

National Statement - Canada

Submitted for the record

Mr. Chair,
Ministers,
Ambassadors and heads of delegation,
Distinguished guests and participants,

On behalf of Canada, I am pleased to offer the Canadian delegation's full support for making this year's Assemblies a success.

Canada is strongly committed to the work of WIPO. Canada's commitment to the Organization and its normative work can be seen through its engagement in various Committees and through its Membership in WIPO Treaties. Over the course of the last year, Canada joined five WIPO treaties: the Hague Agreement for industrial designs in November 2018; the Madrid Protocol, the Singapore Treaty and the Nice Agreement for trademarks in June 2019; and soon the Patent Law Treaty on October 30th of this year. Canada also remains active at the domestic level, and developed initiatives to support innovation, promote IP as a tool for growth, and ensure the inclusiveness of the IP system. This includes an IP awareness and Education program, the launch of a new Patent Collective and an IP marketplace, funding for IP legal clinics at Canadian universities, data collection on awareness and use of the IP system in Canada, and a grant program for Indigenous people to, among other things, increase participation in domestic and international fora on IP issues.

Canada notes WIPO's achievements throughout the year, including more than 40 accessions or ratifications to WIPO treaties. The Marrakesh Treaty saw 15 additional accessions; the number of books loaned through WIPO's Accessible Book Consortium increased by 41 per cent (233,000 loans) from 2017; and it has been a record year for the use of WIPO services overall.

Canada also wishes to note the collaborative engagement it has experienced during the year such as on the development of a model proposal to assist Member States in the preparation of their respective project proposals for the consideration of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). Canada was pleased to have contributed to the WIPO Voluntary Fund in March 2019, to support the participation of representatives of Indigenous and local communities in the IGC regarding the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Mr. Chair, Canada views WIPO as the premier international IP forum and encourages consensus-based decision-making, good governance and financial stewardship in all WIPO work and committees.

Finally, Mr. Chair, Canada expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat and WIPO staff for its support to Canada and to all Member States and users of WIPO programs.

Canada wishes all a productive and constructive Assemblies, and looks forward to its continued collaboration with Member States.

Thank you.