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Republic of Zambia

FIFTY-EIGHTH (58TH) SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, SEPTEMBER 24 OCTOBER 2, 2018

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZAMBIA

Chairperson,

The Zambian delegation also wishes to join other delegations in expressing our condolences to you chairperson and the people of Vietnam on the passing away of the President of Vietnam.

Chairperson,

My delegation is pleased once again to join other member states of WIPO at this year's series of meetings of the assemblies and I wish to thank the secretariat, and the Director General - Dr. Francis Gury, in particular, for the valuable work and efforts in the preparation of this meeting.

Taking this opportunity, please allow me to acknowledge the successful cooperation Zambia has continued to have with WIPO in many areas of IP development. In particular, my delegation is pleased to highlight the technical assistance rendered by WIPO to Zambia leading to the review and formulation of our revised National IP Policy. The revised national IP policy has given birth to a number of IP programs which are already being implemented. One of these programs is the formulation of an awareness strategy which once again is being supported by WIPO. Further, the revised national IP Policy has identified the need to integrate IP in the school curricular and in this regard, we are pleased for the opportunity given to Zambia to host the IP for Youth and Teacher's Regional Seminar in November this year. We look forward to a successful hosting of this very important meeting.

Zambia would also like to acknowledge the successful cooperation with WIPO in other areas of technological capacity building, particularly in the area of university led innovation. In this context, the two-day national meeting organised last year by WIPO and the National IP office on the theme of **Building Cooperation**

between Institutions of Higher Learning, Research Centers and Industries to Foster National Technological Innovation enabled the establishment of the first university based Technology Transfer Office at the Cooperbelt University in Zambia. This Technology Transfer Office focuses on encouraging university led research with a commercial value, transforming research output to marketable products and ensuring the intellectual property related protection of inventions. It also promotes cooperation between industry and business to strengthen national technological capacity. It is our hope that many such TTO will be opened in other local universities.

Chairperson

Zambia has also been an active participant in the Advanced Training and Advisory Program on Intellectual Property Rights in the Global Economy for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which is organised by WIPO and the Government of Sweden. In 2017 and up to mid-2018, 6 Senior Officials from Government Ministries, universities and research institutions in Zambia participated in the Training Program and implemented five national projects in the use of IP for development as part of the Program. In this context, Zambia would also like to highlight the excellent contribution made by the participants in this Training Program in fueling local innovative capacity and the use of Intellectual Property for development in Zambia

With regard to the agenda items for this year's assemblies, Zambia would like to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. Like many other delegates at this general assembly, Zambia regrets the snail's pace that has characterized discussions on the need for an international treaty on the protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore. Recognizing the importance of matters relating to the Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions

of Folklore, Zambia has already taken appropriate steps and enacted a law that will ensure the protection against misappropriation of these creative resources. Zambia remains hopeful that progress will be made in narrowing the disagreement and pave the way for a diplomatic conference.

Zambia stands ready to engage constructively on other matters on the agenda and I wish this assemblies a success.

I thank you.