



**62ND SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
GENEVA, 4TH – 8TH OCTOBER, 2021**

General Statement by Ghana

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The delegation wishes to congratulate the Chair for his excellent stewardship and thank the Secretariat for arrangements put in place to enable this meeting, under the current COVID -19 conditions.

Mr. Chairman,

A year ago, when we met for the 61st Series of the WIPO Assemblies the world faced the challenge of the development and production of a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. There were uncertainties at the time, but human ingenuity prevailed. A year on remarkable progress has been made with the development, production and roll out of COVID / 19 vaccines, over 6.3 billion doses haven now been administered across 184 countries. While the progress is commendable, the uneven distribution of vaccines, especially to developing countries, is the current challenge. The hoarding of vaccines by a few countries leaves many people in developing countries unable to access vaccines. This trend raises questions about the commitments made to 'leave no one behind' in our response to global challenges and threats such as the current health crisis.

Clearly, the response to Covid-19 can only be effective if vaccines are available in all corners of the world, after all “nobody is safe until we are all safe”. Against that backdrop, my delegation commends WIPO for its role in advocating for equity in the production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines. We welcome the concrete steps WIPO has taken to engage with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a tripartite cooperation, which we believe has the potential to deliver new strategies to ramp up vaccine production and distribution. We agree that the availability of vaccines to all is not just a moral imperative; it is the foundation for the world to build back better.

Mr Chairman,

Despite the challenging situation the world finds itself in, work has still gone on. At the National level, the Ghana Industrial Property Office of the Registrar General's Department, Ministry of Justice in the last two years continued to provide an enabling environment for a robust Intellectual Property system. The office is currently processing applications within the timelines provided under its treaty obligations for Madrid applications for trademarks and Hague applications for Industrial Designs. The Office has also completed its mapping of institutions and ready to host the TISC Program and looks forward to signing the service level Agreement with WIPO for the roll out of the program before the end of the year.

My delegation is grateful for the continuous support from WIPO to build the capacity of Universities and Research Institutions to enable them implement Institutional IP Policies in line with the National IP Strategy to promote innovative activities and welcomes WIPO's increased approach of engaging with the Youth, Women and other hitherto under represented stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana also wishes take this opportunity to express its profound appreciation to Member States that extended technical cooperation activities in the area of Intellectual Property. My delegation is particularly pleased with the support received from the Swiss Government under the Swiss-Ghana IP Project which activities ended on 30th September 2021 and will officially close by the end of the year.

Finally, Ghana acknowledges the importance of the decision that will be made at the Assemblies and offers its full participation and cooperation. I appreciate your time and consideration.