

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by the delegation of Lesotho

The Delegation of Lesotho acknowledges the dedication of the chair so far, in her work in leading these assemblies and we believe this dedication will translate into achievement of concrete solutions. We congratulate the Director General of the world intellectual property, Mr. Francis Gurry on his reelection. We also thank him and his team for having made excellent preparations for this august meeting and for the excellent documents. We take this opportunity to commend WIPO on the completion of the new building and the upcoming inauguration of the building. We have also taken note of the Director General's report and applaud the tremendous progress made since assuming the office of the Director General of WIPO. The delegation of Lesotho fully supports what has been said the delegations of Kenya and Benin on behalf of the African group and the LCD'S respectfully. We also recognize the on-going negotiations in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual property and folklore (IGC) and associates ourselves with the sentiments of the delegations to the effect that the conclusion of a treaty this area is long overdue.

Lesotho has a number of activities that she can flag at the national level on the general administration of Intellectual Property, most of which have been possible with assistance of WIPO and its cooperating partners. Lesotho is in the process of establishing the National Intellectual Property plan. In this regard, WIPO has given us tremendous support and we are grateful for the missions that WIPO send to Lesotho in the furtherance of this process. First, a mission was undertaken to Lesotho to undertake a needs assessment and subsequent to that, another mission was undertaken to assist and conduct a validation workshop. The plan envisages the establishments of the technology transfers centers (TICS) .we attach great importance to the establishment of TICS. These centers will benefit the academics, researchers, the farmers, and many others.

We have intensified our IP outreach program. We held an exhibition on the 13 of September, 2014. We have established new collaborations in the awareness of IP activities with other sectors within the country. We have collaborated with the Basotho Enterprises Development Cooperation and co organized a training of trainer's workshop in July, 2014 on General Appreciation of IP. We also had roving lectures on IP for the technical institutions and the University of Technology, Limkonkwin. We have also collaborated with the Ministry of Trade and Industry on training of engineering students of the National University of Lesotho, on Entrepreneurship and IP. More seminars are planned in the course of the current year, in preparation of the intended National exhibition to be held on the 26 of April, 2015. Consultative meetings have been held with the Ministry of Health on Access to Medicines.

WIPO has further assisted and supported Lesotho in the training of the Registrar General's Staff through the WIPO Academy. We have so far benefitted from the Academy's professional

development program in a form of two trainings in the Republic of Korea, one officer was sent for training in France for the WIPO/CEIPI colloquium on Transfer of technology and licensing. Another was sent to Norway for WIPO/NIPO training on examination and Trademarks procedures. We are still looking forward to further training in the area of copyright.

In the area of automation of services, we are happy to report that the IPAS system has been deployed. WIPO sent two missions to Lesotho for the redeployment of IPAS. We are indeed grateful that we will also join the realms of countries with automated services and thus enabled to execute our mandate in an efficient manner.

There are still challenges that we face in the administration of IP and in this regard, we further request WIPO and cooperating partners' assistance. We are looking for support in the training of establishment and Management of collective society. More training on Enforcement of IP as this area is dynamic and our agencies need to be abreast with developments in this area and indeed be ahead of the offenders.

We welcome and support the proposed establishment of the WIPO external offices and as fore stated, in the last assemblies we reiterate our stance that, Africa should be the host of at least two offices. Whatever guidelines are adopted in this regard, should take this factor into account.

In conclusion, we reiterate Lesotho's longstanding support to the work of WIPO in the administration of IP. We particularly extend our support to the Director General and the secretariat.