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Delegations will find attached, for information, the statements delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the above-mentioned WIPO meetings.

**Sixty-Third Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
(Geneva, 14 – 22 July 2022)**

Agenda Item 2

Adoption of the Agenda

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, I would like to support the statement delivered by the United Kingdom on behalf of the 43 delegations that requested the agenda item, entitled '*Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System*'.

Besides the human suffering, the war in Ukraine is also causing severe damage of Ukrainian cultural heritage, the intellectual property infrastructure, and the overall innovation ecosystem. These are IP relevant implications which cannot be better addressed elsewhere than in WIPO, together with concrete means that WIPO can specifically contribute to Ukraine's recovery. Under the dedicated agenda item, we intend to respond constructively to these timely matters.

In order to allow proceeding on all the important work before us, we urge the General Assembly to adopt the proposed consolidated agenda as a whole.

Thank you.

<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General/Opening Statement</p>

Madam Chair, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Czech Republic is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

1. Madam Chair, we would like to thank you for your excellent work throughout these challenging times and assure you of our complete trust in your leadership abilities and constructive approach. We would also like to thank the WIPO Secretariat for all its preparatory work.
2. The EU and its Member States fully support agenda item 19 as an integral part of the agenda of the WIPO General Assemblies.
3. We continue to condemn the Russian Federation's unjustified war against Ukraine, which is a gross violation of international law, as well as a significant obstacle to the work of WIPO, and to all that WIPO and its Member States collectively stand for.
4. We stand ready to discuss the specific contribution of WIPO to helping rebuild Ukraine's IP ecosystem. In addition, we are of the view that a fresh look at the operation of the current WIPO external offices might be necessary, taking into account some worrying developments in the IP field in certain host countries.
5. We are of the view that these GAs will provide an opportunity for the Director General to share the initial results of the new strategy, as outlined in the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026, which has been launched in recent months and which focuses on the management of each sector and its impact.
6. We are convinced that strong and balanced IP systems can and should contribute to global economic recovery. We continue to support WIPO in reaching out to business in an effort to ensure a swift economic upturn. We suggest focusing particularly on the green and digital transitions, building on well-balanced and forward-looking IP ecosystems. The question of sustainability and continuing discussions on IP and artificial intelligence remain high priorities for the EU.

7. As for membership of IP treaties administered by WIPO, we are pleased to inform you that on 26 February 2020 the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications entered into force in the EU.
8. Turning to the normative work of WIPO, we reiterate our commitment to progressing towards the conclusion of a meaningful Broadcasting Organisations Treaty that would take into account technological developments. We stand ready to further explore constructive proposals towards the finalisation of the Design Law Treaty. As regards patents, we continue to believe that the SCP should serve *inter alia* as a forum for discussions about the differences between existing patent law systems, as well as the harmonisation of substantive patent law in the future.
9. Concerning the new electoral cycle of officers of WIPO Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO, we take note of the proposed amendments and stand ready to discussing them under the respective agenda item.
10. In addition, we would like to express our expectation that as of the next GAs, we will return to the original autumn term of convening the GAs.
11. In conclusion, we remain committed to engaging constructively in all discussions during these WIPO Assemblies. We look forward to having a productive session under your able guidance.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 9 (i)

Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

Doc. WO/GA/55/1

Madam Chair,

1. We would like to thank the SCCR Chair, the SCCR Vice-Chair and the facilitators for the important work done to advance the negotiation process on the Treaty for the Protection of Broadcasting Organisations. The European Union and its Member States remain committed to progressing towards a worthwhile Treaty.
2. The revised draft text presented at the last SCCR, which simplifies and streamlines the previous proposal, ensures a good basis for our work. We hope the SCCR meetings next year will permit to advance the discussions on the text in order to ensure a meaningful, appropriate protection to the broadcasting organisations.
3. The European Union and its Member States attach importance to the support of cultural heritage, educational and research institutions and of people with disabilities, both in the analogue and digital worlds.
4. The EU and its Member States stand ready to continue to engage constructively under these agenda items. We are ready to continue the discussion on the proposal of the African Group for a Draft Work Program on Exceptions and Limitations and to engage with other WIPO Member States on the lines of action included in the Chair's Summary of the 42nd session of the SCCR.
5. However, as consistently expressed in the past, we cannot support work towards legally binding instruments at the international level. Our focus should be WIPO support and capacity building for WIPO members and improving their national legislation within the existing international copyright framework.
6. In terms of other agenda items, should the SCCR Agenda be expanded to cover additional items in the future we would recommend, as already indicated in the past, including the topic of the Author's Resale Right (droit de suite) on the permanent agenda of the SCCR.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 9 (ii)
Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)
Doc. WO/GA/55/2

