

STATEMENT OF THE MALAWI DELEGATION

**54TH SESSION OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION
ASSEMBLIES, 22ND – 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION, Dr Francis Gury,**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES,

DISTNGUISHED DELEGATES,

MADAM CHAIR,

The Malawi Delegation wishes to join other Delegation who have spoken in thanking the Director General of WIPO, Mr Francis Gury and the WIPO Secretariat for ably organising the 54th Series of Assembly Meetings of WIPO and for working hard to ensure completion of these impeccable facilities.

The Malawi Delegation also wishes to associate itself with the Statement made by Kenya on behalf of the African Group in applauding WIPO on the strides so far made in promoting intellectual property world wide and also to associate with the concerns regarding lack of progress on critical matters. These include the indecision to open two external offices in Africa and the issue of technical assistance in the design law treaty. It is our belief that these initiatives have a direct impact on Africa making meaningful progress in the technological field to achieve social, cultural and economic growth agenda.

MADAM CHAIR

Malawi continues to make great strides in the field of intellectual property. We have now embarked upon the process of accession to the Madrid

Protocol. We are glad that WIPO has committed to providing all the necessary support consistent with the accession process. As part of this accession process the Malawi Intellectual Property office will carry out a number of activities with the technical and financial support of WIPO which includes the holding of a National Workshop in 2015 to sensitize not only officials in the Intellectual Property Office but other stakeholders as well; and the training by WIPO of our Intellectual Property Registry through attachments to other Intellectual Property Offices which are not only members of the Madrid Protocol but are also well conversant with it.

MADAM CHAIR,

Malawi has also been participating in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). Great progress has been made in the IGC and we believe that the text is mature and therefore a decision must be made during these Assemblies to convene a Diplomatic Conference. We believe that recognition and protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore that is subsisting among our peoples will not only empower them to commercially exploit their knowledge but also encourage them to further experiment and build on this body of knowledge within their social, cultural and economic settings.

MADAM CHAIR,

Our challenge continues to be the enhancement of our capacity as a least developed country to participate in and use the IP system for encouraging innovation and cultural creativity. We are very thankful to WIPO for the WIPO Infrastructure Modernization Division (IMD) mission to Malawi in October, 2013 to conduct further training in the Intellectual Property Automated System (IPAS). We also thank the Japanese Patent Office through you Director

General for their continued support through their Funds-In-Trust Programs in the human resource capacity-building being rendered to Malawi.

In conclusion, the Malawi Delegation wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to WIPO for its continued support in building our Intellectual Property infrastructure and human resources consistent with our country's needs and development priorities. We seize this occasion to reaffirm our Governments continued support to WIPO and anticipate further financial and technical support from WIPO to enable Malawi continue making great strides in the field of intellectual property for its social, cultural and economic development.

I THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR.