

## **OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PHILIPPINES**

64th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
06-14 July 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chair,  
Director General Daren Tang,  
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

A pleasant day to all of you.

The Philippine delegation is pleased to participate in this 64<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States. We also align ourselves with the statement made by the Asia Pacific Group and ASEAN.

For the past year, the Philippines has taken huge strides in developing an intellectual property (IP) system that is transformative, inclusive, and collaborative and attuned with its stakeholders while maintaining a distinct global outlook, but mindful of local market conditions and resources.

As a transformative tool, the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 recognizes the significant role of IP in boosting production sectors in the country. Accordingly, an IP chapter was included in the Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP) for the first time, which highlighted the importance of IP to exported products and services, and saw the need for the protection and preservation of these products in domestic and international markets in support of our dream to become an agile export powerhouse.

Seeing that IP is a crucial element in promoting and supporting innovation and creativity in the country, the Philippines enacted into law the Philippine Innovation Act (PIA) and the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act. Both laws put innovation and creativity at the center of the country's development and transformation agenda. The PIA, in particular, will support the establishment of a dynamic innovation ecosystem which is one of the six cross cutting strategies in the transformation agenda under the Philippine Development Plan. By virtue of the Philippine Innovation Act, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) became a member of the National Innovation Council (NIC), which is chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Consistent with the above national transformational plans, the IPOPHL remains committed to raising the ante for customer service and good governance by becoming a fully digitalized agency and streamlining our processes to improve our turnaround time (TAT) while significantly reducing backlogs. We also revised and updated our implementing rules and regulations as well as examination guidelines to incorporate international best practices and the learnings from our more than 70 years of experience in patent prosecution.

The Philippines believes that IP is an effective tool for inclusive economic growth in support of the human powerhouse such as innovators and creatives for whose benefit the incentive programs and capacity building activities, including those dedicated for the youth, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), women, indigenous cultural communities, and other underrepresented groups were created. To this end, however, we continue active participation in the global initiatives to empower women and increase their participation in the free market and intellectual property system. Further, the Philippines has finally issued the Rules and Regulations on Geographical Indications (GIs), marking the establishment of a *sui generis* system of GI protection in the Philippines.

Since collaboration between partners is key to achieving an effective IP system, IPOPHL continues to collaborate with key stakeholders, including international institutions such as the ASEAN, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, and WIPO to increase IP creation, filings, and knowledge-sharing. Thus, we would like to thank WIPO for the great support during our Chairmanship of the AWGIPC and the commitment to assist in the work that we will undertake as the Chair of the APEC IP Experts Group (IPEG).

Our delegation wishes to acknowledge the important work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge associated with GR and the Traditional Knowledge Bureau where the Philippines' Mr. Felipe Carino III serves as one of the Vice Chair under the leadership of Madame LiliyClaire Bellamy of Jamaica. The Philippines will continue to actively participate in the IGC meetings and the preparations leading to the Diplomatic Conference on GR and ATK in 2024.

We also look forward to reinforcing our partnership with WIPO as we ink the Letter of Understanding (LOU) that will make IPOPHL one of the Authorized Contributors to the WIPO ALERT database. This undertaking will complement our efforts in addressing counterfeiting and piracy online.

We hope, Madam Chair, that in the discussions during these Assemblies, that we move forward with normative agenda, including having a decision on the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations so that we fully transform the global IP system to serve the greater good.

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, we thank the WIPO Secretariat for the hard work in preparing for the meetings and we wish everyone a productive and successful GA.

Thank you.