

General Statement

(submitted in writing)

Madam Chair,

1. The Delegation of Malawi is honoured to take the floor and wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group. We congratulate you and your Vice Chairs on your re-election and renew our commitment to work constructively with your committee in order to achieve the session's objectives. We have all the confidence that this committee will continue to make huge strides towards the successful implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda Recommendations under your leadership.
2. My delegation would like to thank the WIPO Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing this session, in particular regarding the supporting documentation for the wide range of issues we have on the agenda this morning. We hope all delegations will participate in these deliberation in a positive and cooperative manner in order to make this session a success.
3. The delegation of Malawi is pleased to take note of the Director General's Report on progress towards the implementation of WIPO's Development Agenda as contained in document CDIP/28/2 on the agenda before the present session of this important committee.
4. My delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for developing the Guidebook for Preparation, Implementation, and Evaluation of Development Agenda Projects document CDIP/28/INF/2 and looks forward to the committee's deliberations under Agenda Item 5 on Consideration of the Work Program for Implementation of the Adopted Recommendations. Our country has tremendous potential in many areas and we look forward to working with the Secretariat in exploring this potential and designing projects addressing our strategic national interests. Of particular interest to us are projects aimed at improving the role of women and the youth in IP, innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as transfer and localisation of appropriate technology in the construction sector to provide alternatives to fire burnt bricks as well as low-cost building materials.

5. Malawi welcomes the Summary Report on the Mentorship Program Delivered in the Context of the Development Agenda Project on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System as well as the Overview of The Guide to Intellectual Property for Startups under Agenda Items CDIP/28/INF3 and CDIP/28/INF4 respectively. My delegation looks forward to their successful mainstreaming and implementation which will also benefit women in our country by empowering them with the tools necessary for them to use innovation and the IP system to boost their entrepreneurial endeavours and contribute actively towards meaningful economic development. We hope that the lessons drawn from the pilot projects will lead towards the development of a wider project of a similar nature from which Malawi and other members of the Africa Group can benefit.
6. Madam Chair, my delegation notes with excitement the Secretariat's focus on empowering heretofore side lined groups such as women, MSMEs and the youth to be active participants in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. This is in alignment with our national development strategy, the Malawi Vision 2063, and we look forward to working with WIPO to craft strategies that remove the various age and gender specific challenges that hinder their increased participation in innovation and entrepreneurship.
7. Madam Chair, the delegation of Malawi renews its commitment to continue engaging constructively in the various discussions we have ahead of us this week.

I thank you.