

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF RWANDA DELEGATION TO THE 65TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF WIPO**

**By James NGANGO, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the
United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva, Head of Delegation**

9- 17th July 2024

- **Excellencies,**
- **Chairperson,**
- **Director General,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to take the floor.
2. Rwanda aligns herself with the statement delivered by the Kenya on behalf of the African Group and we join other delegations in thanking the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Secretariat for the efforts to prepare and convene the 65th Series of the Assemblies.
3. We welcome the General Report and wish to thank the Director General Mr. Daren Teng for his leadership and the vision of the organization to strength the IP in our respective countries. In particular, we appreciate the work that members 'states and WIPO have undertaken to align WIPO agenda with the SDGs pillars.

- **Chair ,**
 - **Distinguished delegates,**
4. The Government of Rwanda has created the necessary environment to ensure that the intellectual property regime at the national level provides the right incentives for innovators and creators to develop new technologies that foster the achievement of the national economic development agenda. A special attention was made to empower the youth and women to drive innovation and creativity for economic growth.
 5. We are also pleased to report that Rwanda has made significant progress to adopt a new IP instrument in Parliament in December 2023 with a view of domesticating the necessary provisions of the Madrid Protocol, the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Hague Systems. Importantly, we have undertaken the process to cooperate on domain name management and disputes settlement and we are delighted to announce that Rwanda will take the full advantage of this mechanism.
 6. Finally, the Government of Rwanda appreciates the support it has received in improving its Global Innovation Index ranking. Noting that there remains room for substantial improvement, we remain committed to continuing rising in the rankings with the support of WIPO, regional organisations and bilateral and international partners.
 - **Chair,**
 - **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**
 7. Our delegation recognizes the significance of decisions to be taken during these Assemblies and we pledge to continue to engage constructively during discussions ahead.
 8. Before concluding, Chair, I would like to reply, very briefly, to the false allegations made yesterday by the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) against my country Rwanda.
 9. It is so unfortunate that the delegation of DRC believes that the technical work of this Assembly can be politicized. By trying to evade its governance and political failures, DRC believes in finding some temporary solace in scapegoating Rwanda, ignoring further the usefulness of the existing regional peace initiatives notably the Luanda and Nairobi regional mechanisms. One such recent attitude is the denial by the DRC Government of the official ministerial discussions held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on the margins of the EAC Ministerial Retreat held from 6-8 July, 2024.

10. DRC continues to collaborate with the genocidal FDLR, a UN-sanctioned terror group with its splinter groups, who fled to the DRC in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Rwanda does not take lightly this continued collaboration coupled with a ritual bellicose rhetoric by DRC guided by its objective of regime change in Kigali.
11. We call upon this Assembly to dismiss those false allegations and urge the International community to engage the DRC Government with a view to finding peaceful resolution of the root causes of the conflict, and address the issue of congolese refugees in the region, including more than 130 thousand of them living in Rwanda for more than two decades.
12. I thank you for your attention.

