

**Innovation Council's Opening Statement  
at the 2024 WIPO General Assemblies**

Thank you, Mr Chair, for the floor. And congratulations.

Innovation Council brings the perspectives of innovators to policymakers. Today I wish to recognize some of the important work being done in this house.

*First:* WIPO data, statistics, and analysis about IP systems and their role in developing and bringing new solutions, technologies, and creations to society. It's crucial that IP and innovation policies and programs be rooted in evidence. WIPO has a critical role to play. The organization is keeping policy discussions grounded in key areas ranging from tech transfer to biopharma innovation, to standardized technologies and licensing, and so on.

*Second:* WIPO's many activities directed at IP awareness raising, and especially, IP management capacity building. It's not enough to know that IP systems exist. People must be able to effectively use IP tools. It's clear based on the GA opening statements that WIPO's capacity-building work in this area – which we also prioritize at Innovation Council – is valued by many in this room.

*Third:* Work to ensure that innovation ecosystems are inclusive. We are proud to have worked with WIPO to advance IP diversity. This work should expand in the future to address more facets of discrimination, and to benefit more people, from all historically underrepresented groups. We look forward to continuing to partner on these projects.

This year, we are working to launch a new online IP management training tool for innovators in certain African countries. This project is in partnership with Innovation Council members, African incubators working with tech startups, and local IP counsel in the target countries, which are Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Ghana and Kenya. Please get in touch if you would like to learn more.

Thank you.

*Delivered by Innovation Council Director Jennifer Brant, 10 July 2024.*