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Opening Statement of the Republic of Turkey

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Turkish Delegation. I would like to congratulate Mr. Chair on his election as the Chairperson of the Assemblies. I also welcome the vice-chairs and I am confident that under their leadership, the Assemblies will produce fruitful results.

“Results” is the keyword I will emphasize in my statement. We observe with great satisfaction that under the guidance of Director General Mr. Gurry, the organization is now more result-oriented than ever. The continuous increase in IP filings and expansion of global IP systems clearly represents the return of WIPO’s efforts. It is also worth mentioning that in this endless pace, the organization does not stop addressing the particular needs of the countries either.

In this context, I am pleased to inform the distinguished delegations that Turkey and WIPO Academy will be launching a new Master’s Program on IP next year in Ankara at the Bilkent University. As this program will be an international one, I would like to take this opportunity to inform all delegations that it will be open to all students from all regions being represented here today. Furthermore, Turkey and WIPO Academy have joined their efforts in establishment of two Intellectual Property Training Centers in Ankara, each dedicated to provide specialized courses on industrial property and copyrights. I strongly believe that the complementary effect of the Master’s program and the training centers will help pave the way in addressing the need for specialized IP professionals in our country and our region.

I should also mention that these two projects are part of our National IP Strategy that was adopted this year, which contains around 50 priorities. I am happy to announce here that we look forward to working with WIPO in accomplishing more of our national objectives. Having said that, I should also mention that our National Strategy on Geographical Indications has also been adopted and I believe that once those strategic objectives are reached, Turkey will become a more visible actor in this field. Another important point to

mention from our activities, I would like to inform you that Turkish Patent Institute has recently launched a web based technology transfer platform. The platform aims to bring inventors and investors together. I am pleased to mention that it has already attracted great interest from the technology transfer offices, R&D institutions and companies. In this regard, it would be our pleasure to share our experience with the interested IP Offices.

Distinguished Chair,

Having left behind 20 years of IP services in our country, I proudly note we are the highest trademark application receiving office in Europe. By the end of 2014, we have received around 110,000 trademark, 43000 design and 12,400 patent applications. Regardless of the workload, I am pleased to inform the delegations that we are able to fulfill the registration processes in a timely manner thanks to the support of our policy makers in meeting our office's needs. An excellent demonstration of political support to the Turkish IP system has been the personal participation of the President of the Republic of Turkey His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN in the Fourth Turkish Patent Awards Ceremony in April 2015. During his speech, President emphasized the importance of timely and efficient processing of IP applications and he has praised the efforts of Turkish Patent Institute in conducting patent search and examination in almost all IP classes and underlined the importance of sharing this capacity with other countries. In this regard, our cooperation with national offices and international organizations keep growing thanks to good results we obtain from such agreements. This year we have signed a cooperation protocol with the intellectual property offices of China, Iran and Pakistan and an agreement with Serbia is planned to be signed in November 2015. Our bilateral agreements seek to enhance the cooperation between the Member states towards assisting the ultimate goal of achieving a well running and sound IP system all over the globe. In this context, we also aim to enter into agreements with additional countries such as Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Tunisia within 2016. We attach particular importance to our agreement with Bosnia & Herzegovina which foresees the preparation of patent search and examination reports by the Turkish Patent Institute on behalf of the Bosnian Office. This initiative will not only help strengthening the relations between two offices but also contribute to the economic and industrial relations between two countries. Through all these efforts, we expect to reach a total of 30 cooperation agreements with national offices all around the world by the end of 2016.

Our cooperation agreements extend to international organizations as well. In line with the 2015 Action Plan between WIPO and Turkey, we have planned an International Conference with the Boğaziçi University an international conference on IP Management in Universities, which focuses on the Aspects of Intellectual Property in Technology Transfer. We have also organized two workshops for training the trainers of the Turkish Intellectual Property Training Centers. Our cooperation with WIPO on the seconded national expert program within WIPO has produced very good results, which is why Turkey intends to continue with the program for the years to come. Thanks to efforts of Director General Gurry, two protocols relating to IP training centers and IP Master's program were signed in June 2015. WIPO has also given its support to the Turkish Patent Institute in participating in a number of global conferences, where Turkey had the opportunity to share its experience with fellow offices of other member countries.

As regards our cooperation with EPO, our patent examiners have participated in a number of extensive training courses provided by the EPO Academy. Thanks to the success of our cooperation with EPO, the number and the quality of search reports issued by our examiners have been continuously increasing. In fact, the number of our patent examiners has reached a threshold that is enabling us to conduct search and examination of patent applications from almost all classes.

Concerning our cooperation with OHIM, the seconded national expert program between our organizations have produced very beneficial results in aligning the Turkish registration system with the EU practices. Furthermore, we have integrated the TPI's designs database with the DSView system of the OHIM as a continuation of the project on integrating to the TMView. Turkey also takes part in the Convergence Projects of OHIM as observer State and in line with ongoing studies, the trademark and design examination guidelines are constantly being updated.

Now I would like to touch upon certain topics of the normative agenda. As regards the Design Law Treaty, Turkey appreciates the arduous work accomplished by the SCT and would like to give its full support for convening a diplomatic conference for its adoption in near future with giving attention to the concerns of all member states. Coming back to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, we believe the mandate of the Committee can be renewed in order to enable the Member States continue discussions and

maintain a positive dialogue towards finding common grounds in concluding the negotiations towards a diplomatic conference. Our delegation also attaches great importance to the achievement of development agenda objectives and we urge all Member States to enter into result-oriented discussions during the CDIP meetings. As regards the Program and Budget, my delegation would like to thank Ambassador, Gabriel Duque, for his able leadership during the last 2 PBC Sessions. I would like to congratulate the committee for having reached a consensus on a long standing issue of “definition of the development expenditure” during the last session. My delegation hopes that the issues that have been under discussion regarding the draft Program Budget for 2016-17 will be resolved during this GAs. As stated by distinguished delegation of Japan on behalf of Group-B, we attach great importance to the approval of the budget at this session and we believe all the delegations will put their utmost/constructive efforts to this end. Taking this opportunity, I also would like to thank the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee, Internal Oversight Division and the External Auditors for their valuable works which I believe they all contribute to the well-functioning of the organization and help increase efficiency at WIPO.

Once more, we reiterate Turkey’s willingness to host an external Office, which would create synergy with the prospective Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. Technology Bank in Turkey is another project being run under auspices of UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and SIDS. This project was devised in 2011 during the 4th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. The project aims at establishing a UN Office in Turkey, which will provide technical assistance and expertise to innovators and researchers in LDCs in identifying most appropriate technologies relevant to their research subjects and act as mediator in concluding licensing agreements through negotiations. The project also foresees facilitating contact among fellow researchers in LDCs and developed countries who are working on the same research subjects. Turkey believes that integrating WIPO into this study would ensure the sustainability of the project and create a synergy for the success of both efforts.

Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion of my statement, I am confident that this Assembly will be a success in all manners and we thank the Secretariat for all their hard work, which greatly facilitates our discussions.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you very much.