

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO  
Sixty-third Series of Meetings  
July 14 to 22, 2022  
Written General Statement AUSTRIA (Agenda Item 4)

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[Honorable Chair, Director General,  
Excellencies, distinguished Delegates]

At the beginning the Delegation of Austria would like to align itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of Group B as well as the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Especially we would like to support and echo those parts of the statements delivered in regard to the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unlawful war of aggression against Ukraine and deposit our satisfaction with the final addition of agenda item 19 – Assistance and Support to Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System – to the agenda of these Assemblies.

We like to express our thanks to the WIPO Secretariat for the preparation of the Assemblies in these extraordinary times and to all WIPO staff for upholding premier services to the IP Community in the last months still under difficult and – hopefully - exceptional circumstances.

We would also like to deposit our appreciation and congratulate Director General Daren Tang and his senior management team for successfully leading WIPO during these difficult times with special emphasis on the ability of intellectual property protection and rights to offer incentives and solutions to react to the pandemic and other challenges, for example with the recently launched Trilateral Technical Assistance Platform in cooperation with other international organizations here in Geneva as part of the WIPO COVID-19 response package.

Picking up on “extraordinary times” and in line with the Statement of the European Union we would like to deposit our preference for the traditional and customary **date of the General Assemblies** in autumn avoiding overlaps with meetings of other senior bodies of international organizations here in Geneva in summer.

Based on the positive reports of the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD) and the External Auditor we note with appreciation the assessed financial health of WIPO and the uninterrupted continuation of providing first class services to the world-wide IP-Community despite the specific circumstances.

Remaining with budgetary and financial matters Austria would like to thank the **Program and Budget Committee (PBC)** for its intensive and challenging work and stands ready to follow the Committees recommendations as documented in Document WO/PBC/34/16 – List of Decisions - especially in regard to the approval of the Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2021 and the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations.

Austria also likes to thank the Secretariat for elaborating Document A/63/5 proposing a new **electoral cycle of Officers of WIPO Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of WIPO**. We find this proposal very well founded and reasonable and look forward to the respective discussions and hopefully positive decisions of the Assemblies of WIPO during the next days leading to a more unified overall governance structure.

In regard to the work in the **Standing Committee on the Law of Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)** we like to deposit our special interest and ambition to continue substantive work heading at convening a diplomatic conference to conclude a meaningful **Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations** in the near future.

Austria takes positive note of the respective reports and welcomes the progress achieved in the discussions in the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (**SCP**), the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (**CDIP**), the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (**IGC**), the Committee on WIPO Standards (**CWS**) and – last but not least – the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (**SCT**).

Concerning work of the last Committee, the SCT, we are hopeful that this General Assembly keeps seeking solutions to pave the way towards convening a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the **Design Law Treaty on Design Application formalities**, where the basic text has been stable since 2014 and which would greatly benefit designers all around the globe by simplifying and harmonizing design application and registration procedure formalities.

With regard to the **Madrid System** we stand ready to adopt the proposed **amendments to the Rules of the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol** as contained in Document MM/A/56/1 and especially welcome the proposed extension of the time period for early payment of renewal fees from three to six months prior to the expiry date of an international registration which surely benefits holders of International Registrations administering their rights.

As a member of the **Budapest Union for the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedures** Austria supports the proposed inclusion of space for e-mail address and telephone number as parts of the forms available for the administration of the Budapest Treaty and the Regulations and the respective proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Budapest Treaty.

Finally, we like to assure the membership and the top management of WIPO of Austria's on-going support to the pursuit of WIPO's global goals.

[Thank you.]