

UGANDA.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**Fifty-First Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member
States of WIPO**

Statement by:

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

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The Director General WIPO,
Hon. Ministers present,
Your Excellencies,
Heads and Representatives of IP Offices,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me, Madam Chair, to commence by congratulating you on your election to preside over the proceedings of the 2013 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Assemblies. My delegation pledges to work with you and your Bureau.

From the outset let me associate my delegation to the statements made by Algeria as the Africa Group Coordinator and by Benin on behalf of the Latest Developed Countries (LDCs).

Madam Chair, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Bureau for organizing this year's WIPO Assemblies. We have taken note of, with great interest, the comprehensive report of the Director General's Report particularly the various positive trends in the Global IP Systems. I am pleased to state that Uganda, with technical assistance from WIPO, is in the process of putting in place the requisite framework to accede to the Madrid System for International Registration.

Within the International Normative Framework, Uganda commends the Director General for the recent successful conclusion of the Marrakech

Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise disabled. Uganda is proud to be amongst the countries that signed both the final Act and the Treaty in Marrakech.

Madam Chair, Uganda, as a Least Developed Country requires special attention and support in its efforts to eradicate poverty and develop economically and improve the livelihood of its people. We recognize that WIPO has been steadfast in supporting Uganda to develop capacity in the area of intellectual property for which we are very grateful.

Uganda is a committed partner in the development, and administration of intellectual property assets. We believe that this continued effort to invest and improve the intellectual property system will enhance our national development agenda which recognizes science technology and innovation as the lynchpin of the economy, which is beneficial to all.

The nexus of our Country's Vision as contained in the National Development Plan is the transformation from a peasant to a modern and prosperous society in the next thirty years and this is also emphasized in Our Vision 2040. We cannot achieve such a vision without the effective use of the global intellectual property system.

In a bid to improve, enhance and comply with our regional and international obligations, Uganda has recently amended its intellectual property laws with the introduction of a new industrial property law (2013), Geographical indications (2013), Trademark act (2010) among others. This is indicative of our special interest and commitment to improve and make better our intellectual Property platform in view of commercial and non-commercial benefits of our people and communities.

To this end, Uganda extends sincere appreciation to the WIPO and the Nations that received and guided us during the benchmarking studies when we were developing our Industrial Property Law and the Geographical Indications law. These include laws of Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Mauritius, and Malaysia among others. I thank you for your good reception, guidance and cooperation and creating an enabling environment for other nations to learn from your laws and best practices.

Uganda has also benefitted in various WIPO projects namely the Development Agenda project on IP and Product Branding and was one of the pilot countries; the Establishment of Technology and Innovation Centers (TISC); overall institutional and human resource developments; the office modernization program with the deployment of the Intellectual Property Automation System (IPAS) in URSB. In this regard Uganda has invested to improve the ICT infrastructure in order to provide better and timely services to the users. All this has strengthened Uganda's IP services to the relevant IP stakeholders and partners, and the many sectors we serve.

As a nation, Uganda's commitment to IP is at the highest level from the leadership and policymakers who include our Honorable Ministers and Members of Parliament. They have been directly involved in the formulation, drafting and discussions of respective IP laws and policies. In this vein we thank WIPO for organizing a very successful Study Visit for our Members of Parliament of the legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee and senior officials from URSB to study, discuss and appreciate the different aspects of IP.

Madam Chair, with the technical support and guidance of WIPO, Uganda has embarked on developing and formulating of an intellectual property policy. We believe this policy will re-organize and provide strategic guidance to all the players in the IP world including, but not limited to the private sector, government ministries and all relevant sectors for better management of IP assets.

Madam Chair, let me also take this opportunity to inform you that this November, 2013, Uganda will be hosting the Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) Council of Ministers and the Administrative Council. I take this opportunity to extend my government's invitation to the Director General of WIPO and member states of ARIPO, observers and other relevant stakeholders.

Before concluding let me add my voice to those of previous speakers in conveying my County's heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of the deadly terrorist attack in the West Gate shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya which left so many dead and many more injured.

Finally, let me state that Uganda recognizes the leadership role and commitment to excellence that WIPO provides to its member states. We commit ourselves to continue participating and contribution to the intellectual property network. We shall continue to uphold our responsibilities and obligations as a Member State, and work with WIPO and all our other partners to improve the intellectual property environment as we promote, protect and administer intellectual property.

I thank you

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.