## 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Member States of WIPO General Statement of the Republic of The Gambia

Mr/Mrs Chair, Director General Francis Gurry and colleague Respected Delegates. The Gambian delegation is once again honored to be part of this August assembly and brings warm greetings from the people of The Gambia.

The Gambia in partnership with WIPO continues to make modest gains in the promotion of intellectual property for the economic development and prosperity. We value the collaborative relation and hope it will continue to grow from strength to strength.

This year, The Gambia accomplished several intellectual property development initiatives such as the finalization of The Gambia Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy 2018 which now awaits Cabinet approval, the establishment of The Gambia TISC Network, the signing of the TISC Service Legal Agreement and on the sidelines of this meeting intends to sign an MOU with WIPO.

For all these efforts we wish to sincerely acknowledge the support we continue to receive from the Regional Bureau for Africa and TISC Sector.

Furthermore my delegation wishes to commend WIPO for the continued support in capacity building. Currently two Gambian candidates are participating in the Masters In Intellectual Property (MIP) at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Our profound gratitude to the WIPO Academy as well as our regional partner the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation ARIPO for this wonderful gesture.

We look forward to more collaborative efforts in the furture.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Thank you all for your kind attention and I wish you fruitful deliberations.