



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AT THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION**

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Mr Chairman,  
The Director General,  
Distinguished delegates  
Greetings from Uganda.

Mr Chairman,  
The Delegation of Uganda joins other delegations in thanking you and the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry and staff of the WIPO Secretariat for the hard work, innovativeness and creativity in organising and convening these Assemblies in these rather difficult times. I especially would like to extend mine and my country's warm appreciation to Dr. Francis Gurry for the great service he has offered to WIPO during his tenure of service particularly as a Director General. Under his tenure the organisation used its best effort to implement the development agenda highlighted by the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. We join other delegations in wishing you success in your future endeavours.

On a sad note, we would like to express our condolences to the family of M/s Carole Croella. Here in Uganda we had the pleasure of benefiting from her professional expertise driven by passion for development of the creative industry. Her legacy will live long among the creative industry fraternity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ugandan delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group. We join together with other delegations to welcome and congratulate the Director General Elect, Mr Daren Tang. We look forward to working with him and the team behind him to further our cooperation with WIPO.

Mr. Chairman,

Holding this year's assemblies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. I am addressing you from Uganda's capital Kampala and would



like to take this opportunity to note the excellent adaption of the organisation to this new normal.

Whereas many activities have been postponed, we note that the organisation remained open for business and activities that could be held virtually continued. In the meantime many countries are looking to the fruits of intellectual property to protect their citizens in order to get back to normalcy as soon as is safely possible.

Mr Chairman

The National IP Office of Uganda that is Uganda Registration Services Bureau has due to the many years of investment and support from WIPO particularly in respect of IPAS Intellectual Property Automation System (IPAS), managed to adapt to this new normal. The office quickly adapted its services to electronic administration which enabled startups providing health solutions from masks to ventilators to be able to make available their products to the public.

Mr. Chairman

As business went on the office managed through the international Bureau to enter into understanding with International Search Authorities. We are grateful for the Intellectual Property of Singapore, the Austrian Patent Office, the European Patent Office and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office for agreeing to provide search and examination services for Applicants from Uganda.

We also are working to grow our cooperation with the United States Trademark and Patent Office and the Korea Intellectual Property Office through various forms of cooperation mechanisms.

Mr Chairman

As is blatantly obvious, the Assemblies would have provided an opportunity to affirm and confirm these cooperation initiatives and we therefore look forward to the extraordinary session in the terms proposed by the Africa Group coordinator.

Mr Chairman

Let me conclude by assuring you of Uganda's constructive engagement on the agenda items and we will be making interventions as and when each agenda item comes up.

Thank you.

