

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**General Statement by Head of Delegation under agenda item 4**  
**(63<sup>rd</sup> SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO, Geneva 14-22 July 2022)**

Ms. Chair,

First of all, on behalf of the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Sixty-Third Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and express my expectation that your able stewardship will lead this meeting to a good success.

I would also like to thank Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO and the Secretariat for their sincere efforts to ensure the success of this meeting.

Ms. Chair,

During the past one year, the number of state parties to the agreements of intellectual properties such as Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled and Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks are continuously increasing. That proves that the recognition to the importance of intellectual properties is growing day by day through the worldwide.

The science and technology plays a decisive role to overcome the numerous challenges such as spread of the global pandemic, climate change and environment pollution.

In this regard, I welcome convening the 'WIPO Ministerial Forum on Innovation' and express my expectation that this forum would be a significant occasion to discuss the practical measures to cope with the challenges facing the humanity beyond its aim; the innovation for economic growth.

Ms. Chair,

Availing myself of this opportunity, I'd like to share the views on the organization's activities to promote the protection of intellectual property (IP).

First, the organization is supposed to pay greater attention to the development of the system of protecting intellectual properties in developing countries.

Developing countries, despite their considerable amount of intellectual properties, are not enjoying due benefit from them, which is ascribable to north-south divide in IP protection and hence wider north-south digital gap and greater Brain-Drain.

Such a phenomenon does not accord with the organization's motto: Promote IP Protection System Worldwide. If such circumstances persist, the 2030 SDGs will not be attained.

In order that a balanced and harmonized system of IP protection worldwide be established, it is important, at current stage, that the treaties and conventions under

discussion, i.e. Design Law Treaty, conventions on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore are drafted in such a way as to respect the righteous demand and interests of developing countries.

Second, the organization should give due consideration to the issue of human morality and ethics within the domain of intellectual properties so that the properties substantially contribute to the welfare and development of mankind.

In the WTO conference held in June this year, the decision was made on patent waiver of COVID-19 vaccine for the period of five years - an occasion to affirm, though restrictively, the universal value that the development of science should be subjected to human welfare and that morality and ethics should be given precedence.

Last but not least, I maintain that the activities of the organization should not be politicized for its mission is none other than the establishment of a worldwide IP protection system and the raising of public IP awareness.

I also oppose and denunciate any slightest attempt at transforming the current WIPO assembly into a theatre of political confrontation surrounding the situation in Ukraine.

Ms. Chair,

The DPRK government, with the goal of building a sci-tech power and a highly-civilized socialist power, is attaching great importance to the IP protection - an impetus for development of science and technology and of literature and art.

At the 5th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) held in June, Comrade **Kim Jong Un**, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK set forth the task of focusing the national efforts on developing the might of science by holding on to the development of science and technology as a lifeline of economic development and also of streamlining the national IP protection system.

Our country has recently passed new laws on appellations of origin and geographical indications. Publication activities on sci-tech, patent and trademarks are animated via web and high education facilities are now providing education on intellectual properties.

Even in the pandemic situation, animated sectorial sci-tech exhibitions and shows are being held virtually, namely National IT Success Exhibition 2021, where inventions of workers as well as those of professional researchers are on display. They are contributing to the development of national economy for they are being promptly applied to production.

The DPRK government will actively promote the development of science and technology and of culture by further streamlining the national IP protection system and will closely cooperate with the WIPO and its member states to that end.

Thank you.