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Republic of Zambia

**FIFTY FIRST (51ST) ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND, 23 SEPTEMBER TO 2 OCTOBER 2013**

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZAMBIA

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

Let me start by congratulating you on your well deserved election as chairman of these Assemblies.

On behalf of the delegation of Zambia, please allow me to pay tribute to the Director-General of WIPO and his secretariat for the timely preparation and circulation of documentation for the 51st Assemblies and the excellent manner in which the meetings of this assembly are being conducted. My delegation is also thankful for the warm welcome it has received to this great and beautiful city of Geneva.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to commend the various committees of WIPO for the work undertaken to mainstream development in their programmes and for upholding the mandate of the General Assembly on regular reporting on the implementation of the Development Agenda recommendations. In pursuing their respective mandates, I wish to implore the various committees to ensure a balanced approach to norm setting in order to guarantee that the work of this organization remains relevant to the interests of all members, especially the least developed amongst them.

For Zambia, WIPO remains an important organization for reinforcing the intellectual property regime in line with national development objectives. Through WIPO support, Zambia has been able to review her Industrial property legislation, which is now at the bill stage; and has put in place a national policy on intellectual property, whose implementation has already commenced. We

have continued to benefit from a number of technical assistance programmes including the training of staff, and the automation of our Patent office. As a result of this assistance, the office has made positive strides in improving the efficiency of the operations. With the recent upgrade of the Intellectual Property Administration System (IPAS) by WIPO from Centura to the Java 2.7 version, the Zambian Patent Office has greatly increased its efficiency in prosecuting trademark applications, and responding to queries. Furthermore, the deployment of the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) is expected to further strengthen the workflow and safeguard the electronic document management system.

The establishment of the first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at the Zambian Patent Office has also been another major milestone. The Centre, fitted with state-of-the-art electronic equipment, is expected to be fully operational soon. We are thankful for the training of PACRA staff provided by WIPO on the management of this Centre. The government of the Republic of Zambia has also benefited greatly from the Appropriate Technology Transfer programme under which two projects have been launched to address the issue of providing clean potable and irrigation water in drought stricken areas of the country. In addition, Zambia has been selected to be one of the countries to host the technology and innovation competition being organized by WIPO in collaboration with the Korean Patent Office. We are very grateful to WIPO for these important initiatives.

Most recently, the International Bureau of WIPO organized a training session in Zambia on reproduction rights, which generated vast interest among stakeholders, who included book publishers and authors. We call upon secretariat to continue efforts aimed at strengthening capacities in the area of copyright, especially for least developed countries, for these economies to

realize tangible development benefits from copyright protection and enforcement.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the adoption of the Treaty for the Protection of Audiovisual performances and the Marrakesh Treaty, I am happy to report that the Zambian government is in the process of domesticating these instruments. To this end, one of the major initiatives undertaken in the field of copyright has been the recent introduction of the hologram as a security feature to be inserted on all audio and visual works aimed at curbing rampant piracy in the country.

May I also stress the importance of expediting the text based negotiations by the Committee on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions of folklore (IGC), in line with the mandate given to adopt a legally binding instrument for their protection. My delegation is hopeful that these Assemblies will adopt the IGC report following the successful hosting of the three IGC sub-committees during 2013.

My delegation welcomes the continued focus of WIPO on consolidating and strengthening programmes aimed at assisting developing and least developed countries make better use of IP as a development tool. In particular, my delegation welcomes the change in WIPO's business model with increased focus on the delivery of services through ICT, the consolidation of the WIPO Academy and the streamlining of efforts aimed at building capacity for Medium, Small and Micro-scale Enterprises (MSMEs).

Further, I wish to commend the International Bureau of WIPO for its efforts aimed at reducing cost through implementation of cost efficiency measures as mandated by the General Assembly and wish to implore the Secretariat to

continue its efforts in that direction without compromising the delivery and quality of the organisation's core programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to conclude my statement by acknowledging the work of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) which remains high on the agenda of WIPO to balance the work of this august organization. We commend the secretariat for the progress made in the implementation of Development Agenda projects in support of developing and least developed countries. We eagerly look forward to stepped-up efforts in this area. My delegation remains committed to giving full support towards the realization of the Development Agenda objectives. To this end, we look forward to these Assemblies adopting the recommendations made by the Programme and Budget Committee in as far as the work of this Committee is concerned.

Last but not least, members should uphold the balance established in the work of the Standing Committee on the law of Patents and ensure that tangible progress is made on patents and public health, transfer of technology and exceptions and limitations.

I thank you.