



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
GENERAL STATEMENT**

**COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP)
: 30TH SESSION OF THE CDIP**

Mr Chair

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

From the onset, South Africa would like to join previous delegates in congratulating you and Vice Chair to the Chair this Committee and look forward to working with you to make this 30th Session of the CDIP a success.

South Africa acknowledges and thanks the Secretariat for their hard work preparing for this Committee meeting and assembling the documents for this session.

Please allow my delegation to emphasize the role of CDIP in advancing development issues related to IP with a view to ensure that the work of WIPO contributes to the socio-economic development of all Member States, along the lines of the Development Agenda and its 45 recommendations.

Many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are relevant to WIPO, South Africa welcomes the initiatives taken by WIPO to ensure the implementation of the Development Agenda recommendations. As the international community is picking up the pace to achieve the SDGs by 2030, South Africa will welcome WIPO's initiatives and meaningful contribution aimed advancing the SDGs.

In the area of Development, WIPO should be geared towards promoting a more balanced IP system that fosters innovation and promotes industrial, educational, health, agricultural and environmental policies and others in developing countries.

The CDIP, as a project driven committee, should seek to respond to the needs and priorities of the beneficiary countries through customized projects, which should be implemented in a way that maximizes their impact on the ground and makes a difference in the life of people and society.

The importance of ensuring better integration of the Development Agenda recommendations into WIPO's programs cannot be overemphasized, but should be a practice, and considering the continuous need for mainstreaming of the implemented DA projects into technical assistance policies and activities.

South Africa welcomes the efforts of WIPO to encourage South-South and triangular cooperation enabling developing countries to collaborate to stimulate innovation and promote development objectives. We call upon WIPO to strengthen its collaboration with the UN system, including at the national and regional levels, to address global challenges facing Member States such as climate change, food security and health crisis.

Chair, South Africa thanks the secretariat for preparing the terms of reference for an Independent External Review of WIPO's Technical Assistance in the Area of Cooperation for Development.

Mr Chair, South Africa welcomes the convening and hosting of the International Conference on IP and development with a theme IP and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture. The Conference provided a platform for useful and fruitful discussion and sharing experience on how to foster innovation in the agriculture sector in a sustainable way using innovative technologies that support sustainability and address the challenges faced by farmers such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and water scarcity.

South Africa is looking forward to cooperating in having fruitful discussions on the agenda items at this 30th Session of the CDIP.

With this, we thank you **Mr Chair**.