



**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
TANZANIA AT THE FIFTY-FIFTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE  
ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO 5 - 14 OCTOBER  
2015, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Mr. President,**

On behalf of the Minister of Industry and Trade, I wish to congratulate you, for your well-deserved election as the President of the General Assemblies of WIPO and express my Government's confidence in your stewardship in guiding our deliberations to fruitful conclusion. I want to assure you that the delegation of Tanzania will do its level best in assisting you to accomplish your mission. I would also like to express my appreciation to the outgoing President for his leadership. Mr President, let me at this stage thank the International Bureau for making adequate organizational arrangement of this Assembly for our deliberation.

This statement is aligned to the statement made by the Federal Republic of Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group and that of the Republic of Benin on behalf of the LDCs Group.

**Mr. President,**

Tanzania attaches great importance to WIPO and the role of the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry for his various initiatives for the benefit of Africa and the Least Developed Countries. He has ably introduced the role of IP for development and economic growth including through technological capacity building.

The implementation of WIPO's Work plan which was approved during the 54<sup>th</sup> Series of Assemblies is another credit for his leadership. Tanzania in her quest for expedited development believe that even the poorest of the poor have intellectual assets, which if properly managed, protected and utilized, can generate wealth. We count on his continued leadership in support to our countries in expanding the applications of intellectual property for development.

**Mr. President,**

This Assembly is taking place at an important time where a number of decisions should be made including on the program and budget. We also deal with important organizational issues. We note the progress made in achieving positive and concrete outcome in some areas. Nevertheless, there are a number of critical issues that need to be tackled. In this context, we note that WIPO's regular budget and program structure remains the main vehicle for delivery of cooperation programs. We urge member countries to constructively engage in discussions and approve the budget for the upcoming biennium. Believe me, timely approval of the budget is important for the implementation of various WIPO activities and projects such as Transfer of Appropriate Technology, Access to Scientific and Technical Information for Africa and LDCs.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation would like to inform this meeting that WIPO has undertaken a number of intellectual property projects in Tanzania linked to the Development Agenda of which some have been completed while others are at different stage of implementation. In this context, I wish to express our appreciation for the technical assistance extended to Tanzania in particular the installation and the support missions for

maintenance of the Intellectual Property Automation System (IPAS) which has made it possible to simplify a chain of registration processes previously executed manually. The system may broadly be linked to the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda Recommendations (cluster A) in WIPO's work.

Currently, we are in the process of digitizing our documents and records in the efforts to adopt Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) of which WIPO's assistance and support will be highly appreciated.

**Mr. President,**

Another area which Tanzania wishes to emphasize is an initiative for establishing a branding strategy which stand out as a clear testimony of the WIPO's readiness to support my country in promoting its selected products that can compete in the international market.

The point in case is Zanzibar spices and Coffee from the mainland which are among the selected products for the branding strategy that will, upon successful implementation elevate Tanzania to higher levels in the application of "intellectual property" as a tool for development through enhanced competitiveness. We believe these efforts will complement our efforts towards improved performance of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). We hope that more practical approaches will be deployed to make such initiatives a success. My delegation urges WIPO to continue pursuing this cause towards its conclusion.

**Mr. President,**

We further wish to express our appreciation, for WIPO technical assistance that was extended in the formulation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy. The document has provided useful inputs in the process of drafting the National Intellectual Property Policy (NIPP) of Tanzania of

which at the moment, is at an advanced stage. It is our hope that, these two instruments upon a proper blending, will immensely contribute to the socio economic development of the Tanzania.

**Mr. President,**

Let me inform this Assembly that On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015, WIPO in collaboration with the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) launched an "Appropriate Technology Transfer (ATT) project in Tanzania, which I believe will contribute to the economic development and in particular, the industrial sector. It is encouraging to note that similar projects have been successful in pilot countries.

Finally, my delegation believes that the request for two WIPO external offices in African continent is compelling and justified and thus wishes to ask the Membership to support the conclusion of this matter during this assembly. We wish to assure WIPO of our fullest cooperation.

**I Thank You.**