

Chairperson, Honorable Ministers, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, WIPO Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen

Namibia extends gratitude for the floor to make few remarks in this August house.

Firstly Namibia extends gratitude to the outgoing chairperson, for the outstanding leadership; Namibia also welcomes and congratulates the incoming Chairperson and all the officers elected to the various assemblies. Namibia has confidence in your able leadership to steer meaningful consultations and facilitate consensus.

Namibia pledges its support and commitment to a constructive process.

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

My delegation would like to congratulate WIPO Secretariat under the exceptional leadership of Francis Gury for the achievements as reflected in the statement of the Director General.

In the context of our national theme of “Growth At Home” and the declaration of poverty reduction by the President of the Republic of

Namibia, a number of legislative and institutional development has been initiated, and I am happy to report that:

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority Bill once passed will establish an autonomous authority to register and administer business and intellectual property rights. The authority will harmonize the administration of both the Copyright and Industrial Property Acts.

We are equally looking forward to the implementation of the new Industrial Property Act, which has been hailed by international experts as one of the best IP legislations once the administrative regulations has been promulgated.

Furthermore, Namibia would like to extend gratitude WIPO for the continued meaningful cooperation between the Organization and Namibia. We are pleased to reflect on the key initiatives undertaken by Namibia with the collaboration of WIPO in view of promoting the intellectual property agenda in Namibia. We recently held a National IP Workshop on the Elaboration of the IP Strategy, which will feed into the formulation of the National IP Policy. Namibia is pleased to note the public awareness, which was created as a result of the Workshop.

Namibia is equally pleased to reflect on the assistance of WIPO in improving and modernizing the business process of the IP Office in the form of the use of IPAS and the recently introduced Model IP Office, of which Namibia is proud to be a recipient.

Namibia is further pleased to report on the successful regional IPAS training Workshop organized by WIPO with the assistance of the Japanese Government with collaboration of the Namibian government which was held at our coastal town of Walvis Bay and the Practical Workshop on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, in relation to Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms held in the Windhoek.

Namibia continues to benefit from the various interventions of WIPO intended for capacity building in the field of intellectual property.

We wish to congratulate WIPO for organizing the Conference of Ministers to be held in Senegal, in November, which is timely to consolidate the policy initiatives towards the potential value of the use of IP towards development in Africa.

Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

With respect to the Agenda before us, Namibia commits itself to constructive deliberations in good faith, in order to reach consensus where required.

On the matters pertaining the IGC, Namibia would like to see the resuming of the text-based negotiations for the effective protection the TK, TCEs and GRs. The adoption of a treaty in these respective areas of creativity and innovation will go a long way in ensuring that WIPO is an organization of inclusivity in nature; and the protection of all forms of IP rights, irrespective of the location of creation. We urge WIPO to adopt the philosophy of the president of Namibia, which is: No one should be left out.

Regarding external offices, Namibia calls for the approval and accelerated establishment of the two external offices on the African Region. While Namibia welcomes the formulation of guideline principles, these cannot and must not be used at the expense of undermining the objective of this initiative.

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Namibia aligns herself to the statement made by the delegate of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.