

Ghana's Statement – 54th Series of Meetings.

Madam President,

The delegation of Ghana would like to commend you and the vice chairs for your excellent work in conducting the General Assembly. The delegation is confident that you will steer the affairs of the meeting to a successful end.

We associate ourselves with the statement made by Kenya on behalf of the African Group. The delegation would like to congratulate Dr. Francis Gurry for his re-appointment for a second term as the Director – General of WIPO. We wish him and the new management team success. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the outgoing management team for excellent work during their tenure and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours. Our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out throughout the year, and in particular for the hard work in preparing large quantities of informative documents for the meetings of the Assemblies.

The delegation appreciates WIPO's ongoing efforts in creating the necessary awareness of the importance of IP in the promotion and protection of innovation and creativity and the use of intellectual property systems globally as a tool for development and wealth creation. Ghana does recognize that IP supports innovation and contributes to a nation's economic success and hence the importance attached to the IP regimes to work effectively to add value to innovations at the national level.

The delegation is very pleased with the improved financial situation of the organization for the 2012-2013 biennium, resulting in growing a healthy surplus. The delegation welcomes the considerable progress made in the intense work program of the IGC in the course of the year, and hopes that the future work of the IGC will focus on and accelerate the development of an international legally binding instrument. The delegation notes that significant progress has been made on the proposed design law treaty, and trusts that the proposal for the inclusion of technical assistance to be given to developing countries will gain consensus to ensure a successful outcome of the process.

The delegation looks forward to a positive outcome in relation to the on-going work by the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights on a new treaty to update the protection of broadcasting organizations, as well as address issues dealing with exceptions and limitations in respect of libraries, archives

and educational institutions. We wish to urge all delegations to endeavour to cooperate in a transparent and flexible manner with a view to attaining consensus on areas that have hitherto been problematic, and build on work already completed.

The delegation wishes to thank WIPO for the many activities undertaken with Ghana designed to strengthen the I.P system. In the past year, Ghana benefited from activities and technical assistance programs such as, a colloquium for the judiciary, a workshop for law enforcement agencies on respect for intellectual property and a training program on the strategic use of patent information for research institutions and academia. We look forward to the Technology Innovation Support Center (TISC) Project for research institutions and universities.

The Government of Ghana is very committed to modernizing the intellectual property regime at the national level to support innovation, competitiveness and economic growth and to that end continues to introduce measures aimed at this goal by taking several initiatives in the field of intellectual property. We have reviewed seven IP laws and the National IP Policy is due to be launched. The Trademark Amendment Bill was passed in May 2014. It incorporates the provisions under the Madrid Protocol, extends protection for shape and sound marks and includes provisions to reduce trade in counterfeit products. Capacity building activities have been intensified for law enforcement agencies, and we continue to raise awareness for respect for IP.

Madam Chair, the delegation also wishes to express its sincere appreciation to member states that extended technical cooperation activities in the field of IP to Ghana, and wishes to thank in particular the Government of Switzerland and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Swiss IP Office for the continuation of the Swiss- Ghana IP Project aimed at improving the IP landscape and the establishment of a National IP Office. Ghana's cooperation with Switzerland resulted in the review of five IP laws. We also wish to thank the Government of The Netherlands for providing training activities in IP, the Korean IP Office and the Korea Inventors Association for the continued collaboration with Ghana through the WIPO – KIPA Patent Competition Program and the follow up activities with the Volta Region of Ghana Bee Keepers Association for the Bee Keeping Project.

Madam Chair, the delegation recognizes the significance of decisions to be taken during the Assemblies and pledges to engage constructively in discussions in order to find solutions that are acceptable to all member states.

I thank you.