



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT OF

HON. (RTD) MAJ. GEN. KAHINDA OTAFIIRE

MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

59TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER

STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ORGANISATION

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 9, 2019

Check against delivery

The Chairman WIPO General Assembly

Director General WIPO

Honorable Ministers

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

My delegation conveys warm greetings from the Government and People of the Republic of Uganda to all the delegates, the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry and the WIPO Secretariat.

We join other delegations to thank the Director General and the International Bureau of WIPO for the excellent preparation of the meetings of the Assemblies every year. It is always a pleasure for me and my delegation to participate in these assemblies.

From the outset, Uganda in its national capacity, fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the last Session of the WIPO Assemblies, Uganda passed the National Intellectual Property Policy on May 27th, 2019.

The overall mission of this policy is to create a robust IP value chain that fosters innovation and creativity as pillars for sustainable development of our country.

We believe that it will enhance the utilization of the IP system and develop the human capital for the IP value chain that can provide solutions to today's challenges and contribute to the full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the national development priorities.

I thank WIPO for the financial and technical support in the development of an IP policy and look forward to further cooperation in the implementation of the policy.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation also wishes to thank WIPO for the various activities undertaken in Uganda aimed at strengthening the I.P system in the country.

I particularly commend the Regional Bureau for Africa for the many initiatives in this regard. In particular Uganda benefitted from activities and technical assistance programs such as the Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on the draft action plan for protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions; and the consultative workshop on the domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty. From these engagements we

obtained valuable feedback which will contribute to creating a strong and an all-inclusive IP system in Uganda.

Uganda was also able to host a Sub- Regional Workshop on Building Respect for Intellectual Property for members of the Judiciary as a way of strengthening the capacity of Judicial Officers to deal with IP cases.

Mr. Chairman

Other programs and activities that were undertaken include the needs assessment for deployment of online IP services as well as capacity building for human resources and facilitation of technology transfer through the Appropriate Technology project and the Technology and Innovation Support Centers. I commend WIPO for this invaluable support.

Mr. Chairman,

In our aspiration to transform Uganda to a modern and prosperous country, we have prioritized creativity and innovation as a key factor to provide solutions to numerous challenges that we face including; disease, poverty, climate change, unemployment and food security.

Uganda also prioritizes building on the strong traditional systems that exist in our different communities for the economic transformation of our people.

Mr. Chairman

Turning to substantive issues on the agenda, protection of Traditional Knowledge has always been a key priority on the normative agenda of WIPO but despite almost 20 years of negotiations to design an international instrument to extend IP protection to indigenous knowledge, we are yet to realize any tangible results. I therefore call upon all WIPO member states to exercise maximum level of political flexibility to accelerate the IGC process for the benefit of our people.

Otherwise we will be making specific interventions as different agenda items come up.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation is happy to state that Uganda will continue to participate constructively in these Assemblies deliberations.

Thank you