

**GHANA'S STATEMENT FOR THE FIFTY FIFTH SERIES OF MEETINGS,  
GENEVA, OCTOBER 5 – 15, 2015**

**Mr. Chairman:**

The delegation of Ghana would like to congratulate you and the two Vice Chairs on your elections. The delegation is confident that you will steer the affairs of the meeting to a successful end.

The Delegation would like to thank the Director-General, Dr. Francis Gurry and the WIPO Secretariat for all the hard work that has gone into producing the excellent documentation for the Assemblies meeting.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Ghana endorses the statement made on behalf of the African Group by the distinguished delegate of Nigeria. Ghana appreciates WIPO's role in the promotion and protection of IP at the global level and recognizes IP as an important catalyst for economic growth and wealth creation. The delegation is pleased with WIPO'S ongoing efforts to ensure that a balance is struck by both protecting the rights of innovators and creators and meeting the needs of users. It is against this backdrop that Ghana is preparing to ratify the Marrekesh Treaty. The delegation notes that the effective implementation of WIPO's Development Agenda would contribute greatly to the development of policies at the national level designed to stimulate the creation and diffusion of technology relevant for addressing peculiar developmental challenges of individual member states.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:**

With regards to the IGC, the delegation is of the conviction that the Committee has made strides towards the determination of concrete outcomes after more than a decade of lengthy deliberations and

negotiations on conceptual issues, based on research studies and consolidated views. It is in this regard that we hope that any future plan must not only reflect the wide range of views but lead to concrete outcomes such as the adoption of an international legally binding document and hence the need to renew the mandate of the IGC for the next biennium.

The delegation has been following with keen interest the discussion on external offices which, we strongly believe, plays an important role in creating awareness and promoting WIPO's global reach. The delegation recognizes that WIPO has a significant role to play in the development of the global IP system and the adoption of clearly defined rules on the establishment of external offices and their functions. It is in this light that it is important that a final decision is made regarding the opening of the two external offices in Africa.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The Delegation attaches great importance to the IP system and to the roles and work of the various WIPO committees and bodies, and seeks to ensure the strategic use of IP assets for its economic, social and cultural development. At the national level, IP legislation has been comprehensively reviewed, such as the Trademarks (Amendment) Act, 2014, which incorporates key provisions of the Madrid Protocol.

The IP Office has embarked on awareness-building and training efforts aimed at establishing an IP culture in order to be more effective in combating counterfeiting and piracy at the national level in order to ensure respect for intellectual property rights. Ghana will be launching a more comprehensive national IP Policy before the end of the year. Broadly, the Policy aims to strengthen the use of IP as a tool for national economic development.

My delegation appreciates WIPO's technical support in various areas of the IP system. We also appreciate the assistance that we continue to receive from other development partners particularly the Swiss IP Office and the Korean IP Office.

The Delegation of Ghana wishes all member states fruitful deliberations during the meetings of the Assemblies.

I thank you.