Federal Ministry of Justice

German Patent and Trade Mark Office

G7 GERMANY

G7 Heads of IP Office Conversation

Joint Statement

We, the Intellectual Property Offices operating in the Group of Seven (G7) countries, participated in the Intellectual Property Heads of Office Conversation 2022, organised by the German Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) in cooperation with the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), in virtual format on 9th December 2022 to continue the discussion on international cooperation in intellectual property that was initiated in 2021 by the Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom.

We recognize that an effective international IP system is necessary to incentivize innovation and creativity worldwide. In light of the far-reaching negative social and economic consequences of IP infringements, fostering a positive culture of IP and fighting counterfeiting and piracy are equally important and represent two sides of one coin.

Establishing a positive culture of IP

We will cooperate to raise awareness and increase understanding of the important role intellectual property plays in the global efforts to address societal challenges, such as public health, climate change, and sustainable development.

We are aware of our responsibility to build an environment that stimulates innovation and creativity while ensuring access to new products and services to address unmet global needs.

We believe that WIPO has a crucial role to play in fostering a better understanding of the benefits of IP and instilling a positive attitude towards IP worldwide. We will continue working

closely with WIPO to ensure the furtherance of a well-functioning global IP framework that drives economic, social and cultural development.

To foster a positive culture of IP, we will promote further international cooperation, exchange best practices on a global level, support technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and collaborate on raising public awareness of the positive impacts of IP.

Fighting counterfeiting and piracy

We will also cooperate to establish shared approaches to fight counterfeiting and piracy. Both are international phenomena that call for a more effective and coordinated response. Counterfeit goods can put the health and safety of consumers at risk, undermine workers‘ rights, the reputation of IP holders and has been linked to the facilitation and funding of criminal activities such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism. The surge in counterfeit COVID-19-related goods like test kits, protective equipment, and vaccines demonstrates how counterfeiters adapt fraudulent schemes within a short time. To stop such criminal actions, we must likewise continuously review and improve our anti-counterfeiting strategies and increase our joint efforts, working through existing multilateral fora, like the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) of WIPO, but also consider how we best utilize multilateral approaches to fight IP counterfeiting and piracy.

Together, we encourage all public and private stakeholders involved in the fight against IP infringements, including consumers and intermediaries, to join forces to ensure that counterfeiters do not take advantage of new technological developments and the complexity of law enforcement mechanisms in cross-border trade that make prosecution more difficult.