

**GENERAL STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LESOTHO
DURING THE 65th SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO), 09 TO 17 JULY 2024,
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Lesotho aligns itself with the statement made by Kenya on behalf of the African Group.

Your Excellency, my Delegation wishes to congratulate you for your election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. We are confident that you will steer this session to a successful conclusion, and we assure you of our unwavering support.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to Director General Daren Tang for his visionary, inclusive and dynamic leadership, which has resulted in remarkable achievements as outlined in his report. We applaud Secretariat as a whole for the excellent arrangements for these Meetings, which are held in hybrid format, to allow for a wider participation of all Member States.

We congratulate WIPO Community for having concluded a historic Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, after many years of discussions. We are satisfied that the mandate of the IGC has been extended to continue discussions on the outstanding issues. We look forward to progress in its work.

As we approach the upcoming Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty, we urge all Members States to maintain the spirit of inclusiveness, collaboration and multilateralism to enable us to reach a successful conclusion of the Design Law Treaty, which we hope will take the concerns of developing countries like Lesotho into consideration.

My delegation is particularly pleased with the progress made by WIPO in the implementation of the DG`s 4-Pillar strategic direction. We are pleased that under Mr. Tang`s leadership, WIPO continues to extend its activities to a wider audience including women, universities, research institutions, youth, small and medium sized enterprises and indigenous and local communities. We urge WIPO to increase resources allocated to support

these activities in its Member States, particularly those from developing and Least Developed countries.

Over the years, Lesotho has benefitted from WIPO's technical assistance programs, and we are grateful for WIPO's continued support, as we continue to modernize our IP system and to take it to the people. However, a number of programs meant for Lesotho have not yet been implemented. We urge WIPO to take this into consideration when making future workplans. Such programs include revision of the IP Legal framework, branding of National products, coaching and mentoring program for SMEs including women crafters, Youth Engagement and Empowerment Strategy projects, strengthening of IP generators such as the National University of Lesotho Innovation Hub and other research institutions, as well as strengthening of our creative industries. We look forward to collaborating with WIPO on these activities, which are meant to encourage the use IP as a key tool to unlock growth opportunities and to build a sustainable knowledge-based economy.

The Delegation of Lesotho once again would like to thank the Director General and his Secretariat for their excellent work. We look forward to fruitful deliberations and constructive participation by all Member States