



EMBASSY/PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**Statement by Her Excellency, Julia Imene-Chandura,
Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia
at the 62nd of Meetings of the WIPO Member States,
October 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

On the onset, Namibia aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency, the Ambassador of South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation would like to thank His Excellency, Ambassador Omar Zniber, the outgoing Chair of General Assembly (GA) for his leadership over the work of WIPO during his term.

Namibia further wishes to acknowledge the Director-General, Mr. Darren Tang and the Secretariat for the outstanding service in preparation of these meetings.

Mr. Chairperson,

To most of us in this room, if not all of us, there has never been a time where lives and livelihood across the Globe were threatened to this degree without discrimination. The coronavirus pandemic has indeed risen over humanity without exception. Namibia experienced the worst impact of the pandemic during the 3rd wave marred with loss of lives, hospitalizations, and socio-economic devastation. Namibia continues to strengthen its interventions of vaccination and preventive measures to curb the pandemic and the recovery of the economy.

Mr. Chair, while this vicious virus continues to threaten lives and livelihoods, it has equally opened our world to opportunities. For the sake of time and relevance, my delegation will highlight two such opportunities, namely: the value of the collective global community and the value of the intellectual products, to which WIPO and IP is a major player. While we are crafting the path to the new normal, Namibia is confident in the resilience of humanity to rise above circumstance. It is during such trying times, that humanity makes its greatest creations, innovations and inventions. This is the natural response of the human-race to any occurrence which threatens its existence or progress. It is therefore not a secret, that the solution to this pandemic, lies with the people, specifically, the intellectual products of citizens of the earth. Intellectual property is therefore a vital tool to drive these solutions.

However, Mr. Chair, while intellectual products hold the key towards restoration and recovery, human ingenuity will not be enough without cooperation amongst nations and enhanced diplomatic relations.

While nationalism and national responses may yield results temporarily, it is our collective response that will deliver effective and sustainable solution against the pandemic. Therefore, Namibia calls to pursue fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, amongst all citizens of the world.

Namibia, therefore, welcomes the efforts of various multilateral platforms advancing a collective approach towards vaccine equity and access thereto, including WIPO, WHO and WTO. Collective response is in the best interest of individual nations.

Mr. Chair, Namibia, continues to prioritize the implementation of strategic projects, as defined in the National IP Development Plan, within the framework of the MOU between Namibia and WIPO. Namibia is implementing the following projects:

Amongst others

Implementation of the IP Policy and finalization of the Copyright legal framework; stakeholder engagement with law makers; creation of efficient innovation ecosystems for African countries; and participation in the national development project providing mentorship support to community based entrepreneurs in using IP systems, particularly trademarks for business growth.

In implementing the identified projects Namibia calls upon, and embraces WIPO's targeted technical assistance and capacity building, including support to use the relevant flexibilities provided by the intellectual property system in order to achieve key public policy goals, such as access to health and education.

Mr. Chair my delegation, reiterates its support as delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Africa Group, in particular, the adoption of the 2022/23 Proposed Program of Work under the Program and Budget Committee; the approval of the renewal of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,

Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) for 2022/23 biennium and recognition of traditional knowledge in all relevant instruments, including the Design Law Treaty (DLT).

As I conclude, my delegation supports WIPO's drive towards attaining gender parity in the organization, and starting this process at the executive management level is indicative of the importance the institution attaches to inclusivity. Namibia implores that the same effort is directed towards member countries' representation in the staff of the organization and the organization's governing bodies.

Mr. Chairperson,

Namibia remains committed to advance and promote sustainable cooperation and multilateralism in the ~~in~~ interest of the collective.

I Thank You.