On behalf of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), I would like to congratulate the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), its President Mr. Alexander Grigoriev and the staff of the Organization on its 20th anniversary and wish all of you every success in your activities.

The effective protection of intellectual property is widely recognized throughout the world as a vital instrument for the sustainable promotion of the economic, social and cultural development of all nations. The effective use of intangible assets, such as intellectual property titles and technological know-how, is an important factor for the successful development of business, not only for large multi-national corporations, but also for small family enterprises.

Throughout the last two decades, Eurasian patent system has proven that the goals set in the Eurasian Patent Convention, namely the creation of a single patent space on the territory of member states, today turned out to be more than ever in demand as part of economic integration in the region. It is worth to note, that within 20 years there has been a steady increase in the number of applications for inventions coming from countries in the region.

EAPO is a reliable partner of WIPO in the organization of cooperation with the countries of the region and it makes a significant contribution to the innovative development of the Eurasian Patent Convention by providing free access to the Eurasian patent information system developers and creators of new technology.

I commend you most warmly on these important results.