

General Statement by Republic of Korea
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Thank you, Mr. Chair

First of all, I would like to kindly convey our deepest condolences for the late president of Vietnam, His excellency, Mr. Tran Dai Quang.

I would like to offer my congratulations to you for being elected chair of this General Assembly. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Director General Dr. Gurry and the WIPO Secretariat for their unsparing effort for this meeting.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

Recent environment of intellectual property (IP) is becoming more complex and diverse. We acknowledge the increasing significance of IP related industries for the economy of each Member State and issues of the protection have become so increasingly pervasive that it has even become a major source of trade disputes.

Furthermore, the development of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, and the Internet of Things (IoT) has triggered unprecedented changes. In order to address this situation, the international community must make a joint effort.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

First, new technologies should be applied to IP administration systems to properly cope with the increasingly complex situation of IP application.

Particularly, to effectively utilize AI in IP administration, it is important that each country engages in sharing their experiences and know-how, including learning data, very actively. In this regard, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and WIPO are working together on an "AI-based translation tool for patent documents," which we hope can become a catalyst for promoting cooperation in the international community.

Meanwhile, there are pressing issues regarding AI, such as subjects of rights and level of protection, that should also be more actively discussed at WIPO. Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

In today's sophisticated society, new fields are emerging which may not be fully protected by the existing IP system. Thus, a new paradigm is required now more than ever, such as establishing a protection system that is more flexible to meet these circumstances.

Furthermore, along with a flexible system, there must be a strong IP protection system as well.

In order to build a foundation for strong protection of IP, our delegation believes educating children to respect IPRs plays an important role.

In recognition of such significance, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea (Ministry) and WIPO have developed and implemented various projects with the aim of building respect for copyright and related rights. One of these projects, for instance, involved the production of educational materials to raise awareness of copyright for students in Malawi; the video created through this Project was aired by the WIPO Secretariat during the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement. Additionally, the Ministry and WIPO plan on cooperating with various Member States, such as Member States from ARIPO, in promoting awareness of copyright and related rights.

Further, the KIPO endeavored to create and continues to develop with WIPO "Getting Creative with Pororo" for IP education. A ceremony will be held on September 25th to celebrate the project's newest developments. We ask that many Member States participate and take interest.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

We should not overlook the most fundamental function and role of WIPO, which is to provide premier international IP services. Especially concerning the international application systems, WIPO's global network needs to be strengthened in order to enhance these global services in terms of efficiency. To this end, our delegation believes the expansion of WIPO External Offices is a matter of priority. And in the process, countries should be selected for the goal of bringing WIPO's services and cooperation closer to the Member States.

With this consideration, if a WIPO External Office is established in the Republic of Korea, it will operate to provide local services that promote optimal use of the global IP systems, enhance cooperation activities that contribute to IP development, and contribute to strengthening WIPO's global network.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

Lastly, the Republic of Korea has actively participated in WIPO discussions regarding international policies and standards and has strived to make a wide range of contributions, particularly through the establishment of the Korea Funds-in-Trust, in an effort to promote shared prosperity with numerous partner Member States that aim to foster the development of IP rights.

The Ministry and the KIPO, since 2004, have implemented various projects and activities with WIPO through the Korea Funds-in-Trust. The Ministry and KIPO have broadened the scope of cooperation with WIPO and have thus been collaborating in the following four (4) sectors: first, copyright development; second, building respect for IP; third, industrial property in the Asia-Pacific region; and fourth, cooperation with the WIPO Academy.

Particularly, the Ministry, in further expanding the scale and scope of the Funds-in-Trust, has almost doubled the amount of contributions to the two Funds-in-Trust in the Copyright Development sector and the Building Respect for IP sector since last year. This year, the Ministry and WIPO made amendments to the existing MOUs regarding these Funds-in-Trust, in accordance with the increase in contributions.

Furthermore, the Ministry is currently in the process of finalizing an MOU with WIPO with regard to the establishment of the Funds-in-Trust for the promotion of ADR services, which would be the third Funds-in-Trust between the Ministry and WIPO.

We believe we were able to achieve meaningful results from the activities and projects implemented through the Korea Funds-in-Trust, based on cooperative relations with WIPO and the active participation of various Member States. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to WIPO and the Member States. We further look forward to your continued cooperation with regard to the Korea Funds-in-Trust.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

The Republic of Korea has achieved considerable economic growth by using IP. Therefore, we thoroughly understand the difficulties faced by developing countries and the vital role of IP towards achieving development.

While actively sharing our experience with the international society, we remain fully committed to the responsibility of advancing the global IP community.

Thank you.