

**Opening Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO
2 to 11 October 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement made by Estonia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and with the statement made by Georgia on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

We thank the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat for all their highly professional work and we would also like to thank Ambassador Karklins and you, Mr. Vice-President, for considerable efforts and engagement during the period since the last session.

Mr. Vice-President,

The Czech economy is increasingly driven by innovation and creativity, so we attach a great importance to the IPR protection and recognize the key role of WIPO in this field. In our view, WIPO delivers on its program objectives and is generally in a healthy financial shape. We would like to commend the Secretariat for this, and it is also in this connection that we support the adoption of the Program and Budget for biennium 2018/2019 as proposed and we welcome the Capital Master Plan for 2018-27.

We continue to pay great attention to the improvement of all four global intellectual property protection systems, the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems and services provided to their users.

As regards the PCT, we support the extension of the appointment of the Visegrad Patent Institute as an International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authority, the only such Authority in the CEBS region.

Regarding the Lisbon Union, my country has helped to cover its short-term financial deficit, and is ready for further discussions on solutions for its long-term financial sustainability.

Turning now to the WIPO's normative agenda, we hope that the remaining open issues will be resolved, and the long awaited decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Design Law Treaty will be made.

The Czech Republic is actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We believe that this work will ultimately result in reaching consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations as a meaningful instrument for both current and future needs of the protection.

Finally, we would like to thank WIPO Secretariat and in particular the Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) for the excellent cooperation and assistance provided to us.

The full text of this statement will be provided to the Secretariat in writing. I thank you.