of our mutual cooperation in the area of innovation support and the education system, latter one especially regarding the introduction of IP minimum into the school curricula. We believe that also your personal presence DG Mr Gurry, in our contry next year will more than positively mark our joint efforts and stress the importance of IP in our country.

During this year also the project for rising public awareness on IP and enforcement has been prepared. The public media campaign has been recently launched. Current first stage of the project is primarily focused on young – online generation. The direct involvement of “media stars” helps us to communicate main messages to the audience - existing threats in the online environment and different aspects of sharing the content online. In this respect let me stress the proactive and valuable support of the WIPO Building Respect for IP Division and express our gratitude for the cooperation and very effective communication with the WIPO Department for Transition and Developed Countries.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, we are looking forward to achieve positive and balanced results concerning all issues during these Assemblies.

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your kind attention.