

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE GAMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE 55<sup>th</sup>  
ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION-  
GENEVA- 05<sup>th</sup> Octoberber 2015.**

The Chairman of the General Assembly;

The Director General of WIPO;

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of The Gambia, let me begin by congratulating the outgoing chair of the General Assembly for the excellent manner in which she has steered the affairs of our organization since her election into office as well as the various vice chairs. In a similar vein we wish to congratulate the new chair of the General Assembly Ambassador Dukay. We wish him the very best in steering the affairs of the Assembly during his tenure of office and pledge our support in this regard.

I also wish to place on record our heartfelt appreciation to the Director General of WIPO, Francis Gurry and the new senior management team for the excellent management of the affairs of WIPO.

The Gambia wishes to align itself with the sentiments expressed by Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr Chair, we continue to count on the usual support of WIPO for a more balanced global intellectual property landscape in line with the development agenda of the organization.

However notwithstanding the tremendous gains made by the organization in the past two years in its norm setting agenda, we note with concern the slow progress of the negotiations in the norm setting agenda of the Inter-Governmental Committee. We implore all member states to put in similar kind of commitment and political will so that meaningful progress will be attained in the negotiation and eventual adoption of the long overdue Treaty on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore.

Mr Chair, on the home front The Gambia continues to strengthen efforts in the development of our I.P system in relation to norm setting, institutional capacity building and awareness creation in a bid to sustain an Intellectual Property culture in The Gambia-

1. At the last General Assemblies, I reported that we had set in motion the necessary internal procedures for The Gambia to join the Madrid Protocol. I am happy to report that the process is now complete with the amendment of our trademark law to comply with the Madrid Protocol and the eventual deposit of The Gambia`s instrument of accession of the Madrid Protocol last month. Therefore by December 2015, The Gambia will become a fully fledged member of the Madrid Protocol.
2. Earlier this year The Gambia also signed the ARIPO Protocol on the protection of New Varieties of plants.
3. The WIPO IPAS automation project has also been fully deployed in The Gambia; thus facilitating access and search of intellectual property records.

4. My delegation also wishes to place on record our appreciation to WIPO and especially the staff of the Africa Bureau for the tremendous support in the past year in the past year such as the development of a national I.P strategy for The Gambia, capacity building in the form of scholarships for the masters degree in I.P as well as the holding of awareness seminars for law enforcement officers in The Gambia.

Let me conclude by commending the Secretariat for the excellent documentation and preparations for this 55<sup>th</sup> Assemblies and we look forward to fruitful deliberations in the course of the coming days.

Thank you.