Madam Chair,

1. The Czech Republic is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to thank the Chairs, the WIPO Secretariat and the members of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents for the continuous efforts and progress made since the last General Assembly. There have been constructive discussions and developments on all five main topics on the agenda of the SCP, i.e. (1) exceptions and limitations to patent rights; (2) the quality of patents, including opposition systems; (3) patents and health; (4) the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, and (5) transfer of technology.
2. The quality of patents, including opposition systems, is of particular importance to the European Union. High-quality patents can guarantee the proper balance between the interests of inventors, industry, and other stakeholders on one hand and of society on the other hand. We are looking forward to advancing the Committee's work, in particular with regard to the topic of artificial intelligence (AI). The latter will consist inter alia in discussions on a study on the sufficiency of disclosure, as proposed by the distinguished delegations of Brazil and Spain in document SCP/31/8 Rev., on sharing experience and information on the patentability of inventions using AI and by AI following the proposal submitted by the delegations of France and Spain as contained in document SCP/30/9, and on expedited patent examination mechanisms at IP offices, as proposed by the distinguished delegation of the USA in document SCP/33/4. We continue to believe that, in addition to contributing to the technical quality of patents, the SCP should serve as a forum for discussions about the differences between existing patent law systems, as well as the harmonisation of substantive patent law in the future.

3. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors. We look forward to continuing discussions on recent developments and experiences, as well as to an information-sharing session focusing on cross-border aspects of confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, to take place at SCP/34.
4. We believe that technology transfer is an important tool that helps foster innovation and development. It can create win-win situations in international economic relations. It remains a topic of great importance for the European Union. Therefore, we are looking forward to an information-sharing session at SCP/34 that will highlight the positive contributions of the patent system in enhancing innovation, technology transfer and industrial development of countries, as well as the challenges therein, through the presentation of concrete cases by various stakeholders.
5. As regards Patents and Health, researchers and the pharmaceutical industry, supported by public funding, have been putting extraordinary efforts into the development of vaccines and treatments against COVID-19. Effective incentives supporting these efforts, as well as licensing of patents, have been crucial. Broad, affordable and equitable global access to safe and effective vaccines, diagnostics and treatments is equally crucial in the fight against COVID-19. A solid, well-functioning, transparent and predictable system for intellectual property rights, including its exceptions and flexibilities, has proven not to be the problem, but part of the solution. We look forward to the exchange of updates on the initiatives on publicly accessible databases of patent status information concerning medicines and vaccines and to the updated document by the Secretariat on the “Review of Existing Research on Patents and Access to Medical Products and Health Technologies” at the next SCP session. We also look forward to the presentation by WHO, WIPO and WTO on their patent-related activities with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of the trilateral cooperation as well as to the presentation by WHO on the C-TAB initiative. Spain has taken part in this initiative with regard to a COVID-19 serological antibody technology.

6. While the European Union and its Member States consider all topics on the agenda important, we would like to reiterate our special interest in enhancing international cooperation and improving technical knowledge on patentability requirements. Ensuring a more efficient, more effective and higher-quality patent system in all Member States is in our view the right way forward in removing trade barriers and can prominently contribute to economic prosperity.
7. The European Union and its Member States are committed to continuing efforts to advance the work of the Committee in accordance with the agreed work plan. We look forward to the interesting discussions and information sharing in the SCP in the hope of achieving tangible results in the future.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 9 (iii)

The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

Doc. WO/GA/55/3

Madam Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the continued progress achievable by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications during its last session. We note with appreciation that in March 2022 the SCT was able to have its first full-blown negotiating session since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with considerable physical attendance and some informal discussions reviving.
2. On the topic of designs, we commend progress made on the topic of Graphical User Interface (GUI), icon and type face/type font designs. At the last SCT session we welcomed an updated proposal from the delegations of Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States of America in document SCT/44/6 Rev.3. Fully supportive of the text of the updated proposal, the EU and its Member States were delighted to join the co-sponsors of the proposal. We reiterate our view that the adoption of recommendations on GUI designs will further contribute to the modernisation of practices on designs. We look forward to continuing discussions on the updated proposal at the next SCT session and to working together with other delegations to finalise the recommendations in order to foster a more harmonised approach.
3. With regard to the temporary protection of industrial designs at certain international exhibitions, we welcomed the presentation of the Database Prototype developed by WIPO for the last session. We support the extension of the prototype into a full database.
4. As to the Design Law Treaty, we reiterate our view that the General Assembly is the appropriate forum to continue negotiations aimed at achieving a compromise on outstanding issues. We stand ready to explore constructive proposals towards the finalisation of the Design Law Treaty.

5. Turning to trademarks, on the topic of country names we reiterate that we would welcome an attempt to merge some concepts underlying previously submitted and long debated proposals on the table. We would appreciate the effort to simplify discussions by reducing the number of competing revised proposals and we commend the spirit of seeking consensus reflected in the joint proposal in document SCT/43/6. We look forward to continuing discussions on that proposal.
6. Concerning the topic of nation brands, at the last session we welcomed the revised compilation of returns to the Questionnaire on Nation Brand Protection in Member States prepared by the Secretariat in document SCT/43/8 Rev. We remain open to continue exploring the state of play as regards nation brand protection in Member States.
7. Finally, as to geographical indications the EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and Members of the SCT for the work in preparing and delivering the information sessions on geographical indications. The process of advancing the international debate on geographical indications has been a valuable and constructive exercise, which has been received with great interest among the participants. We consider that information sessions should address topics of significant importance and relevance for geographical indications. We maintain our concern over the treatment of geographical indications on the internet, particularly in relation to internet domain name disputes. At the same time, we look forward to the next SCT information session where the topics on “Geographical indication protection for non-agricultural goods” and “Geographical indication protection for services” will be presented and discussed. We are also considering the submission of a topic in the forty-sixth session of the SCT for an Information Session on Geographical Indications that will be held in conjunction with the forty-seventh session of the SCT.
8. Chair, the EU and its Member States remain actively engaged in continuing work in all three key areas of the SCT.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 9 (iv)

**Matters Concerning the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of Design
Law Treaty (DLT)
Doc. WO/GA/55/4**

Madam Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States note the importance of the proposal made by the delegation of the United States of America regarding the agenda of the last SCT session, as contained in document SCT/45/4. We recall that already at the 2021 General Assembly the delegation of the United States of America highlighted the appropriateness of draft DLT discussions continuing in the SCT to enable the SCT to come to a recommendation. Nevertheless, we are not in favour of re-locating discussions on the DLT within the SCT.
2. We note that no solution has been found on the two remaining open issues – namely the proposal for a disclosure requirement to be included in Article 3 of the Treaty, and the specific nature of the instrument on technical assistance and capacity building in implementing the Treaty. As regards the first outstanding issue, with reference to the various proposals discussed at the 2017, 2018 and 2019 General Assemblies, the EU and its Member States recall our active engagement in efforts to agree on appropriate wording in the context of Article 3, having come a long way from our initial position.
3. It is a regrettable fact that the General Assembly has not been able to reach a positive decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the DLT in recent years. Considering the benefits of harmonising and simplifying design registration procedures for users and WIPO Members across the spectrum of development, the continued delay in its adoption is unfortunate. The basic text of the DLT has been stable since 2014. We therefore see the risk that the text becomes outdated.
4. At the 2021 General Assembly, we appreciated the efforts of the GA Chair and Friends of the Chair, and the committed endeavours of the Facilitator, Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera of Mexico, in conducting informal consultations with Regional Coordinators on the DLT and we noted the circulation of a new proposal. However, we found that some questions raised would call for substantive exchanges with the originators of the proposal, which were not possible during the last GA session given its hybrid format.

