

Statement by the Delegation of Lesotho

The delegation of Lesotho congratulates the current chair, the ambassador of Vietnam and the vice chairs, on their election to these assemblies. We are confident that their work and efforts will in the end lead to solutions that are beneficial to all.

We congratulate the Director General of the world intellectual property, Mr. Francis Gury for having displayed tirelessly a vision that has taken the administration and management of global intellectual property at WIPO, to a higher level. We commend the secretariat for the demonstrated professionalism in the preparation documentation and the meeting logistics as a whole.

The delegation of Lesotho fully supports the statements of the delegations of Senegal on behalf of the African group, and the statement by the distinguished delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the least developed countries (LDC'S).

We wish to particularly associate ourselves with the recognition highlighted by Senegal, that the work of the inter-governmental committee on intellectual property and folklore (IGC) is a priority for Africa .Africa is endowed with a plethora of indigenous knowledge that has to be harnessed to enhance developmental goals of African countries. We support the proposal that the mandate of the IGC be renewed until such time that a binding international legal instrument for the protection TK and TCEs is established.

On behalf of our delegation we now wish to highlight a few issues:

The establishment of external offices has to be finalized soonest. There is no doubt that their operation in regions that host the offices will contribute to enhancement of management of intellectual property in these regions. The guiding principles of geographical priority should be observed in reaching a decision where they should be established.

Mr. Chairman, we have taken cognizance of the developments regarding the Design law treaty and would like to see the convening of the diplomatic conference. It important when the conference is convened, issues of technical

assistance to be included. We would also like to see the inclusion of a disclosure article that will disclose the origin of the design.

Regarding the Activities at home, we are pleased to inform these assemblies that Lesotho has commenced the process towards ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. On the 12TH to the 13TH of September, The office of the Registrar general (RGO) in collaboration with the National university of Lesotho library, organized an awareness workshop on the Marrakesh treaty, with the support of UNESCO, EIFL (Electronic information for libraries) and the world blind union.

Post the workshop, the government has commenced the ratification process. We hope and we will work towards a speedy ratification of this important humanitarian treaty. During the implementation phase, we will count on WIPO's support.

In relation to educating all sectors on IP, RGO over and above of local awareness activities, is participating in the council of higher education strategic meetings, whose objective is primarily to improve the national curriculum. We have sought representation in these meeting with the sole purpose that IP be included in the national curriculum from early to higher learning.

Lesotho has benefitted from the cooperation with WIPO in the area of technical assistance and we are very grateful. WIPO has supported the participation of our people in various WIPO organized meetings. In this regard we were able to participate in the WIPO meetings. The Lesotho delegate was supported to participate in the standing committee of STC. Two Lesotho delegates were supported by WIPO to receive training at the WIPO headquarters on the Madrid system. Lesotho will be participating in the next CDIP meeting in November 2017. We also commend the Africa bureau for including Lesotho to the Casablanca meeting of youth innovators scheduled for November, 2017 and we shall be represented with the support of WIPO. The LDC division within WIPO has also invited Lesotho to participate in the WIPO-UNICA on partnership for innovation and technological capacity building in least developed countries in Ethiopia in November, 2017. We look forward to participation in this meeting as we put great

value to issue of sustainable development and are committed to forging partnerships in this area.

We have benefited and are continuing to benefit from the WIPO academy. The academy has contributed to increasing the critical mass of trained personnel in IP.

Lesotho is yet to establish TICS and we are looking to WIPO's assistance.

In conclusion, we reaffirm Lesotho's support to the Director General of WIPO and his staff in connection with the promotion and protection of Intellectual property.