



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. ROBERT K. V.
KAHENDAGUZA, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM (a.i)**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA AT THE 59TH
SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER
STATES OF WIPO**

Mr President

Tanzania aligns itself with the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the African Group. We fully endorse the statement particularly the need for negotiations for a binding international legal instrument for IPR-related protection for the knowledge assets of indigenous peoples and local communities and the equitable geographical representation of WIPO membership in the organization's structures.

Having said that, I am now honored to make this statement on behalf of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election as chair of the 59th series of WIPO Assemblies. Allow me also, to commend the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Mr. Francis Gurry and the entire Secretariat for their sterling job and commitment to the mandate of WIPO. We, particularly, commend the Secretariat for the excellent preparations and facilities which have been put at our disposal for the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to inform the assemblies with grievance, the passing on of **Mr. Abdulla Waziri**, the Executive Director of Zanzibar Business and Property Registration Agency in June 2019. **Mr. Abdulla Waziri** will be missed in the IP world for his valuable contributions, may his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr. President

The United Republic of Tanzania under the current excellent leadership of has put an emphasis on industrialization and enhancing productivity to transform its economy from agro-based to industrial and knowledge based economy. We fully understand the importance and the contribution of IP in fostering industrial development and productivity. In this regard, we will continue to closely collaborate with WIPO in strengthening the IP protection system while adopting credible policies which will ensure the country derives significant benefits from flexibilities granted to LDCs.

We are pleased to note that WIPO continues to register some noteworthy achievements of great importance to all membership not least, the developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including Tanzania. Indeed, Tanzania has benefited from a number of WIPO cooperation programs and activities carried out in the country. Some of the projects have been completed and others are at different phases of implementation. Allow me to mention some of the development cooperation activities implemented since the last WIPO Assemblies:

1. Appropriate Technology for Development

Tanzania continues to put in place appropriate means to apply the two technologies which have been identified as part of the WIPO Program on the Transfer of Appropriate Technology (i.e. Processing of Seaweeds to Extract

Carrageenan and Aquaculture). Both these technologies are of paramount importance and are a concrete example of the effective use of patent information for technological capacity building in Tanzania.

The technology for extracting carrageenan from seaweed allows seaweed farmers to engage in small-scale production and are able to add value to their seaweed harvesting.

The technology for aquafarming which addresses the problem of fish depletion in Tanzanian lakes employs a specific method of fish breeding that produces more and higher quality fish in order to meet the increasing demand for fish. The technology will have positive impact on food security, rural development and poverty alleviation.

2. Skills Development and Capacity Building

Tanzania is one of the beneficiaries of the Skills Development Programs including the one conducted within the framework of cooperation established between the Division for Least Developed Countries of WIPO and the Government of Sweden.

In 2019, 6 senior officials from universities, research institutions, science and technology organizations and IP offices from Tanzania were provided with IP related technical capacity building and skills development as part of that program.

Tanzania was also honored to host two WIPO Training Programs namely;

- (i) *A Follow up Meeting to the Joint WIPO-PRV-Sida Advanced International Training Program on Intellectual Property Rights for*

Least Developed Countries; Copyright for Development which took place in Dar es Salaam, from 30th June to 5th July 2019. The meeting was attended by 25 Senior Officials from 14 countries representing Ministries, universities, Collective Management Organizations, IP Offices and the judiciary.

- (ii) *A Regional Training Workshop on Automation Status Reporting and Prerequisites for Online Tools Deployment* conducted in Dar es Salaam from 26th – 30th August, 2019. A total of 40 participants from African IP Offices and Regional IP Organizations attended the Training. This training has proved to be an important tool for preparation and implementation of WIPO online tools and services to BRELA and other IP Offices including Regional Organizations which were represented at the Training. The knowledge acquired will undoubtedly assist and enhance the capacity of IP Offices in the Region to deliver better and timely services to users of IP systems taking into consideration BRELA is offering all its services online and other IP Offices are in the process of implementing the online module.

Furthermore, this year, Tanzania has benefited from the project based implementation approach of the WIPO-PRV-Sida Training program, which has allowed participants to formulate national projects on the use of IP for development. As an outcome of the training, three national projects have been designed and implemented by participants.

In addition to the foregoing, WIPO has supported Tanzania to organise some other important activities, namely:

- (i) Technical Consultation Meeting on the Operationalization of the Intellectual Property Unit at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) which was held from 23rd -24th May 2019. This meeting involved some international experts and it aimed at supporting the creation and design of an IP unit at the University of Muhimbili University that would provide the necessary set up for a university based IP management including for the negotiations of contracts for licensing and commercialization.
- (ii) Intellectual Property Capacity Building meeting held from 24th -25th June 2019 for Women Entrepreneurs. The meeting was organized as part of WIPO's ongoing cooperation with the Gender Institute of the University of Dar es Salaam. The meeting aimed at providing women entrepreneurs with the necessary support which will facilitate them to grow and further develop their business using IP as an important tool.
- (iii) National Workshop on Intellectual Property for Members of the Judiciary which was organized from 27th -28th June 2019. This workshop was attended by 30 Magistrates from different parts of the country. The workshop established, for the first time, strong cooperation link between WIPO and the Judiciary of Tanzania to continue to interact on issues of IP. The workshop provided technical capacity and knowledge sharing on IP issues to Magistrates, with a

particular focus on national and international standards relevant to the judicial administration of IP.

Mr. President

At this juncture, allow me to express our appreciation on the continued technical support extended to Tanzania, specifically, the upgrade of Industrial Property Automated System (IPAS) and the Copyright's WIPOCos System. The technical team and experts from WIPO are always available to support the smooth running of the systems and ready to resolve all the challenges encountered in the course of using the systems.

My delegation appreciates this technical support and keenly awaits the implementation of Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) which will add value to the existing systems and increase efficiency and effectiveness of processing of applications for better service delivery.

Mr. President

Additionally, we wish to express our gratitude to WIPO Academy, for the assistance extended to Tanzania on the Distance Learning (DL) Platform and assignment of Tutors in the ARIPO Masters of Intellectual Property (MIP) Program which started in August this year (2019) at the University of Dar es Salaam. Tanzania still banks on WIPO's assistance on availability of literature, access to electronic publications and other study materials as well as the availability of Visiting Tutors during the residential phase of the MIP Program in

Dar es Salaam. A request is also extended to WIPO for publication of the MIP Program on the WIPO website for a wider coverage.

Mr. President

In conclusion, you will have noted that this statement has largely focused on paying tribute to WIPO for the outstanding work the organization continues to do on behalf of its membership but also for the much appreciated cooperation and support it has extended to Tanzania in recent years particularly in the area of capacity building. As capacity building is an ongoing activity, Tanzania looks forward to continuing its cooperation with WIPO in this area with a view to bridging the knowledge gap in all aspects of Intellectual Property for socio-economic development.

I thank you Mr. President