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Kingdom of Eswatini

MEMBER STATEMENT BY:

ESWATINI DELEGATION

**62nd WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES
OCTOBER 4 – 8, 2021**

MR PRESIDENT,

The delegation of the Kingdom of Eswatini aligns with the statement of the African Group, delivered by the delegation of South Africa. We also appreciate and welcome the report delivered by the Director General. We appreciate work of the Committees of the organisation, in which we also plan to more actively engage ourselves and track whether the intended purposes for their establishment and ambitious potentials are attained.

We appreciate the work of the Secretariat in continuing to carry out its technical assistance mandate. Eswatini has received technical assistance supporting the review of our Intellectual Property (IP) regulatory framework to ensure that the legislative and policy environment is fit for our needs. This was one of the topmost priorities as we continue to develop and maintain a robust IP regulatory environment that supports innovation and creativity.

We have refined and advanced our general IP protection policy from one of simple registration of rights to one crucially concerned about the exploitation and commercialisation of those rights. In this regard, we welcome the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector's expanded mandate to centrally include commercialisation and financing of IP. We plan to intensify our efforts to encourage our SMEs to utilise the IP system and its commercial benefits.

The most recent technical assistance coincided with our deliberate efforts for a holistic review and operationalisation of our IP laws. We are in the process of establishing institutions that will foster efficient copyright administration and empower Emaswati to leverage copyright for their economic and cultural benefit. We are also indebted for the assistance with training in empirical understanding of the impact and contribution of copyright to our industry.

We also received support for the automation of the administration of the IP system. This process will help us to automate IP administration and achieve efficiencies in administration while eliminating bottleneck which have historically tended to discourage the very creativity and innovation they were designed to enhance.

We embrace the potential frontier technologies hold for innovation and industrialisation. We are particularly looking forward to exploring opportunities of how IP can leverage on these developments to which your organisation is at the forefront.

We have ambitious plans which we believe are not unfounded given the support and assistance your organisation continues to offer us.

We thank you