

THE GAMBIA GENERAL STATEMENT AT THE GA

Mr/Madam Chair, The Gambia associates itself with the statement made by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Group. We equally wish to seize the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Assemblies.

The Gambia is pleased to report that we have made significant growth in IP development since the last assemblies. Notable among activities that The Gambia is proud to report is the IP + Accelerator Program which was SME Mentorship Program for the benefit of 50 Gambian SMEs organized by WIPO in collaboration with Government of The Gambia and Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We would like to commend Director General Mr Daren Tang for the visionary leadership and continuous support that WIPO provides to Member States. I must hasten to congratulate the Ag Director of Division for Africa for personally taking charge of the Program and ensuring its successful completion. This Program has immensely contributed to women and youth empowerment, IP awareness creation, employment creation and economic growth in The Gambia.

Mr/Madam Chair The Gambia is grateful to WIPO for the assistance in becoming the first African country to join the E- Madrid. We must attest to the fact that E- Madrid is efficient and user friendly. We therefore urge all countries to utilize this important facility.

It should be recognized that Country brand is well known especially among African countries. The Gambia is proud to be among the first countries in the world to register its country brand “**THE SMILING COAST OF AFRICA**” as a trademark under the Madrid Protocol. We have no doubt that the registration will go a long way in promoting The Gambia as a tourist destination with white sandy beaches and rich culture.

Mr/Madam Chair you will agree with me that ICT is pivotal in the administration of intellectual property rights. We are grateful to WIPO for the IPAS 4.0 upgrade. This software will immensely improve the IP Office work.

Other important activities organized by WIPO in partnership with The Gambia were the PCT and Trade Secret Workshop, TISC workshop and Project on the use of IP to reduce occupational injury.

In Conclusion, The Gambia wants to put on record its willingness to support all WIPO activities as it has no doubt that this will benefit all WIPO Member States. We wish to use the opportunity to applaud WIPO’s continuous partnership with ARIPO and hope that the collaboration will grow from strength to strength in the years ahead.

I thank you for your kind attention.