

# PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA



GVA-UN/TECH/130

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and with reference to its earlier note Verbale of even reference dated 29 September 2017, on Agenda Item No. 5, '*General Statements*' of the Agenda of the 57<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of WIPO, has the honor to transmit the statement of **Hon. Maj. Gen. (RTD) Kahinda Otafiire**, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Uganda.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

**GENEVA**, 02 October 2017

The Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
CH-1211 Geneva 20

Encl.:





**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**STATEMENT OF**

**HON. (RTD) MAJ. GEN KAHINDA OTAFIIRE**

**MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

**57<sup>TH</sup> SERIES OF MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES  
OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION**

**GENEVA, 02 - 11 OCTOBER 2017**

*Please check against delivery*

Chairman,

Director General,

Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellences the Ambassadors,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

My delegation conveys warm greetings from the Government and People of the Republic of Uganda to all the delegates, the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry and the WIPO Secretariat.

We thank the Director General and the International Bureau for excellent preparation of the meetings of the Assemblies every year. As always, it gives us great pleasure to participate.

From the outset, Uganda fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished delegate of Senegal on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda like the rest of the world, is looking at creativity and innovation to address a lot of the challenges posed by disease, hunger, poverty and unemployment and implementing the SDGA to mitigate negative effects of climate change and youth unemployment and to provide solutions to issues of access to medicine, food security and preservation of biodiversity.

My Delegation therefore, recognizes that there is a strong need to ensure a consistent growth in innovation which can only be achieved with an effective intellectual property system characterized by adequate protection and effective enforcement founded on a balanced approach through the requisite policy, legal and institutional frameworks.

In this regard, the Delegation wishes to express our great appreciation to WIPO for the programs and activities that have been undertaken during 2016/17 in Uganda to encourage innovation and enhance the protection of intellectual property including; technical support to the Uganda in upgrading and maintenance of the Intellectual Property Automated System (IPAS) and continued participation in the modernization of intellectual property administration in Uganda; training and capacity building for human resources; support in the formulation and validation of the draft National Intellectual Property Policy; and facilitation of technology transfer through Technology and Innovation Support Centers(TISCS).

We especially thank WIPO for organizing in Uganda, a National Symposium on IP Education and a Needs Assessment on the same. This symposium engaged Universities and other institutions of Higher learning on the importance of teaching IP at higher and lower levels.

Further appreciation is given to WIPO for enabling a regional workshop on intellectual property and Traditional Knowledge for economic development. Protection of Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge is a key ingredient of Uganda's national IP strategy for

promoting creativity and innovation amongst its indigenous peoples and local communities to promote access to alternative health care, food security, preservation of biodiversity and sustainable development.

On the normative front, we are concerned that there have been significant delays in achieving a balanced and development-oriented update of the International IP rules.

Whereas significant progress has been made in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) regarding work on an international legal instrument(s) particularly for Genetic Resources, we note that progress has been riddled with setbacks and roadblocks.

We too would therefore, like to add our voice to the African Group proposal which seeks to fast track negotiations that will culminated into a diplomatic conference to negotiate a binding, minimum standard, international legal instrument on Genetic Resources and associated traditional knowledge in 2019.

We particularly would like to encourage fellow Member States to negotiate in a transparent and cooperative manner and with good faith not only regarding the issues in IGC but with regard to all other work taking place here at WIPO.

Further, as a signatory to the Marrakesh Treaty on access to published works for people who are blind or otherwise print disabled, Uganda is

committed to ensuring that it ratifies the Treaty. We also favor work aimed at norm setting for limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives as well as educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities.

In that spirit, my delegation will continue to engage in a constructive manner on the specific agenda items as they come up for discussion.

I thank you and wish you fruitful deliberations.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!