

**Statement by the Deputy Head of Mission of
Ethiopia on item 5 of the agenda at the 57th series
of meetings of the WIPO Assemblies, 02 October 2017.**

Geneva

**Mr. President,
Director General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation to you, Mr. President for the excellent leadership you have demonstrated in guiding the work of the Assemblies and congratulate H.E. Ambassador Chi Dong for his election to preside over the 57th WIPO Assemblies. My delegation would also like to congratulate newly elected countries for chairing different committees and statutory bodies of WIPO and welcome the new members who have joined the Organization this year.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of the African Group.

**Mr. President,
Achieving sustainable development and tackling major shared global challenges cannot be addressed without the utilization of appropriate technology and fostering innovation. While the link between protection of**

intellectual property and innovation is indisputable, it is equally important to note that ensuring diffusion of technology is critical for developing countries, particularly the LDC's to overcome their multifaceted challenges. It is also of paramount significance that cultural and traditional knowledge and genetic resources of communities is given due protection to address inequality and underdevelopment. It is in this context that we view the explicit inclusion of innovation in Goal 9 of the SDGs serves as a crucial leap in recognizing the link between IP and sustainable development.

It is high time, therefore, for WIPO to expand its development agenda and engage in projects that have direct bearing in the development and structural transformation of developing countries, particularly the LDCs. Most importantly, it needs to support member states in capacity and institutional building and address concerns of inclusiveness, access and equity within the global IP regime.

The Government of Ethiopia, Mr. President, attaches great importance to technology transfer projects and WIPO's support, we believe, has immense impact on the development of our Small scale and Medium Size and light manufacturing sectors. We also believe that it is time that this cooperation go beyond to include high impact and mega scale projects and technologies that could stimulate local creativity and expedite modernization of the production processes. My delegation would like to seize this opportunity to express its appreciation to WIPO and the Organization's LDCs Division for their continued support

Mr. President,

We also believe that adopting international treaties are critical to furthering our structural transformation agenda through integrating our economy into the global economic and trading system. It is in light of this important task that the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office has set out a five-year plan that identifies the IP conventions to which the country should accede and a timeline for accession is already in place.

In his recent visit to Geneva, Ethiopia's Science and Technology Minister, H.E Dr. Eng. Getahun Mekuria had also a productive meeting with WIPO's Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry in which he affirmed that the Government is now finalizing preparations to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty and is working toward signing and ratifying the Paris and Madrid Treaties. In this regard, my country would like to request the technical support of WIPO to expedite the process.

My delegation also believes that the long drawn out negotiations in Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources needs to a fruitful conclusion. In this respect, Ethiopia supports the extension of the mandate of the IGC for the next biennium to finalize consultations and adopt legally binding international instrument through diplomatic conference.

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation would like to reiterate my country's commitment to expand its cooperation with WIPO and looks forward to constructively engage in the discussions in the coming days.

I thank you