

INTERVENTIONS
BY KENYAN DELEGATION AT
THE FIFTY-FIFTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO MEMBER STATES
HELD IN GENEVA 5TH TO 14TH OCTOBER 2015

Chairman of the Assembly,

Mr. Chairman, first, the Delegation of Kenya on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairman and express our full support for all WIPO program and activities under the able leadership of Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry and his Secretariat.

Secondly, the Delegation reaffirms our support for the position taken by Nigeria on behalf of African Group.

In this 21st century, creativity and innovation has become key drivers in addressing the challenges posed by disease, hunger, poverty and unemployment. More importantly, it plays an central role in mitigating the negative effects of climate change and desertification and provide solutions to issues of access to medicine, food security and preservation of biodiversity.

In this regard, the Delegation notes with great appreciation the programs and activities that have been undertaken during 2014/15 biennium in Kenya with the able support of WIPO. These activities include:

- Technical support in upgrading and maintenance of the IPAS and its interfacing modules at the Kenya Industrial Property Institute;
- Deployment of electronic document management system (EDMS) for front files and the on-going plans for digitization of back files;
- WIPO's continued support for the TISCs project to increase access to available scientific and technical information to the Public.
- the inclusion of Kenya in the CDIP pilot project on the strengthening of the audiovisual sector;
- Awareness creation symposia to relevant members of the public;
- Supporting the creation and strengthening of Kenya's institutional capacity for exploitation of traditional knowledge based assets.

- KIPI/WIPO/NIPO training on Global Patent Quality Project.

This is clear manifestation that the WIPO Development Agenda has indeed produced results in Kenya. The Delegation reiterates therefore that the Development Agenda incorporates a number of projects that are critical to Africa. Projects such as development of national intellectual property policies and implementing strategies are worth mentioning. At this juncture, I once again take this opportunity to salute the Governments of Japan and that of South Korea for sustaining a Fund in Trust (FIT) for Africa, which have so far benefitted a number of trainees from Kenya. It is our strong belief that more developing countries in Africa would also benefit.

The Delegation urges for a common understanding on the need for effective and progressive deliberation on issues relating to protection of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions. Kenya is therefore keen to see total devotion at the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee and full backing by all member states across the divide for a speedy conclusion on pending issues affecting patent disclosure, access to genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

In particular, Kenya is concerned at the current stalemate at the IGC. Kenya urges member states to seriously consider and either renews the mandate with specific timelines or better still make the mandate of the Committee permanent. Kenya reiterates its strong support of the proposals touching on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) (for renewal) and the proposal by the Africa Group to convert this committee from ad hoc to a standing Committee of WIPO.

Further, Kenya is concerned at the reduced status of the Creative Division and the Regional Bureaus of WIPO reflected in the financial and human resource allocation. Kenya would like to see a review of the decision to stop support for WIPOCOS and GDA programs critical for many countries in the developing world. Unlike the industrial property offices, Copyright offices are not going to receive support in the automation of the copyright offices. We would like WIPO to reconsider the position and come up with a system for supporting the copyright offices in developing countries. It is notable that in countries like Rwanda, the IP office has been able to customize the IPAS system for copyright offices.

Kenya is also concerned about the creative industries division that has in the recent past been working on the studies on the Economic Impact of Copyright based industries. The division has come up with reports that have

been of great assistance to the developing countries like Kenya especially with regard to recognition of the role of creative industries in economic development is being wound up. This service is critical to developing Countries and we urge WIPO to reconsider that decision

In collaboration with other international agencies, the Kenya Government through intellectual property offices continues to encourage the Kenyan public to appreciate the use of intellectual property and innovation as stimulants to local products' value addition and demand in the global market. Currently, the Kenya Government in collaboration with WIPO is exploring prospects for leveraging market potential of Kisii soapstone through innovation and intellectual property rights. A team of experts from WIPO and Kenya made a second visit to Kisii County in Kenya to further explore, discuss and validate a feasibility study Report that had been commissioned in this respect by WIPO during the team's first mission visit.

The Delegation is grateful to WIPO for its continued support in the ongoing physical infrastructure development at the Kenya industrial property Institute on deployment of an electronic document management system (EDMS) as well as training of staff members of the Institute through various WIPO trainings, seminars and workshops. The support is a clear testimony that WIPO remains sharply focused on specific needs and expectations for consistent growth of industrial property administration systems in Kenya.

Kenya considers the annual World Intellectual Property Day as an important event best used for promoting intellectual property the world over. This year's celebration in Kenya geared towards recognition and award to carefully evaluated local champions in creativity and inventiveness. WIPO's donated trophy and a medal to Kenya for this occasion went to the identified winners in the creative industry and inventors from Kenya's Ministry of Defence. The Delegation of Kenya wishes to thank WIPO sincerely for the support it extended to Kenya during this auspicious celebration.

Finally, the Delegation extends best regards to the President and other Officers of the assemblies and wishes all delegations fruitful deliberations and success in the 55th Series of the WIPO Assemblies.

Thank you.