

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**DELEGATION OF KENYA**

**THE FIFTY-FIRST WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, 23 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2013**

Madam President,

Allow me to start by acknowledging, with thanks, the many messages of good will that our delegation has received following the appalling terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. Our thoughts are with the families of all those affected by both this tragedy and other similar terrorist attacks in other countries.

In the past year, the Government of the Republic of Kenya through the agency of the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) and other relevant institutions, has addressed a number of intellectual property issues with the continued support of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The Delegation of Kenya wishes to highlight the following:

Firstly, Kenya aligns itself with the sentiments expressed by the Africa Group.

**World Intellectual Property Day**

This year, in an effort to promote creativity, Kenya marked World Intellectual Property day by presenting awards to the three most innovative enterprises in 2012 as determined by their use of the trade mark system. In this regard, we extend our thanks to WIPO for providing certificates and trophies for the three winners.

**Drafting of the TK Bill**

Kenya held a stakeholders' validation workshop in May 2013 where the draft TK Law was presented and discussed. We would like to thank WIPO for the invaluable contribution in the facilitation of the conference. The draft law will soon be presented to the Honourable Attorney General to forward to Parliament.

### **ICT Infrastructure**

Following last year's upgrade of the IPAS system from Centaura to Java that was carried out with the assistance of WIPO, KIPi experienced some teething problems that are in the process of being addressed and we are looking forward to further upgrading the system to allow submission of applications online. In this regard, we are grateful for the continued capacity building initiatives undertaken by WIPO that have enabled us to further improve the capacities of our ICT officers. The Kenya Copyright Board has recently adopted the GDA system for the registration of copyright works in collaboration with WIPO. This not only provides for the registration of works but has helped in the creation of a database of copyright works in Kenya.

### **Training**

A patent drafting and prosecuting workshop was organised in conjunction with Strathmore University to strengthen local drafting capacity. The amount of interest shown in the workshop indicates the need to organise more such workshops.

With regard to the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) project, work continues on disseminating the message regarding their use with the University of Nairobi being the latest institution to express an interest and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with KIPi with regard to the establishment of a TISC at the University.

5 members of staff have benefitted from the WIPO Academy training namely the WIPO Advanced course on copyright and related rights in Sweden, The WIPO MIP program in Mutare as well as the WIPO Copyright Training in London. WIPO has also facilitated study tours to Kenya for several countries within the region enhancing the south to south co operation on intellectual property development.

### **WIPO norm setting processes**

The Government of Kenya commends WIPO and the Government of Kenya as well as the member states for the successful conclusion and adoption of the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty. This is a great step forward in facilitating access of copyright works by persons with print disabilities especially

in the developing countries. Kenya is currently in the process of ratifying the treaty as well as domesticating the provisions in the Treaty.

We look forward to positive outcomes in relation to the international protection of industrial designs, broadcasting organizations as well as the exceptions and limitations in relation to Libraries and archives as well as educational institutions. We also look forward to a consensus by members states at the IGC to enable the convening of a diplomatic conference to conclude the treaty for the protection of TK, TCEs and Genetic resources

### **International Cooperation**

Kenya would like to extend its gratitude to various countries for the assistance offered over the past year in relation to a number of training and other collaborative activities. These include China, Israel, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America.

The Government is grateful to WIPO for the support in infrastructure development in Kenya as well as conducting staff training on intellectual property matters and pledges its continued support to the organisation under the able leadership of the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry. In doing so we call upon the Director General to take measures to strengthen the Africa Division of the Secretariat in order to ensure that African member states are able to get the attention and assistance that they merit in strengthening their IP frameworks.

Last but not least, the Delegation wishes to congratulate the President and other officers of the assemblies, without forgetting the WIPO Secretariat for the commendable job they have been doing to make the organization's work a success.

- IP and sports  
- WIPO academy