

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP: 32<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS: DECEMBER 2020**

---

Chairperson,

The African Group congratulates and extends its appreciation to you and the Vice Chairs for guiding our deliberations in an efficient and amicable manner. We also extend our gratitude to the Secretariat for providing us with a conducive atmosphere to conduct our deliberations. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions which have disrupted our normal way of life we have been able to continue the work of this organisation and more importantly the SCP.

We noted and participated in the various information sharing sessions which have proven invaluable to our understanding on the various subjects under discussion in the SCP. We also note the information in the various reference documents which shall assist policymakers in addressing various issues related to patent law. We urge the Secretariat to publish all these valuable resources for greater dissemination and use by the public.

The African Group thanks all delegations, interpreters, observers and everyone who contributed in one way or another to the success of this meeting. The Group also wishes to thank Mr. Marco Aleman for his long and distinguished service to this Committee over the years and congratulate him on his new appointment as Assistant Director General of WIPO.

Mr. Chair,

This is the last Committee meeting in which the delegation of Zimbabwe shall participate in the role of Regional Coordinator of the African Group. We wish to thank the Secretariat, Regional Coordinators, Member States and above all the Members of the African Group for having entrusted this most esteemed position and role in our hands. In spite of the difficulties we have faced in 2020, it has been an honour and pleasure to have worked towards the common benefit of this great Organisation. We shall continue to contribute to discussions in our national capacity.

Finally, the African Group looks forward to constructively engage in future SCP sessions.

I thank you.