



**MALAWI STATEMENT TO THE 57TH WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES,
OCTOBER 2-11, 2017**

**MR CHAIRMAN AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN**

The delegation of Malawi wishes to congratulate you and your vice chairs on your election as chair and vice chairs of these Assemblies. Our delegation is confident in your ability to successfully steer deliberations of the meetings of these assemblies to a successful conclusion.

The delegation would also like to thank and commend the Director General Dr Francis Gurry and the WIPO Secretariat for the diligent work that has gone towards the organizing of this meeting and for the excellent documentation for these meetings.

MR CHAIRMAN

The delegation of Malawi wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Malawi is appreciative of the important role that WIPO continues to play in the promotion of intellectual property as a tool for wealth creation and national

development especially for less developed countries like Malawi. In particular, we are pleased with WIPO's efforts to assist less developed countries in building their innovative capacities so that they can fully take advantage of the intellectual property system in line with the WIPO Development agenda. WIPO support with the establishment of TISC centres in some of our academic institutions for example, has opened the gate to invaluable technological information and knowhow which is essential to building our national innovative capacity. The importance of this resource is underscored by the requests that other institutions are making to our IP office to also become TISC host institutions.

MR CHAIRMAN,

My delegation would also like to appreciate the role that WIPO played during the last biennium in supporting the work of the IGC. It is my delegation's conviction that significant progress was made during the last biennium and towards resolving existing gaps and building consensus for the adoption of an internationally legally binding instrument for the protection of intellectual property and traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions. The Malawi delegation is glad that there is general consensus about the need for a renewal of the IGC mandate. However, my delegation would like to underscore the urgent need to translate the work of the committee, after over a decade of deliberations, into a concrete outcome during the next biennium of the IGC.

Mr Chairman,

The Malawi delegation wishes to acknowledge the on-going technical assistance and support that WIPO renders to our country in order to raise the profile of the intellectual property system in the country, develop the capacity of officers in our

IP offices as well as assist in the modernisation of the IP office. This year, WIPO conducted a well-received PCT National Seminar in Malawi and also supported our participation at the Regional Training Workshop on IPAS for Trademark Examiners in Gaborone Botswana and the worldwide symposium on Geographical Indications which took place in China. Malawi also participated in the WIPO and ARIPO Symposium on Copyright and Related Rights in Harare Zimbabwe where participants drew recommendations for advancing the African Agenda on Copyright and Related Rights. We are also grateful to WIPO for facilitating a Study visit for officials from Malawi to Ghana on the implementation of the Private Copy system whose implementation in Malawi will contribute towards the development of robust creative industries as a tool for wealth creation.

In addition, we received a WIPO mission on planning for modernisation project for the IP office which was led by the Director in the WIPO Projects Division. The significance of modernisation of the IP office which is the face of intellectual property in the country cannot be overemphasized. The implementation of this project will among other things lead to the digitisation of the application and grant processes in the office which will improve delivery of services in the office. In this regard, my delegation looks forward to the signing of the cooperation Agreement on behalf of the Government of Malawi with WIPO.

Mr Chairman,

Malawi has made strides in its efforts to embrace intellectual property rights as a tool for fostering economic growth and development. We have a draft intellectual property policy at cabinet level which will soon be approved; we have proposed a

new Trademarks law which incorporates the Madrid Protocol which is in Parliament; we deposited an instrument of accession to the Marrakesh Treaty in July, 2017. The Government will work towards amending the relevant laws with a view to complying with the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation recognizes the significance of decisions to be taken during the Assemblies and pledges to engage constructively in discussions in order to find solutions that are acceptable to all member states.

The delegation of Malawi wishes all member states fruitful deliberations during these Assemblies.

I thank you

Mr. Samuel Tembenu, SC
**HONORABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**