



**61<sup>ST</sup> SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES  
OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)  
GENEVA, 21<sup>ST</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**General Statement by Ghana**

**Mr. Chairman**

Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group and Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM.

**Mr. Chairman**

My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to both the Chair and the Secretariat of WIPO for convening the Sixty First Assemblies of Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, despite the challenges, albeit in a hybrid format. Ghana would like to thank the outgoing Director General, Dr Francis Gurry and the entire WIPO staff for the excellent work carried out throughout the year especially, the efforts made to respond to the pandemic by putting adequate measures in place to ensure the continuous operation of intellectual property systems globally.

As this meeting marks the last WIPO Assemblies under the stewardship of Dr. Francis Gurry, my delegation would like to pay homage to him for his dedicated service to WIPO over three decades, and in particular, for his exemplary commitment to the greater good of the Organization by promoting and strengthening

the global IP infrastructure in the last twelve years as the Director General. Under his able leadership, WIPO has achieved many successes, such as the conclusion of a number of International Treaties, the mainstreaming of development into work programs for technical assistance projects to Member States, increased demand for global IP services and also enhanced capacity building activities for developing countries. We commend him for the good work and wish him well in his future endeavors.

That said, Ghana warmly welcomes Mr. Daren Tang as he assumes duty on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 as the next Director General. We trust that under his leadership, WIPO will continue to build on the gains made in the last decades. Ghana is confident that Mr. Tang will strengthen the existing cooperation and work with Member States to ensure that interests are fairly addressed and balanced to prevent marginalization in the Organization. My delegation assures him of our full support and cooperation.

### **Mr. Chairman**

Last month, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo –Addo, the President of Ghana commissioned the African Continental Free Trade Secretariat in Accra which aims to boost intra – African Trade, covering trade in goods, intellectual property rights and competition. The continent, and in particular Ghana, recognizes the importance of IP rights as a key driver to economic growth, and deems it necessary especially in the current pandemic that the benefits of IP protection for improving the lives of the citizenry, including innovators, creators and consumers must be evident and impactful.

To that end, Ghana appreciates WIPO's ongoing efforts to promote the use and protection of IP globally as a tool for development and wealth creation. We note that the current crises has highlighted the challenges and opportunities that confront member states in

developing countries particularly, the need for digital interventions and processes at the national offices, as well as the need to improve the levels of innovative activities to harness the full benefits of IP as a tool for development and economic growth. As a developing country with hopes of reaping immense benefits from the IP regime, Ghana joins earlier calls for WIPO to expand its technical support to countries in need.

**Mr. Chairman**

Ghana looks forward to working with Mr. Tang to advance WIPO's mission of promoting the protection and use of intellectual property as a means of driving innovation, development and economic opportunity globally.

Thank you.