

Statement by the Representative of the Federal Democratic republic of Ethiopia at the Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO. 30 September 2019. Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. President;

Director General Dr Francis Gurry,

Excellences and Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation commends the Director General, Francis Gurry, for his comprehensive report and also wishes to express our appreciation to the Director General for his unswerving dedication and able leadership of the Organization.

My delegation also thanks the Secretariat for the excellent work they have done in organizing this year's Assemblies.

Ethiopia associates itself with the statement made by Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia, as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, highly values the work and appreciates the continued support of WIPO. The home-grown economic reforms we have set out to achieve with the aim to enhance the competitiveness of our economy and linkage to global value chains requires a well-developed IP system that drives innovation and creativity and increase productivity. WIPO's support in this regard has been both critical and timely, and as one of our strongest development partners, the collaboration has brought significant results in various areas. Just to recount some of the achievements; through the support of the Organization, the preparation of our draft national IP

policy and strategy has now reached at its final stage the implementation of which will strengthen work in protecting patent rights and copyrighted materials, including addressing challenges surrounding trademarks. WIPO's support to develop human and institutional capacities in Ethiopia lays a strong foundation for the development of IP system in the country. As the result, the setting up of the national IP Academy is now well underway which we believe will commence service in 2020. Ethiopia has also been a beneficiary of the Joint WIPO-PRV-SIDA Advanced International Training Program on Intellectual Property Rights for Least Developed Countries.

In the same vein, in collaboration with the Government of Japan, the Organization has assisted the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office with its

transformation to automation with IPAS system and digitization of its registries. The Office has now installed IP online services to its customers for trademarks and soon will start providing services on patents and designs. The expertise support was also vital in the development of legal infrastructure on copyright as well.

The support of WIPO's experts from the copyright and creative industry sector was crucial in providing awareness enhancing workshops and trainings. The expertise support was highly vital for CMO and developing legal infrastructure on copyright.

We thank the TK Division for the support on the drafting of the domestic TK law and its continuous support in our awareness enhancing activities in this field of great importance to Ethiopia."

Ethiopia also participated in the WIPO's Transfer of Appropriate Technology Project with the objective to enhance the national capacity of the country in the management, administration and utilization of technical and scientific information and with a view to building the national technological base and meeting nationally identified development needs. My delegation is happy to report that the project successfully identified sustainable solutions to two specific development-related issues and two technologies were transferred to Ethiopia in the areas of solar Coffee drying and aquaculture.

Mr. President,

While we in Ethiopia have undertaken major reform measures in all fronts to ensure sustainable growth economic development, we believe there are areas where

we need to scale up our efforts to strengthen the development of IP system which we believe should take into account the specific needs of our country in order further progress and maximize results. There are, for instance, acute need to enhance knowledge about IP, innovation and collaboration, in particular with regard to issues related to the country's rich culture and geographical specific products such as Coffee and Teff. The support of WIPO in these and in other areas of needs is also much needed.

As the work that awaits us ahead in the coming days is daunting, my delegation believes that we can succeed in our deliberations and achieve important outcomes. Ethiopia strongly holds the view that support to development and capacity building will be given proper consideration in the discussions the outcome of which ought to strengthen the support WIPO provides to

developing countries, particularly LDCs. My delegation also welcomes the renewal of the mandate of the IGC on TK, GR and TCE and strongly believes that it is time to conclude the work of the IGC.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation would like to reiterate its firm commitment to continue to work closely with WIPO and will constructively engage during the meetings of the Assemblies.

Thank you