

**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. As this is our first time taking the floor we would like to congratulate you and your vice-Chairs on your election.

WIPO is the UN specialized agency for intellectual property (IP) and innovation. It has developed a wide range of services, tools and programs to support our 193 Member States build IP systems and innovation capabilities that create economic and social benefits to improve the lives of all.

WIPO values its close and ongoing collaboration with the WHO in support of public health goals to which IP contributes. It coordinates with the WHO and the WTO through our long-standing Trilateral Cooperation to enhance the empirical evidence base for policy makers on issues at the intersect of public health, IP and trade. In November last year, the 10th Trilateral Symposium held focused discussions on the impacts of climate change on human health. The format of the Trilateral Technical Assistance Platform has been revised to expand its scope to include pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The Trilateral Cooperation will continue to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement and evidence-based discussions on emerging health challenges and solutions.

WIPO is grateful to have had the opportunity to follow closely the multilateral processes at the WHO over the last two years. We commend the Bureau and the Secretariat for their enormous efforts in this regard. WIPO remains available to provide its extensive technical assistance to Member States at their request, including support for national IP strategies, and policy and legislative advice, as they implement the outcomes from these Member State-driven processes.

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