

KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO 5TH OCTOBER 2015

The delegation of the Kingdom of Swaziland takes this opportunity to congratulate the President of the General Assembly on your election. We can assure you Mr. Chair that we will give you all our support as you steer our meeting to its successful conclusions.

We also associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African group.

Swaziland supports the work achieved by the committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) so far. However we also note the slow progress on some of the normative issues and we appeal to the member states to exercise some flexibilities in order to provide a way forward on these issues.

On the work of the Inter – Governmental Committee on Genetic resources Traditional knowledge and folk lore (IGC), we believe that it is now imperative for the assembly to take the decision to convene a Diplomatic Conference to adopt a legally binding instrument for the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, including traditional cultural expressions.

On the Design Law Treaty, we appeal to member states to also exercise some flexibility so that they reach a consensus with the inclusion of capacity building and technical assistance to enable member states to implement the Treaty when it is finally adopted.

On this issue of external offices the Kingdom of Swaziland feel that the establishment of two external offices is long overdue. We therefore support the recommendation of two external offices in Africa to facilitate the smooth administration of intellectual property in the continent.

Mr. President let me now take this opportunity to appraise this Assembly about the progress the country has made regarding the legal framework and general administration of intellectual property. The following laws are currently in Parliament and it is our hope that they will be enacted into laws during the first half of the year 2016. These are namely:

- (a) Copyright and Neighboring Rights Bills.
- (b) Swaziland Intellectual Property Tribunal Bill.
- (c) Trade marks Amendment Bill and the
- (d) Patents Bills.

I therefore take this opportunity to extend our thanks and gratitude to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for the financial and technical assistance afforded to us. It is also worth noting that the development of the country's national Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy will be finalized during the year 2016. The country has also taken a decision to join the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS), we believe that the implementation of IPAS will transform our business processes of intellectual property applications into a reliable efficient and faster service delivery to our clientele. We again extend our appreciation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for the continuous assistance we continue to receive in this regard. We are also looking forward to receiving further assistance in the drafting of the necessary regulations once the intellectual property bills currently in our Parliament are enacted into laws.

In conclusion Swaziland is fully committed towards supporting all the World Intellectual Property Organization's initiatives in making the use of intellectual property as a vehicle moving towards our economic growth. We hope WIPO will continue to support us as we strive to achieve our national vision that is of acquiring the first world status in all the sectors of our economy by the year 2022. We wish all the member states a successful outcome of the Assemblies, and I thank you for your attention.