



**58TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
GENEVA, 24TH SEPTEMBER TO 2ND OCTOBER, 2018**

General Statement by Ghana

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, permit me to express the condolences of my delegation to the People of Vietnam at the recent passing of the President of Vietnam, H. E. Tran Dai Quang.

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ghana thanks the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, for his tireless efforts in championing the cause of IP and lauds his efforts to prioritize development activities in WIPO in recognition of the importance of science, innovation and technology as important keys to improving the competitiveness and economic growth of Member States. We commend WIPO's ongoing efforts to promote the use and protection of intellectual property globally as a tool for development and wealth creation, and thank the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out during the year, in particular the comprehensive preparations for this year's Assemblies.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana is making significant efforts to create a favourable climate for

innovation through the provision of the enabling environment for IP services to industry and research institutions across the country. We are in the process of restructuring our industrial property office and streamlining its work flows for the administration of patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications aimed at enhancing intellectual property protection and use. We are happy to inform this Assembly that Ghana deposited its instrument of Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in May this year, to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation wishes to thank WIPO for the various activities undertaken with Ghana designed to strengthen the I.P system. My delegation commends the Regional Bureau for Africa for the many initiatives in the region. In particular, Ghana benefited from various activities and technical assistance programs such as a Study and a Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. My delegation is encouraged by the impact of WIPO's capacity building programme, and in this regard wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the opportunity afforded its Senior Policy makers to undertake a study visit to WIPO in July 2018.

Ghana also avails itself of this opportunity to thank the Swiss IP Office and other Member States that extended to it technical cooperation activities in the field of IP.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards the substantive issues on the agenda, while endorsing the Africa Group statement, I wish to stress that it is critical that improvement of the Trademarks and Industrial Designs system is pursued for the benefit and interest of all national offices and users of

the system. My delegation looks forward to concluding work in the SCT on the outstanding issues on Industrial Designs by bridging existing gaps identified under the draft treaty, and would welcome progress in the work plan of geographical indications as geographical indications offer an avenue to protect local expertise and practices in the agricultural and handicraft sector.

My delegation further takes note of the work of the Standing Committee on Patents on certain aspects of national/regional patent law covering exceptions, limitations and quality of patents, including opposition systems. We welcome the opportunity that would enable patent offices to share information concerning office practices, as well as approaches regarding the quality of patent grant processes within IP offices. Ghana is among the Member States that encounter this challenge and looks forward to solutions to address such concerns, which will further contribute to effective technology transfer.

We note with appreciation the progress made in the work of the IGC in 2018, and trusts that it will expedite its work in accordance with the work mandate of the IGC for the biennium 2018/2019.

In conclusion, Ghana wishes all Member States a constructive and a productive work during this year's Assemblies.

I thank you.