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Republic of Zambia

**FIFTY-SIXTH (56<sup>TH</sup>) SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES  
OF WIPO, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, OCTOBER 3 TO 11, 2016**

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZAMBIA**

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**Chairperson,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the delegation of Zambia, please allow me to pay tribute to the Director-General of WIPO and his secretariat for the meticulous manner in which the 56<sup>th</sup> assemblies have been arranged and in many respects.

**Chairperson,**

The Zambian delegation also wishes to join other delegations in congratulating you and your vice Chairs on your election to the positions of chairperson and vice chairpersons respectively. My delegation is impressed with the way you are handling the deliberations and we are confident that you will direct these Series of Meetings diligently and successfully.

At the outset, the Zambian delegation would like to align itself with statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African group.

**Chairperson,**

My delegation would like to once again reiterate and appreciate the role of IP to stimulate creativity and innovation and thus contributing to economic, cultural and social development of all countries. Since the last session of the Assemblies, am glad to report that Zambia has made significant progress in reforming its intellectual property legal regime. To this end, two new pieces of legislation have since been enacted into law. These are, The Lay-out designs of Integrated Circuits Act No. 6 of 2016 and The Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act No. 16 of 2016.

## **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

The new laws are expected to be operationalized before the end of the year once the implementing Regulations are approved and signed by Government. We are convinced that the new laws will go a long way in ensuring a wider range of protectable IP rights including the protection of tradition-based creativity and innovation and the promotion of equitable benefit sharing from use of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expression.

### **Chairperson**

We are also mindful of our national obligation under the TRIPS Agreement. In this regard the Zambian Government embarked on an ambitious undertaking to reform all its industrial Property legislations in order to re-align the laws with prevailing local circumstances and the needs of the people and also to bring it in conformity with the requirements of the TRIPs Agreement. In this regard, my delegation wishes to commend WIPO for the valuable comments and input made on our draft trademarks and Patents Bills by the Madrid Registry, the Design and Geographical Indication Law Section and the Patent Law Division. These bills will soon be taken to parliament and we are hopeful that they will be enacted into law by March 2017.

### **Chairperson**

With the assistance of WIPO Zambia has also made significant progress in its commitment to improving the operations of the industrial property office through automation of its business processes. The Zambian IP office with the cooperation of WIPO is now planning an ambitious program aimed at achieving total optimization and automation of its business processes and workflows for all administrative and legal procedures. The project is expected to inter alia, streamline business processes and workflows, provide training and capacity

building. We are very hopeful that once the project is completed, The Zambian IP Office will be more efficient in its service delivery.

**Chairperson,**

We note with appreciation the report of Director General and applaud the positive accomplishments outlined in the report. In this regard, we take cognizance and applaud the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. We also note the continued support of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and the Intergovernmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore (IGC). We are pleased to note that progress has been made within the framework of the IGC and it is our hope that member states will reach consensus on this important subject.

**Finally Chairperson,**

My delegation wish to offer my felicitations to the Director General of WIPO and members of staff for the continued and constant hard work that goes into the annual preparations for these Assemblies and for the continued and constant assistance that is offered to my country throughout the year. I wish to state Mr. Chairperson that WIPO remains relevant to supporting the development efforts of developing countries. For this reason, my delegation commends WIPO for the continued support to developing countries through the various Development programs and projects that have been initiated.

Please accept our gratitude.

**I thank you.**