



BOTSWANA STATEMENT

**62nd WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION (WIPO)
SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES**

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

4th – 8th October 2021

Thank you Chair,

WIPO Director General,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Africa Group. My delegation notes the report of the Director General and recognizes the many achievements the organisation made under his year in office despite the challenges caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

My delegation wishes to appreciate the Director General of the Secretariat and his staff for the hard work in preparing for this General Assembly under the current COVID-19 challenges.

Mr Chair,

My delegation would also like to express gratitude to WIPO for selecting Botswana for the implementation of the IP Model Office. Despite the challenges by Covid-19 Pandemic, which impacted the project timelines, the project is on course and is expected to be concluded in August 2022. This platform will improve efficiency in service delivery and increase national participation in creativity and innovation activities.

Mr Chair,

Furthermore, my delegation once again appreciates WIPO's support in the development of the Botswana Intellectual Property Policy (BIPP). Mr Chairman, the Policy is expected to be adopted by Government in the next Parliament session in November 2021. It is envisaged that this policy will ensure that the entire IP governance framework contributes to fostering and harnessing the country's IP potential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

In conclusion, Mr Chair, my delegation looks forward to a constructive dialogue in the following days and for a successful outcome of the Assemblies.

Thank you Chair.