

Mr Chairman  
Director-General  
Excellences  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Chairman

South Africa congratulates you on your election as Chair of the WIPO General Assemblies and other office bearers. We stand ready to work under your leadership and the vice chairs to ensure the success of this meeting. South Africa aligns itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr Chairman

The South African National Development Plan, our vision for 2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs stress the importance of innovation and creativity to solve numerous challenges and undergird development and inclusive global growth..

South Africa is delighted that we are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the WIPO Development Agenda, whose primary objective is to level the playing ground between developed and developing countries. As one of the pillars of the WIPO Development Agenda, technical assistance should remain at the core of WIPO's mandate and should under no circumstances be used as a bargaining tool.

We laud the spirit behind the adoption of the Development Agenda and commend the progress made to date, however, we remain disappointed by the insufficient mainstreaming and implementation of its recommendations as revealed in its recent independent review report.

Mr Chairman

South Africa views IP as a tool for development. The African Continent and indeed South Africa has been blessed with a rich abundance of GRs, TK, and TCEs, which requires careful and

appropriate protection to foster further socio-economic advancement.

To give effect to this advancement, South Africa foresees a rights-based solution for the IGC and looks forward to the renewal of its mandate as we move past the stalemate currently in place. In this regard, we will continue to negotiate in good faith and look forward to consensus and an agreement on an international legal instrument.

As a member of the protractors of the disclosure requirements in the DLT, South Africa decries the poor manner in which this inclusion has been received. This disclosure requirement is critical to ensure that the right holders receive appropriate recognition. As a result, South Africa will not back down on this requirement.

South Africa affirms its commitment to the protection of broadcasting organizations as set out in the 2007 mandate while also calling for progress on the outstanding work in the SCCR.

Progress in the afore-mentioned areas will not be realized without the adoption of the budget for 2018/19 biennium. In this context, we call upon all Member States cooperation to expedite adoption of the budget.

In conclusion, South Africa remains fully committed to engage in order to build consensus on all WIPO issues.

I thank you.



## **OPENING STATEMENT**

**57<sup>th</sup> SERIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO**

**DELIVERED BY H.E NOZIPHO MXAKATO-DISEKO**

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

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