

Delegation of Cameroon CDIP/26

Item 6

Day: July 29, 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor.

Given that this is the first time that my delegation has spoken during this twenty-sixth session of the CDIP, we would also like to offer our warmest congratulations to you, Madam Chair, for your re-election to this position.

My delegation expresses its appreciation for the quality of the dialogue thus far, and commends all delegations present for their active participation in this work.

We align ourselves with the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of African States. We also appreciated the statement made by Morocco on the first day, on item 4 relating to the follow-up, assessment and examination of the implementation of all the recommendations in the development action plan.

With your permission, Madam Chair, my delegation, beneficiary of the project on intellectual property and culinary tourism in Peru and other developing countries, supports the idea of extending this project by at least 18 months.

Moreover, progress has been made in the implementation of this project in Cameroon. An inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral team has been established by the government in order to support this implementation. Since last month, a survey has been under way throughout the country and online. That survey puts questions to the four following categories of individuals: Cameroonian residents, foreign residents, non-resident Cameroonians including the diaspora, and non-resident foreigners. The targeted quota for this survey has not yet been fulfilled, and the extension of the duration of this project will enable us to explore other avenues, notwithstanding the limits on certain activities imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

My delegation takes this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration to the Director General of WIPO and to the whole team that works in collaboration with him.

Madam Chair, with regard to item 6 under consideration today in relation to women and intellectual property, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the production of documents CDIP/26/7 and CDIP/26/8, as well as all the other documents from this twenty-sixth session.

We support the statement of the coordinator of the Group of African States on item 6.b of the agenda and also encourage analysis of that point at future sessions of the CDIP.

To foster its social and economic development, in 2009 my country adopted a long-term development vision with the ambition of becoming an emerging, democratic and united country in all its diversity by the year 2035. The first phase of the implementation of this vision was operationalized through the

strategic document for growth and employment for the period 2010-2019. This period expired on December 31, 2019, and the new reference framework for the period 2020-2030 was adopted last year. This is the national development strategy document. The period 2020-2030 was covered in order to better align our strategy with the global agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals, but also to include the new challenges and delays recorded in the implementation of the previous document for growth and employment, 2010-2019.

Madam Chair, my country holds a great interest in the proposal made by Mexico since the twenty-second session of the CDIP in November 2018, as well as document CDIP/26/10. Moreover, we would like to congratulate Mexico for this proposal.

In my country, women represent over 51 per cent of the population, and projections for this target are set out in the abovementioned national development strategy document (2020-2030).

Sustainable Development Goal 9.5 and the seven objectives on science, technology and innovation were used as guidance documents. The main course of action aims to strengthen the role of women in all innovation processes, with emphasis on agriculture. Agriculture represents almost 25 per cent of GDP and agricultural activities employ a significant portion of the workforce in my country.

The strengthening of the role of women in facilitating agricultural innovation processes is an absolute priority for my country and we hope that this point of focus can be taken into account as part of future options.

In other words, it has been unanimously recognized that women are significantly underrepresented among inventors, suggesting an underexploited potential for innovation. Women inventors are generally operating within areas that are dominated by men. And yet, agriculture is an area that is dominated by women in my country. Women inventors in other areas remain models, and action for promotion and support could be intensified.

Lastly, Madam Chair, my country remains highly focused on this issue and commends the active work of WIPO towards gender equality and the involvement of women, young girls, female inventors, businesswomen and female business leaders in the international intellectual property system, notably in terms of how the intellectual property and innovation systems contribute to the empowerment of women.

Thank you.