

Liberia Country Report
By
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MINISTER
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Mr. Director General of WIPO, Francis Gurry,

Honorable Chair for the 61st Series of WIPO General Assemblies of Member States

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and well-wishers, **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

On behalf of the Liberian Delegation at this 61st Series of Assemblies of Member States, I congratulate our newly elected Director General of WIPO, Daren Tang and his predecessor, Dr. Francis Gurry for the smooth and transparent transition of leadership which they have encouraged.

I am also keen to use this medium to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and his two Vice Chairs for your election to spearhead these Assemblies in these unprecedented times.

The Liberian Delegation extends its heartfelt congratulations also to the outgoing Chair and his two Vice Chairs for their able leadership during the course of their tenure.

Mr. Chair, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, and the people of the Republic of Liberia, it is certainly an honor for which we are gratified to participate in these annual Series of Assembly of Member States of WIPO.

Mr. Chair, my Delegation associates itself with the statement of the African Group.

Mr. Chair, my Delegation also associates itself with the statement of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Dr. Gurry, your two terms, twelve years of leadership, which started on 1st of October 2008, will come to an end on the last day of September 2020. Though your physical leadership presence will come to an end, your legacy will be recorded on the bright side of history. Liberia and Africa, I am sure our brothers and sisters from other parts of the world will tell the tales of your excellent leadership in bringing this institution to higher heights. We thank you for your service!!

Under your sound leadership, our continent and countries came closer to understanding the true worth of these intangible assets, called Intellectual Property. We developed human capacity

beyond measures. You built our fragile IP systems. We revised our trade policy laws in harmony with IP treaties and requirements. We provided our people the opportunity of daring to dream, that one day of becoming the next big news from what IP can do in transforming the world.

We are not where we supposed to be but yet, we are far from where you met us.

We are hopeful that you have left us in the capable hands of our new Director General, Mr. Daren Tang.

My Delegation and I would at this juncture, congratulate WIPO newly elected Director General, Mr. Daren Tang and his team, as they join efforts in continuing the endeavors of this noble institution.

Mr. Chair, as you were informed in our past country reports, Liberia has achieved a milestone in the implementation of its IPDP, we are fast beyond the expectations and deadlines set forth in said IP development policy framework. We are gearing up for our first review and report, its implementation, covering the first Three (3) years, by early next year. We look forward to successful outcomes.

Our Government, the Government of the People of Liberia, led by His Excellency, Dr. George M. Weah, has committed itself to ensuring that we build the infrastructure needed to harness economic growth and development through the knowledge based platform that IP provides.

As you may be aware, Dr. Weah, as an artist, has produced one of the most widely played and listened to songs on Corona Virus awareness. UNICEF has negotiated for its use at various platforms in providing the needed awareness on Corona Virus.

Hon. Chair, Distinguished platform guests, I am pleased to report, that the 43rd Session of the Administrative Council and 18th Session of the Ministerial Council Meetings of ARIPO Member States were held in Liberia last November and Liberia now serves as Chair for both Meetings.

Hon. Chair, Distinguished platform guests, I am pleased to report, that we have settled the long standing uncertainty over the kind of CMO and the direction of said institution, as important as it is, in the collection and distribution of royalties for artists and producers, from the broadcast and communication of all works emanating from Liberia.

An Executive Director for the CMO named and styled, Copyright Society of Liberia (COSOL) has been appointed and our offices have provided the needed support to enhance the work.

With CMO organization now in the back view, our focus is to see it through the major hurdles associated with its growth. We look forward to all the support we can get in this regard.

Mr. Chair, my Delegation also recalls that during the 54th General Assembly of WIPO and the 59th General Assembly, our delegation made certain request for the conduct of training of judges

and court officers at our Judiciary in the enforcement of IP rights. However, we note that our health crises at the time, and this time, has made it impossible and as a result, I am amending that request to entail the development of a curriculum for our Judicial Institute to use in training of court officers and judges as we now have the level of expertise on ground to facilitate the continuous learning process- with thanks to the WIPO and ARIPO academies and support from the People of Japan. It is certain that this venture will encourage IP enforcement and more adjudication in the courts of law.

Ladies and Gentleman, Colleagues and Friends, the fight against this deadly disease, COVID 19 Virus, is not over, let's continue to keep guard, keep following the rules set by WHO and other Health Institutions. **Collectively, we will defeat this virus!!**

I Thank You