

## **The united Republic of Tanzania**

### **Country Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. James Alex Msekela, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Offices in Geneva at the 58<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of WIPO.**

Mr/ Madam President,

Please allow me and my delegation to congratulate you for being elected to chair the 58<sup>th</sup> series of WIPO Assemblies. Allow me too, to congratulate, through your chairmanship, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Mr. Francis Gurry for running well the affairs and functions of the Organization. We are confident and happy to say that under his leadership, WIPO has and will continue to maintain achievement of great importance to all Member States with special consideration to developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs), Tanzania inclusive.

The Tanzania Delegation is confident and optimistic that under your chairmanship successful deliberations and significant conclusions will be drawn out of the current Assemblies. We wish also, to express our appreciation of the work of the WIPO Secretariat in preparing and sharing in advance adequate information and documents for the Assemblies.

WIPO, as always, has continued to undertake a number of intellectual property projects in Tanzania, some of the project activities have been completed and others are still under various phases of implementation.

At this juncture allow me to express our appreciation on the continued technical support extended to Tanzania, specifically, the integration of Intellectual Property Automated System (IPAS) with BRELA's new Online Registration System (ORS). The new Online Registration System-Industrial Property Module started since 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 where all Industrial Property filings are done through the online system. The integration has facilitated receiving and processing applications; and has further made it possible to conduct searches and make payments for patents and trademarks online. Integration of online registration system with IPAS wouldn't have been possible without WIPO's support to make the online integration possible, the technical team from WIPO, BRELA and the ORS Consultants worked tirelessly to make the integration a success.

My delegation appreciates this technical support and eagerly awaits the implementation of Electronic Data Management System (EDMA) and introduction of IPAS Online Module together with upgrading of the IPAS VERSION which will, add value to the existing system and increase efficiency and effectiveness of processing of applications for better service delivery.

Mr./Madam President

As reported previously, WIPO is implementing the WIPO Development Agenda Project-Phase II: Capacity Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology – Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges with governments of three countries namely: Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania. Tanzania established a National Expert Group in 2014 which prioritized two challenging areas for which appropriate technology would be developed to provide solution namely: **Extraction of carragenaan from**

**seaweeds;** and **Aqua culture.** Currently, all relevant documents including the reports and business plans for the two selected technologies are complete for handing over and implementation.

The country is currently exporting raw seaweeds. The extraction of carrageenan from the seaweeds will add value and increase the revenue from seaweeds. The project has also built capacity in the use of scientific and technological information to solve technological challenges facing the society.

Mr./Madam President

WIPO has further undertaken a number of measures to enhance the ability of the LDCs and Tanzania in particular by assisting in capacity building. This has been done through different number of training courses to all levels of Government officials and some of the trainings involved the private sector. A number of workshops and seminars have also been conducted in collaboration with WIPO and ARIPO, notably, the National Roving Seminar in 2017 which was conducted in Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania where we witnessed a desire of stakeholders in the country to learn and use Intellectual Property as a tool for development.

The area of capacity building is an ongoing activity, we are therefore looking forward to continue working with WIPO in enhancing transfer of knowledge through training, workshops and seminars in order to bridge the knowledge gap in all aspects of Intellectual Property for use in socio-economic development and further we have requested from WIPO support and facilitation of Masters in Intellectual Property (MIP) program which will be offered at the University of Dar es Salaam starting 2019.

We further wish to express our gratitude, for WIPO assistance that was extended to Tanzania Government officials on strengthening knowledge and awareness on Alternative Dispute Resolution in the area of Copyrights and right holders of copyrights for Tanzania Mainland. It is expected this cooperation will continue taking into consideration the vast experience at WIPO Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre.

We would like to further inform this assembly that Zanzibar has incorporated Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms in the Copyrights Bill since the current legal system does not have adequate and up to date provisions to address Copyright Disputes. WIPO's assistance and expertise is requested in developing modern Copyright Dispute Settlement Rules of Procedure which will be aligned with Regional and International Dispute Resolution Mechanism in the area of Copyrights.

Finally, on behalf of Tanzania delegation, I wish to extend our thanks to the Chairperson, the Director General and WIPO Secretariat for successful organization of WIPO Assemblies and further assure you of our support!

I Thank you Mr./Madam President.

Head of Tanzanian Delegation