

**General Statement by Republic of Korea
59th Series of WIPO Assemblies of the Member States**

Thank you Mr. Chair.

The deligation of Republic of Korea would like to express gratitude for your leadership at this session of WIPO Assemblies. Our delegation 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:

The modern society has entered a hyperconnected era where ideas and intellectual properties (IP) are freely circulated beyond international borders. Meanwhile, they must also have strong and effective protection. The deligation of Republic of Korea believe it is our responsibility to foster an environment that assures creation, free flow and protection of IP.

The rapid rise of new technologies may already have started posing challenges to Member States, but it is also being translated into a new opportunity.

Indeed, many countries, including the Republic of Korea, have been developing IP administration processes which utilize new technologies like AI.

Furthermore, the present seems increasingly opportune to initiate joint discussions on preparing a globally-applicable IP system that can properly address AI-related matters.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

As one of the most active countries in creating IP, the Republic of Korea has a goal to reach 200,000 international patent applications by year 2030.

Our delegation believes there is urgency to strengthen the global network and provide high-quality IP services by expanding WIPO External Offices.

If a WIPO External Office is established in the republic of Korea, it will greatly contribute to the increasing of IP applications as well as to the finances of WIPO.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

The increasing complexity in the forms of IP infringement these days suggests that having effective protection systems and practices for newly created IP is imperative.

In this context, the Republic of Korea has introduced implementing a punitive damages system (since July this year) that allows up to three times the amount of actual damages to be awarded, in case of wilful patent or trade secret infringements.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

There is also a concern that as long as an IP gap exists, the imbalance between developing and developed countries would remain.

In response, 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.

From next year, Korean Intellectual Property Office will jointly launch with WIPO the Master's degree program in Intellectual Property and Development Policy (MIPD).

It is our hope that our experience in achieving IP-based economic growth will be effectively shared with developing countries, leading innovative growth in those countries.

On top of that, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea has expanded its areas of cooperation by signing an MOU with WIPO in November 2018 with regard to the establishment of the Funds-in-Trust for the promotion of arbitration and mediation services for copyright.

This delegation believes that the Republic of Korea was 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.

The Korean delegation wishes to take this opportunity to extend sincere appreciation to WIPO and the Member States and further looks forward to your continued cooperation with regard to the Korea Funds-in-Trust.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

The Republic of Korea has been actively participating in expanding the IP capacity of other countries.

In particular, the recent cooperative projects carried out between the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) not only aim to help enhance the UAE's IP capacity, but also to ease the IP barrier between the countries to ensure a free flow of IP.

We regard it as a meaningful achievement that has opened new horizons for bilateral cooperation, and is excited about what would be further accomplished in the future as we work with other member states.

The Republic of Korea will remain committed to fulfilling our responsibility to contribute to the development of a sustainable international order for IP.

Thank you.