



EMBASSY/PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**Statement by His Excellency, Penda Andreas Naanda,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia  
at the 59<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the WIPO Member States,  
30 September 2019**

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to register Namibia's confidence in your leadership as you direct our proceedings in a constructive manner.

I would like to thank the Director General for his statement and report on the progress made by the Organization, in particular, the efforts to promote a fair and balanced multilateral IP system, which supports socio-economic development of all member states.

Further, Namibia would like to appreciate the Secretariat under the abled leadership of the DG Francis Gurry, for the time invested in making preparations for the Assemblies.

**Mr. President,**

On the onset, the Republic of Namibia aligns itself in letter and spirit, with the statement delivered by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia, in line with Vision 2030, the Fifth National Development Plan, and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, has adopted various policies and strategies directed towards creating an enabling environment for industrialization, small and medium enterprise development; and the promotion of investment and trade at intra-africa and international level.

It is within this framework that Namibia has approved the National Intellectual Property Policy, which was developed with the support of WIPO. I am honored to inform you that the National IP Policy is scheduled to be launched this month.

The approval of the first National Policy on IP is a reflection of the intent, will and commitment of the Government and people of Namibia, to define the course and role of intellectual property within the quest for development.

Let me take advantage of this opportunity to invite the WIPO leadership to this ground-breaking launch in the intellectual property landscape of Namibia. The specific details will be communicated in due course

**Mr President,**

Namibia, continues to review, define and refine the operating environment for intellectual property with the focus on the policy, institutional and legal framework. To this end, you would recall our statements of previous years, in which we informed this gathering of the establishment and operationalization of the Business and Intellectual Property Authority, to lead and coordinate the intellectual property agenda in Namibia.

This was indeed, another stride in the development of intellectual property infrastructure. The establishment of the institutional framework, has led Namibia to the pursuit of capacity building, not only for the IP Administration Office, but to build intellectual property professionals and experts amongst all IP stakeholders and networks.

On the legal framework, Namibia is pleased to report that the new Industrial Property Act entered into force in 2018, introducing a model law on administration and protection of industrial property rights, with the necessary flexibilities.

With respect to the Creative Industry, Namibia has made progress in the review of the existing Copyright Act, with the aim of developing a new copyright legal instrument, which would be responsive to the industry and socio-economic development.

**Mr. President,**

Namibia, continues to prioritize the implementation of strategic projects, as defined in the National IP Development Plan, within the framework of the MOU between Namibia and WIPO. Namibia is implementing the following projects:

- 1. Development of a new copyright law**
- 2. Ratification and accession to relevant IP related international treaties**

3. **Intellectual property in education,**
4. **institutional IP Policy for academic institutions,**
5. **The Model Intellectual Property Office Project,**
6. **The Intellectual Property, Tourism and Culture Project,**
7. **The establishment and development of the Technology and Innovation Centres, and**
8. **Intellectual property enforcement**

While thanking WIPO for the above and many other contributions made to the development of IP in Namibia, some of our projects continue to be hampered as a result of Namibia's classification as an Upper Middle- Income Country, in particular access to specialized patent information.

In addition, Namibia supports WIPO's drive towards attaining gender parity in the organization, and starting this process at the executive management level is indicative of the importance the institution attaches to inclusivity. Namibia implores that the same effort is directed towards member countries' representation in the staff of the organization and the organization's governing bodies.

Lastly, my delegation would like to underscore our commitment to work towards appropriate conclusions on matters which have overstayed on the Assemblies Agenda, and reiterate the necessity of advancing a fair and balanced IP system for the benefit of all Member States as the guiding principle.

I Thank You.