

Ethiopian Delegation Opening Statement

63rd Series of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

14 July 2022 Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General Mr. Daren Tang

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, I would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Molcean for his capable leadership of the General Assembly.

We thank the Director-General, Mr. Daren Tang, and the Secretariat for the preparation of the 63rd Series of the WIPO Assemblies of Member States.

Ethiopia endorses the African Group's declaration delivered by the Algerian delegation.

Mr. President

Ethiopia has adopted and implementing Vision 2030, the Pathway to Prosperity. In this Vision, the Government has prioritized innovation and Technology by enacting the National Policy of Innovation and Technology which has identified IP as one of its policy areas. A proclamation is being prepared aimed at establishing Innovation fund to support the generation and commercialization of IPRs.

Mr. President

The Ethiopian Government has also been working to promulgate the Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expression Proclamation. It is being prepared with technical assistance from WIPO. In addition, the Government is considering amending the Copyright and Related Rights Proclamation as well as domesticating the Marrakesh Treaty and amending the Patent Proclamation. We then hope to join the Paris and Madrid systems.

The year 2022 has been successful in terms of WIPO-the renamed Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority -EIPA cooperation. The long awaited revision of National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS) has been undertaken and a final draft was prepared, validated by stakeholders and higher officials

and submitted to the Government of Ethiopia for approval. The first Module of the ToT program for the National IP Academy was successfully completed participating trainees from EIPA staff, Private IP practitioners, CMOs, Research Institutes and Academia and a National Awareness workshop on Branding and Traditional Medicine Development in Ethiopia was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in collaboration with Gondar University. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to officials of WIPO, including the African Division, WIPO Academy Division and WIPO Academy Distance Learning Program for their dedicated efforts to ensure these fruitful outcomes.

I would also like to thank WIPO ICT business solution division for office automation and digitalization to create paperless office and widen the scope of service delivery in E- service.

Mr. President

Ethiopia believes that improving the diversity of the WIPO personnel is imperative to fix the WIPO workforce's limitations, including gender and geographical diversity, as well as under-representation.

We look forward to enhancing cooperation with WIPO in the implementation of the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy, once it is approved.

I thank you.