

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 5 (GENERAL DEBATE)
AT THE 61ST SERIES OF THE WIPO ASSEMBLIES IN GENEVA -
SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria wishes to align with the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group. We welcome the Chair and Vice Chairs of the General Assemblies (GA) and express our readiness to work with all Members to ensure a fruitful Session of the GA. Similarly, we wish to convey our deep gratitude to the outgoing WIPO Director General (DG), Mr. Francis Gurry, and the Secretariat for their strenuous efforts in convening the Assemblies and ensuring the innovative continuation of WIPO's work under the prevalent Covid-19 climate. We extend our special thanks to DG Mr. Francis Gurry for his hardwork and leadership over the last 12 years and wish him the best in his future endeavours.

The Delegation of Nigeria also takes this opportunity to welcome Director General-Elect Mr. Daren Tang. We assure him of our support and readiness to work together for a balanced success in addressing the issues of consideration before the GA and WIPO as an organization.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria notes WIPO's achievements throughout the past year. We take particular note of the increase in the use of WIPO services for Africa and Nigeria in particular; the opening of the second WIPO External Office in Abuja Nigeria; the efforts by the Africa Bureau on the convocation of a National IP Policy and strategy; and the training of our nationals at the WIPO Academy Training which has positively impacted our IP system and administration.

Nigeria has over the past year, remained active at the domestic and regional levels in developing initiatives to support creativity and innovation, and we have been at the forefront of promoting IP as a tool for growth and development. Nigeria is working with other members of the African Union, within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) Agreement, to ensure inclusiveness

in the IP system. This includes IP awareness and Education programme, the effective administration and protection of IP, fostering of greater synergy in the use and enforcement of the IP system - including realignment of programs related to the protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore of our region and people. In this regard, Nigeria remains committed to WIPO's normative work and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to achieve balanced benefit-to-all results in our continued engagement at WIPO.

I thank you.