

Check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. MINELIK ALEMU GETAHUN

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY & PLENIPOTENTIARY,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT  
GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN  
SWITZERLAND

AT THE 51<sup>ST</sup> WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

GENEVA, 23 SEPTEMBER 2013

Madame President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and the Vice-Presidents on your elections to preside over the 2013 WIPO Assemblies.

I thank the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his comprehensive annual report and his able leadership.

Ethiopia endorses the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the African Group and Benin on behalf of the Least Developed Countries.

Madame President,

We are encouraged to note that WIPO continues to register remarkable achievements in promoting the development of international intellectual property regime around the world.

The completion of the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate Access to Published Works for the Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled Persons at the June Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco is the second significant advancement, next to the Beijing Treaty, in international norm setting and represents one of the excellent works done at WIPO. The Ethiopian delegation congratulates all Member States, WIPO Secretariat under the active leadership of the Director General for this successful multilateral norm setting. Ethiopia hopes that the spirit of Beijing and Marrakesh will be carried over into the rest of the normative agenda of WIPO to advance the international protection to Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

Madame President

Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan contains strategic directions, including the establishment of innovation systems, technology transfer, development and the strengthening of the national IP system, with the aim of

strengthening the country's economic competitiveness. In this context, our cooperation with WIPO contributes to Ethiopia's innovative development strategy and programmes.

We appreciate WIPO's impact-oriented activities, the support and assistance extended to Ethiopia over the past years in the development of IP infrastructure, capacity building, national IP Policy formulation, establishment of TISC and automation of the Ethiopian Intellectual Property System. We appreciate WIPO's continued support through the programmes of WIPO Start-up Academy and development cooperation activities through its LDCs Division. We look forward to further broadening our cooperation with WIPO, including in the implementation of projects on transfer of appropriate technology in Ethiopia.

Madam President,

An international instrument on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions is a major priority for the organisation. The Ethiopian delegation commends the untiring efforts made so far by the IGC in seeking consensus. Member States shall redouble their efforts to forge consensus and make breakthrough in the IGC negotiations. This requires a great deal of commitment on the part of all Parties. The General Assembly, thus, needs to renew the mandate of the IGC for the next biennium and the convening of a Diplomatic Conference in 2014/2015 biennium.

I thank you.