

62th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

(4-8 October 2021)

Statement of Italy by Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado

Mr Chairman,

Mr Director General,

Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,

Italy aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and to the one delivered by the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B, on the occasion of these Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

At the outset, let me express, in my national capacity, the Italian appreciation to the Chair and to the Director General for having made this event possible in hybrid format again, giving us the chance for a safe and fruitful exchange of opinions.

Italy remains strongly committed in the development of the global IP systems and of the WIPO agenda, with a special reference to the international protection and registration of appellations of origin and geographical indications through the Lisbon System, reinforced by increased human and financial resources, as well as promoted through devoted initiatives.

As a matter of fact, geographical indications have gained more and more at global level a crucial economic importance over the last decade, as a powerful lever to protect geographical names and terms, to differentiate genuine local products and contribute to the promotion of economic development and environmental preservation, as well as food quality and safety, to the benefit of micro companies, local and rural communities.

Likewise, in the light of the new organization at WIPO, we wish to underline the importance of the IP and innovation ecosystems sector that we regard as a very useful tool to make IP have an impact to drive economic growth to the benefit of Small and Medium Enterprises, also in line with the values and targets promoted by the Agenda 2030.

We commend the DG Tang for his choice to value a market oriented action for WIPO, in order to pursue global concerns on IP and ultimately reach a wider audience, including academia.

We also support a continued dialogue on frontier technologies, including AI and blockchain.

Furthermore, Italy highly values the intensified cooperation among the WIPO, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization in support of joint initiatives to foster the access to medical technologies worldwide, in order to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hence, we express our appreciation for DG Tang's and his senior management team's efforts during the first year of their term, which managed to keep high and valuable productivity levels within the Organization at a time of unprecedented challenges.

Thank you Mr Chair