

Agenda item 3: General Statement - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Your Excellency, Honorable President of the World Health Assembly,

Director General, Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for giving the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) the opportunity to speak at this important Assembly. We would like first to congratulate you on your election and the WHO on its 75th anniversary of working worldwide to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable.

WIPO is the UN specialized agency for intellectual property. It has developed a wide range of services, tools and cooperation programs in the field of IP, innovation and creativity that could be used by all our Member States.

WIPO values its close and ongoing collaboration with the WHO in support of public health-driven goals to which IP can contribute as a powerful tool for translating innovation and creativity into reality.

It coordinates with the WHO and the WTO on issues around public health, intellectual property and trade through our long-standing Trilateral Cooperation. The Trilateral Cooperation will shortly publish an update to its analysis on health, trade and IP in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will continue to hold workshops to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement and evidence based discussions on emerging health challenges and solutions. These initiatives intend to enhance the empirical and factual information basis for policy makers, which is integral to policy responses that are balanced and impactful.

WIPO also follows closely the work of the WHO, in particular ongoing multilateral processes aimed at pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. We are grateful to the WHO for inviting us to address WHO Member States as part of these processes and to share our technical expertise and knowledge. Our work through the WIPO Covid-19 package – from legislative advice to patent landscaping and from studies and reports to technical assistance – has again highlighted IP as an enabler that can support public health responses in pandemic times and beyond. We remain committed to sharing our expertise, as appropriate.

WIPO looks forward to continuing to work closely with the WHO to developing coherent responses to the challenges and opportunities of global public health.