

Mr. Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang, Honorable Chair for the 64th series of WIPO General Assemblies of member states, Excellencies, delegates, and distinguished guests.

I bring warm greetings from His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and the Government and People of Liberia. As the Minister of Commerce & Industry, I have the privilege of representing my country at this gathering, overseeing the Intellectual Property and Copyrights Institution. I would like to commend the devoted team at the Liberia Intellectual Property Office, led by Miss Garmai Koboi, for their able representation and advocacy on our behalf here in Geneva.

Honorable Chair, Liberia aligns itself with the African position and expresses gratitude to WIPO for its unwavering support to our SMEs in the area of Intellectual Property management. For example, thanks to WIPO's assistance, thirty SMEs in fields such as food processing, packaging, and fashion Design recently received training in IP management and business development. We are proud to announce that some of these SMEs have successfully secured trademarks, and the government has established a manufacturing association to further promote IP and facilitate interactions between the government and SMEs. Despite being a relatively new administration, President Boakai's government places a high priority on Intellectual Property as a catalyst for socio-economic development. With a growing youth population and dynamic women population, Liberia is cognizant of the opportunities IP and technology provides in changing lives and fostering a sustainable development agenda vested in our people. Our trade priorities rests on adding values to our comparative advantages. Thus, we have been diligently raising awareness across the creative industries and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry will ensure that this is mainstreamed in our national development agenda.

For example, with food security a priority, we've taken steps in integrating the Central Agricultural Research Institute into the WIPO-supported Technology and Innovation Support Center program. This integration aligns with our broader efforts to raise awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property. It is worth mentioning that our celebration of World IP Day, marked with great enthusiasm and significant participation from the UNDP, further emphasized the crucial role of Intellectual Property in our national development. Looking ahead, Liberia seeks WIPO's collaboration in digitizing and developing our IP structure beginning with comprehensive studies to quantify the economic impact of Intellectual Property on our economy and strategic

In the coming months, the Government of Liberia will submit all outstanding WIPO and ARIPO protocols for ratification. We express our gratitude to ARIPO, our development partners, and all member states for their efforts in enhancing Africa's

Intellectual Property infrastructure. In conclusion, while acknowledging our current limitations, Liberia is eager to collaborate and support WIPO and other partners as we collectively transition towards a knowledge-based global economy driven by Intellectual Property.

Thank you