



**STATEMENT OF THE MALAWI
DELEGATION**

THE FIFTY-FIFTH SERIES OF MEETINGS
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER
STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO),

OCTOBER 5 TO 14, 2015,

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

- Your Excellency Ambassador Gabriel Dukey, Chairman of these Assemblies,
- The Director General of WIPO, Dr Francis Gurry,
- Honorable Ministers,
- Your Excellencies, the Permanent Representatives,
- Distinguished Delegates,

The Malawi Delegation wishes to join other Delegations who have spoken in congratulating the Director General of WIPO, Dr Francis Gurry, and the WIPO Secretariat for once again ably organizing the Fifty Fifth Series of Assemblies Meetings of WIPO.

My Delegation also wishes to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Gabriel Dukey of Colombia for his election to Chair the Fifty Fifth Series of Assemblies Meetings of WIPO and believe that under his skilled stewardship we will have successful deliberations.

Let me also thank the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Cairano, for her excellent and successful stewardship during her term. Her achievements are many as mentioned by Delegates who have spoken before me.

Chairperson,

IP has a symbiotic relationship with socio-economic development in that it improves the quality of life through technological advancements and enjoyment of literary and artistic works. The Government of Malawi recognizes and appreciates that Malawi cannot make progress and effectively innovate to achieve its growth and development agenda without a comprehensive and clear IP system.

This is reflected in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (MGDS II) which is our second medium term national development strategy representing a decisive single document to be followed by all

stakeholders to achieve the goals of poverty reduction and wealth creation. It is worth noting that MGDS II singles out culture and technological development as among the best tools for sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development for Malawi to meet its Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Malawi is therefore very thankful for the financial and technical assistance it has received and continues to receive from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the field of intellectual property. In this regard the Republic of Malawi since our last

Assemblies has been able to carry out a number of activities with WIPO's assistance.

We organized a Seminar for Policy Makers aimed at sensitizing Policy Makers on the importance of intellectual property rights to the social and economic growth of our country;

We also organized a Sensitization Seminar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) where the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) was also represented. Some of the outcomes of this seminar include a proposal by our local IP agents to organize specialized

IP training. It is expected that the participants to this Seminar should be patent agents from around the ARIPO region to diversify ideas and discussions and provide a forum for networking and identification of challenges unique to their profession.

At the PCT Seminar members of the Academia expressed the urgent need for WIPO, through the Registrar General's office, to tailor-make and implement regular periodic awareness and sensitization initiatives on the use of patent information in research targeting their segment of the IP stakeholder cluster. It was observed that there was a generally low level of

IP awareness in the Academia and research institutions in Malawi.

Malawi also held a final Multi-Stakeholders Workshop to validate its National Intellectual Property (IP) Policy and Strategy in the month of August this year. The recommendations of this validation workshop are now being incorporated into the Draft IP Policy for Malawi. I wish to inform this house that Malawi will be launching its National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy in the first quarter of 2016.

Chairperson,

The Malawi Government as was stated in the last Assemblies made a policy decision to join the Madrid Protocol. As part of the accession process we held a Seminar in June with the technical and financial assistance of WIPO which made specific recommendations in preparation for this accession. Some of the recommendations are as follows-

- that we undertake a learning visit to a national office of a member of ARIPO, which is also party to the Madrid Protocol, in order to learn from their experiences after joining the Madrid System;

- that we should enhance and upgrade the existing ICT systems in our IP office to accommodate the new Madrid Protocol functionalities.

Chairperson

With the assistance and support of WIPO, Malawi has also benefited from the various seminars and workshops that have taken place since the last Assemblies. These include among others the WIPO-CIPC Sub-regional Workshop on Building Respect for IP for Prosecutors and Senior Police Officers of Selected Countries of Southern Africa in Pretoria, South Africa; the Workshop organized by

WIPO-ARIPO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), under the Japan Funds-In-Trust for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); a WIPO Patent Drafting Course for Patent Agents from the ARIPO Member States in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Chairperson,

The Malawi Delegation wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to WIPO for its continued assistance in building our IP infrastructure and human resources consistent with our country's needs and development priorities. The Malawi Delegation reaffirms its support of WIPO and its

mandate and anticipates further financial and technical support from WIPO to enable Malawi to ably modernize its IP legislation and carry out successfully its IP programs for innovation, growth and development.

Thank you for your attention.

MR. SAMUEL TEMBENU

HONORABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

& CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS