

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA ON AGENDA ITEM 17 - THE BEIJING
TREATY ON AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCES**

Mr. Chairman

Nigeria welcomes the entry into force of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, on 28 April 2020. The significance of the treaty in protecting the intellectual property rights of audiovisual performers cannot be overstated. It brings performers under the international copyright framework and clearly defines their rights. This clarity is particularly important in this digital age where the boundaries of intellectual property rights have sometimes been blurred.

2. We are greatly pleased with the potential economic empowerment that the treaty brings to performers. We commend all Member States for their commitment that has allowed the treaty to come into force. It renews our faith in multilateralism and proves that it can be made to work for the common good.

3. As a nation widely recognized as one of the three most prolific film producers in the world, the Beijing Treaty is a welcome development to our citizens involved in the audiovisual industry. Our Government is strongly committed to ensuring that they derive all the benefits that the treaty confers on them. This commitment is underscored by the modernization of the intellectual property system.

4. Nigeria is richly endowed with creative talent and has become a major player in all sectors of the copyright industry. The creative sector remains a major factor of economic growth with experts estimating the potential annual revenue earnings from the Nigerian film industry to be between US\$250m to US\$400m. This represents only a fraction of the contribution of the entire creative industry to the nation's GDP. In recognition of this, the Government has continued to provide the sector with the needed fiscal, infrastructural and institutional support.

5. The present Copyright Act in Nigeria already makes provision for the protection of performers. The new Treaty however imposes additional obligations that would require amendments to the present provisions, particularly as they concern audiovisual performances. These obligations have been addressed in the Draft Copyright Bill that was recently considered and approved by the Federal Government. These and other far-reaching provisions of the proposed Bill would

strengthen the protection available and enhance the revenue potentials of the creative sector in the digital environment.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to abide by the terms of the Beijing Treaty. We look forward to engaging with WIPO Member States, audiovisual performers and indeed all other stakeholders to ensure that the treaty works for the benefit of all.

I thank you.