5. At this juncture, we refer to recent developments in WIPO as to challenges relating to conducting normative negotiations in hybrid format. In our view, the 2022 General Assembly may be in a much better position to continue discussions on the DLT as compared to the General Assembly last year.
6. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States stand ready to discuss and explore constructive solutions on the two remaining open issues at this General Assembly.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 9 (v)

Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations

Doc. WO/GA/55/5

Madam Chair,

1. The Czech Republic is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to express our continued support for the important work of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property. We are pleased that the Committee has been fulfilling its mandate during the last period, despite the constraints arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the EU and its Member States welcome WIPO's active engagement in the global partnerships with relevant UN agencies, other intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental stakeholders, aimed at encouraging IP, innovation and creativity. We would also like to highlight our appreciation of the valuable contribution of WIPO and its Secretariat to the implementation of the SDGs and the associated targets.
2. The EU and its Member States take note of the Director General's Report on the Implementation of the Development Agenda for the year 2021 and Review of the Implementation of Development Agenda Recommendations. We emphasise the positive developments in the implementation of the Development Agenda projects and technical assistance, which contribute to significant improvements in the intellectual property framework of the beneficiary countries. In this respect, we underline the importance of skills and knowledge building, and the enhancement of infrastructure and platforms, as presented in the report.
3. Besides the high-quality outputs of this Committee, the value of exchanging views, sharing best practices and deliberating on new topics and ideas within the CDIP should not be neglected. In this regard, the participation of dedicated experts from the Member States and other observer organisations in the sessions of the Committee is crucial. Therefore, we were pleased by the presence of representatives of 97 Member States and 20 observers at the last session, as well as by the attendance of 1 300 participants at the two-day International Conference on IP and Development on the theme 'Innovation in Green Technologies for Sustainable Development' during CDIP 27.

4. The Committee has proved its dedication to IP- and technology-related issues for development in a changing world. In this respect, we were delighted by the support for the new sub-topic ‘Intellectual Property and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture’ for the International Conference in 2023. We also welcome the agreement on the two topics ‘IP and youth: investing in the future’ and ‘Addressing Climate Change: IP Helps Achieve the Goals of Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality’, to be addressed under the agenda item ‘IP and Development’ at the 30th and 31st sessions of the CDIP.
5. In conclusion, we appreciate the extensive work performed by the CDIP. We remain committed to contributing to further progress in the Committee’s field, bearing in mind WIPO’s objective of promoting the protection of intellectual property, as reflected in its current Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP).

Thank you.

Agenda Item 9 (vi)

**The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)**

Doc. WO/GA/55/6

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the EU and its Member States, let me first reiterate our commitment to engage constructively in the work of the IGC.
2. The last two session of the IGC on Genetic Resources were unfortunately not able to generate much progress towards a draft legal instrument on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources. To recover momentum on this work strand, we supported the decision of the last IGC session to invite the new IGC Chair to revise the Chair's Text as contained in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/5, while maintaining its integrity as the Chair's Text, for IGC 47. We reiterate our view that the Chair's Text is cleaner and more focused, and its scope is better defined than the latest version of the Consolidated document emerging from IGC 42, and it would therefore constitute a better basis for further discussions. We are hopeful that virtual activities to be conducted in the current biennium to expedite work on Genetic Resources will contribute to fine-tuning the Chair's text.
3. Turning to the upcoming sessions of the IGC under its current mandate for 2022/2023 focused on Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Cultural Expressions, we endorse the recommendation of the last IGC session to welcome the IGC Chair conducting consultations with Member States and the Indigenous Caucus on the methodology to be used in future sessions. We are hopeful that consensual solutions can be found to duly prepare the next IGC session.
4. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States stand ready to continue substantive work in the IGC as foreseen in its current mandate.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 17 Lisbon System

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States support the adoption of the the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act, as recommended by the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System on 16 June 2022 to the Assembly of the Lisbon Union, for their entry into force on 1 January 2023. For the sake of clarity, these are the amendments contained in the Annex to the Summary by the Chair of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System of 16 June 2022 (Doc. LI/WG/DEV-SYS/4/3).
2. We are confident that the proposed amendments will contribute to the simplification and streamlining of the procedures under the Lisbon System, and will provide greater clarity for the benefit of the current and future users of the Lisbon System.
3. We are willing to work together with the WIPO Secretariat and other members with the aim to develop the rules of the Lisbon System further, in accordance with the Summary by the Chair of the Fourth Session of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System.
4. Let us take this opportunity to also inform you that the discussions on a proposal to create EU level geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products have recently started in Brussels.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 19

**Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector
and Intellectual Property System**

Doc. A/63/8

Madam Chair,

The European Union and its Member States fully support the statement delivered by Ukraine on behalf of the 52 cosponsors of the proposal on *Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System*.

