

Check Against Delivery

Good morning Mr Chair all protocols duly observed.

The Gambia is pleased to report that despite the challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic, we have benefited from WIPO in a number of ways during the period under review. We were privileged to benefit from the expertise of the Madrid division for the review of The Gambia Intellectual Property Act 2021 and this has enriched the Act and we are grateful for their input.

Mr Chair, investment in ICT is fundamental in the administration of intellectual property rights. WIPO has continuously supported The Gambia in the upgrade and maintenance of the IPAS. We have recently signed an agreement for the upgrade of our IPAS to version 4.0. The first phase has already been launched and the final phase will be completed early next year.

We are proud to report that the implementation of The Gambia IP Policy and Strategy 2018-2021 is continuing. The Gambia is able to implement this policy through a concerted effort of the MIP Alumni in The Gambia who were sponsored by WIPO and ARIPO.

The Gambia has benefitted from numerous webinars organized by WIPO Academy, Madrid Division and the Hague Division. This I

must say has helped in building capacity in the IP Office. We look forward to benefitting from both virtual and face to face trainings in the near future.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our expression of gratitude and appreciation to the WIPO Division for Africa for their guidance and continued support.

Thank you all for your kind attention.