

OPENING STATEMENT
of the Delegation of Ukraine at the 17th Session
of the WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group

Dear Madam Chair,

Ukraine conveys its extended gratitude to you, the Vice-Chair and the WIPO Secretariat for the preparation of the work of this PCT Working Group session and wishes the distinguished delegates substantive developments on the agenda issues. We are confident that under your guidance the Working Group will engage in productive discussions during these days.

We emphasize the importance of the Working Group's efforts to foster a common understanding and consensus on various issues.

However, as we approach the 24th of February, we feel obliged to reflect seriously on the horrific second anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, as this brutal attack was only the culmination of a **decade-long Russian war of aggression** against Ukraine.

February 24 is a day every Ukrainian will remember for the rest of their lives. At around 5 a.m., Russia launched missile attacks on numerous Ukrainian cities. A column of enemy vehicles and troops invaded the independent and sovereign territory of Ukraine.

Since the full-scale invasion, the resilient and long-suffering Ukrainian nation has witnessed the atrocities in Bucha; the seizure of the nuclear power plant in Enerhodar; the capture and murder of civilians in Mariupol; the tragedy in Olenivka; the destruction of the towns Avdiyivka, Maryinka, Vuhledar, Soledar, Bakhmut and many others; the mass deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia; the bombing of almost half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure; the ecocide caused by the explosion of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant and, sadly, many other war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia over the course of these painful 10 years in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter.

Currently, **nearly 26% of Ukraine remains occupied**. 50% of the territory occupied after 24 February 2022 was liberated by the Defense Forces of Ukraine.

Twenty-four months into Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine, some **10 million Ukrainians remain displaced**, including **3.7 million** within Ukraine and a further **6.3 million** who have sought safety abroad. **About 4.6 million** people have returned to their place of habitual residence despite safety and security risks persisting in areas of return.

Russia **continues terrorizing Ukrainian civilians** by attacking critical infrastructure and residential areas resulting in significant casualties and destruction. In 2023, Ukraine overcame 6,000 air alerts. More than 7500 missiles as well as more than 3800 drones have been fired by the Russians at Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

During only one week from 29 January to 4 February, the **intensity of shelling by the Russian military increased** by almost a quarter. The enemy conducted over 1500 attacks on more than 570 settlements.

Russian occupiers damaged or destroyed more than **147,000 civilian infrastructure facilities**, including 118,794 residential buildings, 2,982 educational and 733 medical institutions. These numbers do not include the temporarily occupied areas.

Russian aggression has also led to the **destruction of Ukraine's cultural heritage on a scale unseen since World War II**. Many heritage structures have either been destroyed or sustained major damage.

Russian occupiers damaged or destroyed **1,702 objects of cultural infrastructure**, including 681 libraries, 106 museums and galleries, 35 theatres, cinemas and philharmonics, as well as 872 objects of cultural heritage of Ukraine, including monuments, monumental art and architecture. Losses in the field of culture caused by Russia's war of aggression reached 7 bln USD.

The war has had a profound impact on Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector, including social damage, mental health effects, brain drain, infrastructure damage, reallocation of financial resources, and a decrease in IP filings, as outlined in the **Report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System**.

Moreover, Russia **continues to misuse WIPO resources** to legitimize its military occupation, including providing false information about the addresses of applicants from temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine through PCT systems.

In view of the clear territorial scope of patent rights, we demand that **Ukraine's internationally recognized borders be fully acknowledged** in all IP-related contexts and WIPO global services. Any IP rights held by an individual or entity with an address in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as any statistical and promotional information originating from these territories, should be appropriately identified as originating from "Ukraine".

Russian war of aggression against Ukraine undermines the efforts of WIPO, other UN agencies and Member States to address global challenges on the path to sustainable development, while simultaneously **exploiting all privileges and abusing international humanitarian and IP law**.

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the **Russian government has taken aggressive steps in introduce new laws and regulations that punitively target the IP rights** of many international rights holders, entities and organizations.

The **negative impacts** on the innovation and creativity sector and the IP system, **not only in Ukraine but globally**, are **deepening with the ongoing escalation** of the Russian Federation's armed aggression.

Russia has been recognized as an aggressor in a number of UN General Assembly resolutions, and has no right to shape further the international agenda. We therefore call on WIPO and its Member States to address seriously the issue of the **WIPO External Office in the Russian Federation**, emphasizing the **imperative of its closure**. A country that blatantly violates WIPO principles and its legal obligations does not deserve the privilege of hosting a WIPO Office.

Russia must feel and remember that the aggressor loses the most from aggression.

We convey our **heartfelt gratitude** to the **Secretariat** and all **WIPO Member States** who continue to offer unwavering support and solidarity to Ukraine and its people, supporting Ukrainian IP users and preserving the unique culture and heritage of the Ukrainian nation.

Approaching this tragic day, when we mourn the lives and destinies broken by Russia, I kindly ask everyone to observe a minute of silence in memory of all our colleagues, inventors and innovators, creators and artists in Ukraine, who became the victims of the aggression.

Thank you, Madam Chair.