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Republic of Zambia

**SIXTY-THIRD (63<sup>rd</sup>) SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 14-22 JULY, 2022**

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZAMBIA**

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**Chairperson,**

The Delegation of the Republic of Zambia is pleased to join the rest of the members of WIPO in this sixty-third (63<sup>rd</sup>) Series of meetings of the Assemblies. We thank the Chairperson and Director General and your staff in the Secretariat for convening these Assemblies and for making it possible for all the delegations, and in particular, the Zambian delegation, to attend these meetings both physically and virtually.

**Chairperson,**

At the outset, the Zambian delegation wishes to align itself with statements made by the delegation of Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

**Chairperson,**

The Zambian Government recognizes the importance of Intellectual Property in fostering economic growth and the new dawn government of His Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, is determined to ensure that the country is able to leverage on IP to develop our national technological capacity and the enhancement of our local enterprise competitiveness. We are also mindful that to be able to achieve any meaningful progress, we will need to continue to harness our cooperation not only with WIPO but also with all our cooperating partners. In this regard, let me be quick to acknowledge our cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) through which important milestones have been reached including the integration of our trademark data on the EUIPO information and search tool called TM view. This integration will lead to increased visibility of our trade mark data to users across the globe and inevitably increase the number of trade mark applications.

**Chairperson,**

My delegation further wishes to affirm and acknowledge WIPO's continued support to Zambia through various activities intended to promote intellectual property protection and enforcement in Zambia. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the on-going support WIPO has been providing to young innovators through the National Training Program on Intellectual Property (IP) for Youth Innovation which has given Zambian youth innovators and researchers an opportunity for networking, sharing of experiences as well as the provision of mentorship support with the aim of transforming intellectual property assets into marketable innovative products and services.

**Chairperson,**

Whilst Zambia recognizes the efforts and contribution that WIPO has been providing to Zambia and many other member states in the areas of capacity building, ICT infrastructure and IP policy and strategies, my delegation believes WIPO can do more to help in developing and harnessing the capacities of youths and researchers in LDCs to generate, protect and commercialize Intellectual property assets.

Therefore, the Zambian government welcomes the "WIPO Deliverables for the Least Developed Countries for 2022-2031" and looks forward to focused implementation of the deliverables in tandem with the priorities identified by the respective LDCs.

Finally, I want to assure you madam Chairperson of our constructive engagement during these meetings and we look forward to a successful 63rd WIPO Assemblies.

I thank you