

KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO- 3RD OCTOBER 2016

We would like to add our voice Mr. President in congratulating you in assuming the chairmanship of this General Assembly. We hope that you will steer this assembly into a successful conclusion. We also extend our thanks and gratitude to the former President for his hard work and commitment during his tenure and further take this opportunity to wish him all the best and success in his new assignment.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Swaziland associate itself with the statement made by the delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group. My delegation would like to congratulate the Director General and the Secretariat for the wonderful facilities and documents prepared for this meeting, including the excellent management of the organization's affairs for the past year. We also count on the organization's support for the creation of a more balanced Intellectual Property development relevant to the WIPO Development Agenda.

On the work of the Inter- Governmental Committee on Genetic Resources Traditional Knowledge and Folk lore (IGC), we commend the progress achieved so far and we can only appeal to member states to show some Commitment so that we can accelerate the progress in the negotiations and finally adopt the long overdue draft treaty on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folk lore.

On the issue of external Offices my delegation was also concerned about the absence of WIPO external Offices in Africa. We therefore wish to join other African countries in extending our appreciation and gratitude for the approval of the opening of two WIPO External Offices in Africa, one in Nigeria and the

other in Algeria during the 2016/17 biennium. It is our hope and wish that the opening of these offices will further facilitate the smooth administration of Intellectual Property in Africa.

On the Design Law Treaty, we again appeal to member states to exercise some flexibilities on the outstanding issues, so that a Diplomatic Conference is convened during the first half of 2017.

Mr. President let me now take this opportunity to appraise this General Assembly about the progress my country has made regarding the legal framework and the general administration of intellectual property.

The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Bill was passed by the Parliament's House of Assembly on the 27th July this year. It is therefore our prayer and wish that it will be passed into law before the end of this year. The Swaziland Intellectual Property Tribunal Bill, Patents Bill and the Trade Marks Amendment Bill are also before the House, and we also hope that they will also be passed and enacted into laws during the course of the coming year. The country's Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy is ongoing and now at its final stage of drafting, we also hope to finalize it during the first half of the coming year.

The Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) has been fully deployed in our Intellectual Property Office, and it is our hope that this will transform our business processes of intellectual property applications into a transparent, efficient reliable and faster service delivery to our clientele. We wish therefore to under score that it would not have been possible to achieve all the above without WIPO's commitment towards developing intellectual property in the member states. We therefore extend our thanks and appreciation to WIPO for all the support we continue to receive. We are also banking on WIPO's support in future, for assistance in the drafting of the implementing regulations when our proposed Intellectual Property Bills have been enacted into laws.

Swaziland is fully committed in supporting all the WIPO's initiatives in the development of intellectual property in the member states. We hope WIPO will continue to support us as we strive as a nation to achieve our vision of acquiring

first world status in all the sectors of our economy by the year 2022. We wish all member states a very successful outcome of the Assemblies and I thank you for your attention.