

International Women’s Day 2026 Joint Message



Photos: Getty Images / Unplash

International Women’s Day 2026: Rights, Justice, Action: For all women and girls

We, the intellectual property and innovation offices from around the world, in line with this year’s theme of Rights, Justice, Action: For all women and girls, reaffirm a shared message of building on sustained efforts to uphold, strengthen, and modernize intellectual property (IP) systems and innovation support frameworks to better serve women and girls worldwide.

We affirm that all women and girls have equal rights to protect their inventions, creations, and innovations through accessible IP systems. They have the right to access and navigate IP processes without prohibitive barriers, to own and control the commercial outcomes of their intellectual contributions, and to be counted, visible, and recognized as innovators and creators in all fields.

Women are under-represented across the IP ecosystem. According to the 2025 World Intellectual Property Indicators report, only 18% of inventors listed in published PCT applications in 2024 were women. Justice requires us to address persistent imbalances in the IP system and innovation support frameworks. Economic considerations and potential for growth are central to our shared commitment: greater participation by women in innovation drives productivity, competition, and economic growth. Investment in women-led innovation and women-oriented inventions unlocks underutilized talent and ideas and untapped market potential. Importantly, by ensuring women can effectively secure and leverage IP, it can help close persistent gaps in access to capital and markets, strengthening business growth and expanding the broader economic and social impact of innovation.

Our commitment requires action. We will work to support policy approaches that reduce barriers to IP access and use, recognizing that barriers are often compounded by broader structural and socio-economic inequalities, and that inclusive IP systems must be responsive to different national contexts and levels of development. We will promote the visibility

of women inventors and creators to inspire others, foster role models, and open pathways for future generations, demonstrating what is possible. We will strengthen IP education and advisory services for women inventors, entrepreneurs, researchers, and creators, while improving access to IP tools and information to support protection, management, commercialization, and enforcement of rights.

We commit to ensuring that women enjoy full access to and benefit from technological solutions and emerging technologies. We will leverage, within our remit, public policies that promote the participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics fields to close the gender gap in education and in access, control, and use of technology by creating learning environments that engage girls, stimulate curiosity, build confidence, and broaden vocational horizons.

To guide our actions, we recognize the importance of collecting and analysing sex-disaggregated IP and innovation data. Understanding where women are actively participating and where gaps remain is essential for driving meaningful change. Where applicable, we will share these insights with policymakers, research institutions, and innovation stakeholders to inform policy, guide resources, and support measurable indicators that track progress and identify any persistent barriers.

Advancing women’s participation in innovation and IP is a driver of sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive growth for present and future generations. We invite IP offices, governments, innovators, and partners to join us in this commitment: supporting rights, advancing justice, and taking action so that all women and girls can innovate, protect their inventions and creations, and contribute fully to global progress. Together, we can create an innovation environment that encourages women and girls to lead, create, and shape the future.

International Women’s Day joint message from:

- General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) of Albania • National Office of Copyright and Related Rights of Algeria • Angolan Institute of Industrial Property
- Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office • IP Australia • Austrian Patent Office • Directorate of Foreign Trade and IP at Ministry of Industry & Commerce of Bahrain
- Department of Patent, Industrial Design and Trademarks (DPDT) of Bangladesh • Belgian Intellectual Property Office • Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Companies and Intellectual Property Authority of Botswana • National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil • Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Département de la Propriété Industrielle du Burundi • IGQPI- Institute for Quality Management and Intellectual Property of Cabo Verde • Canadian Intellectual Property Office
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry (SNL-OAPI-TCHAD) • National Institute of Industrial Property- INAPI Chile • Registro Nacional Republica de Costa Rica
- State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia • Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
- Office Djiboutien de la Propriete Industrielle et Commerciale • Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA) • Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority
- INPI FRANCE- French Patent and Trademark Office • Gambia Industrial Property Office • National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia-Sakpatenti • European Patent Office
- Hellenic Copyright Organization • Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) • Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office of Grenada • Hungarian Intellectual Property Office
- Israel Patent Office • Japan Patent Office • Committee of Intellectual Property Rights of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO)
- Trademark and Patent Department of Kuwait • Lebanese Intellectual Property Protection Office • Registrar General’s Office (Lesotho IP Office) • Intellectual Property Office of Libya
- Maldives Intellectual Property Office • Centre Malien de Promotion de la Propriété Industrielle (CEMAPI) • Direction de la Propriété Industrielle Mauritanie
- Industrial Property Office of Mauritius • Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial • Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia
- Office Marocain de la Propriété Industrielle et Commerciale (OMPIC) • Industrial Property Office of Mozambique • Netherlands Patent Office • Nigerian Copyright Commission
- Nigerian Patents and Designs Office • Nigerian Trademarks Registry • Direccion Nacional de Propiedad Intelectual (DINAPI) Paraguay • Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines
- Patent Office of the Republic of Poland • Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property • State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) • Romanian Copyright Office
- Romanian State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM) • Intellectual Property Office of St. Kitts and Nevis • Registry of Companies and Intellectual Property of Saint Lucia
- Commerce and Intellectual Property Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Agence Sénégalaise pour la Propriété Industrielle et l’Innovation Technologique (ASPIIT)
- Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia • Office of the Administrator and Registrar General of Sierra Leone • Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic
- Companies and Intellectual Property Commission of South Africa • European Union Intellectual Property Office • Oficina Española de Patentes y Marcas
- National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka • Ministry of Justice of Sudan, Intellectual Property Office of Sudan • Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
- Directorate of Industrial and Commercial Property Protection, Ministry of Economy and Industry (DCIP) of Syrian Arab Republic • Trinidad & Tobago Intellectual Property Office
- Turkish Patent and Trademark Office • Registrar General of Uganda Registration Services Bureau • UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO)
- Dirección Nacional de la Propiedad Industrial y Registro de Software de Uruguay • Servicio Autónomo de la Propiedad Intelectual Venezuela
- African Regional Intellectual Property Organization • Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office • World Intellectual Property Organization