

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



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PERMANENT MISSION OF RWANDA

GENEVA

**Assemblies of Member States of WIPO: Fifty-First Series of  
Meetings**

*Statement by*

*Mr Moses Rugema*

*Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United  
Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva*

**Geneva, 25 September 2013**

*Check against delivery*

At the outset, let me join other delegations in congratulating you Madam President on your election as President of the Assemblies of Member States and assure you of my delegations support.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Algeria on behalf of the African group and Benin on behalf of the LDCs.

On behalf of the government Rwanda, let me take this opportunity to extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Kenya. We condemn in the strongest possible terms this heinous act and assure the government and people of our solidarity and support.

***Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,***

The Government of Rwanda recognises the vital role Intellectual Property plays in the growth and development of its economy and in the achievement of our vision 2020 (Rwanda's overarching development strategy). In this regard, the government of Rwanda has put in place a number of policy and program initiatives to ensure the protection of intellectual property and the use of the IP regime for development. Information and awareness

campaigns have been conducted in universities, the business community and research institutions in order to broaden and deepen understanding of IP and to ensure that all stakeholders appreciate the link between IP, investment and development.

In addition, the government of Rwanda with the support and cooperation of WIPO has achieved the following:

- The establishment of the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC);
- The establishment of the Rwandan Society of Authors;
- Rwanda has ratified various treaties including the Madrid protocol & the PCT and these treaties have entered into force;
- The development of IP Policy and legislations; and
- The implementation of the IPAS system (Intellectual Property Automation System)

***Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen;***

The Government of Rwanda welcomes the successful conclusion of the diplomatic conference of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities which will

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benefit the more than 314 million blind and visually impaired persons in the world. In conclusion Madam President, allow me to reiterate Rwanda's commitment to ensuring that IP continues to play a vital role in development. We look forward to contributing meaningfully to our deliberations over the next few days.

I thank you for your kind attention.