

National Statement – CANADA

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chair,

Ministers,

Ambassadors and heads of delegation,

Distinguished guests and participants,

On behalf of Canada, I am delighted to express the Canadian delegation's full support for making this year's Assemblies a success.

For the second year in a row, many of us must speak to one another through virtual means. Nonetheless, Canada remains supportive of the continuation of WIPO meetings and committee work in any format.

Over the past year, Canada has collaborated with WIPO to undertake a number of initiatives in innovative ways. For example, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) had the privilege of collaborating with the WIPO Academy to host the Annual CIPO-WIPO Executive Workshop in a virtual format. At the same time, we also partnered with WIPO to co-host the Canadian series of interactive webinars on WIPO services and initiatives. With regards to committee work, Canada welcomes the recent progress in discussing the draft proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 and on important issues related to the functioning of WIPO. In May, Canada was pleased to co-sponsor the proposal on the protection of graphical user interface designs. Canada was also pleased to participate in constructive cross-regional engagement with the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents and looks forward to continuing discussions in that forum.

Domestically, CIPO is constantly improving its ability to deliver quality and timely IP rights, and hosted our 4th Annual IP Data & Research Conference focused on the integral relationship between IP and economic growth in the spring of 2021. Furthermore, we launched an e-grant

system and delivered a new online service for applicant filing for Canadian patents through the international process under the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Canada continues to support innovation and contribute to a more inclusive IP system; notably, we have sought to better understand and support small and medium-sized businesses and underrepresented innovators and entrepreneurs such as women and Indigenous peoples. Finally, a significant accomplishment in 2021 has been the coming into force of the College of Patent Agents and Trademark Agents, which has assumed full responsibility to regulate the profession in Canada and to protect privileged communications between these professionals and their clients.

In closing, Canada wishes to thank the Secretariat for its ongoing support. Canada is eager to work with Member States and the Secretariat alike as we find solutions that best serve the interests of the Organization, IP rights holders and other stakeholders.

Thank you.