Madam Chair, we all know the context which has led the high number of Member States to request this agenda item and to submit the mentioned proposal. And let me at this point express our deep appreciation to the vast majority of delegations who have demonstrated last week their wish to allow the proposed consolidated agenda of the GA, together with this important item, to proceed.

The unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has been already condemned on countless occasions, including through the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 2nd March 2022, which was supported by more than 140 delegations. Regrettably, despite all the calls on Russia to cease the use of force against this sovereign country, the war in Ukraine continues for almost five months now. The unbearable damage it has been causing on the Ukrainian people, economy and infrastructure can no longer be disregarded by anyone. On the contrary, it needs to be reflected also here by the top governing body of WIPO from its specific angle, just as the many other UN agencies have already done, with a look at how an early recovery of Ukraine can be supported.

Although the broader context is indeed political, the addressed consequences of the war and the response we are expecting from WIPO are technical. The focus of the proposal before us is the recovery of Ukraine, in the specific area of the innovation and intellectual property ecosystem, which has been severely damaged by the war. WIPO is best placed to address the IP specific implications of the war, as well as to assess and to provide the assistance necessary for the restoration and rebuilding of Ukraine's creative industry and its intellectual property system. This currently most urgent and justified request, technical in its nature, and tailored to the specific role and mandate of WIPO, is the core of the proposal. It is an honest and constructive attempt to help Ukraine in these difficult times, and we therefore call on all Member States to give it their positive consideration.

The proposal has been tabled well in advance of our today's deliberations, allowing each delegation enough time to scrutinize it. The proponents have duly respected all procedural requirements. Already before its submission, the standpoints of different Member States from various regions and perspectives had been taken on board and reflected in the final language, in order to address sensitivities and to make it indeed broadly acceptable among the WIPO membership. In this respect, we foresee a smooth adoption of the proposal by the General Assembly.

Madam Chair, we will continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, which is now a candidate country for the membership of the European Union. At the same time, let me assure all delegations that we will also remain open to consider eventual requests for WIPO assistance in favour of any other Member State in urgent need, which the delegations remain free to submit and which should be then discussed in their own right.

I thank you.

<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item 21 Closing of the Sessions</p>

Madam Chair,

1. The Czech Republic is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. First, we would like to thank you for your extraordinary efforts and wise and skilled guidance throughout these Assemblies that have led to excellent results.
3. We were happy to meet the Member States' delegations in person again, which represents a return to normal. At the same time, we would like to highlight some exceptional moments of these General Assemblies.
4. We remain especially grateful for the large amount of solidarity and support for Ukraine which was demonstrated by the membership within the dedicated agenda item. We see the adopted decision as a meaningful and relevant response of this organisation. We are convinced that its implementation will make a substantial contribution to Ukraine's recovery.
5. We emphasise that consensus is crucial for this organisation and thus welcome that consensus could be achieved regarding the decision taken by this General Assembly on advancing the normative agenda, resulting in convening diplomatic conferences to take place in 2024. We thank all delegations showing flexibility to make this possible. We remain committed to work further and constructively together with all Member States on the way ahead. We are hopeful that the decision taken at this General Assembly will result in the adoption of meaningful and much awaited new international agreements under the aegis of WIPO.
6. Finally, we appreciated being able to witness the first-ever WIPO Global Awards ceremony. These awards celebrate innovative commercial solutions, based on IP rights, which promote economic, social, and cultural progress.

7. We also thank the secretariat and interpreters, whose excellent performance during the session was indispensable for the effective running of these Assemblies.
8. In closing, let us reiterate our continued commitment to WIPO's work. WIPO can count on the active support of the European Union and its Member States.
9. Thank you all and we wish you a safe return home.

I thank you.
