



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE 61ST SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION
21 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Kenya aligns with the statement that was delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African group and joins other delegations in thanking the Chairperson of the General Assembly, the Vice Chairs of the Assembly, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the WIPO Secretariat for their efforts in preparing and convening the 61st Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO.

The 61st Series of Meetings of the Assemblies mark an important transition for WIPO's leadership, and Kenya wishes to commend Dr. Francis Gurry for his tireless efforts and steadfast commitment during his tenure as the Director General of WIPO. We wish him the best in his future endeavours.

Kenya also wishes to welcome Mr. Daren Tang, the Director-General elect and assure him of our unwavering support as he takes up his new role. We have all the confidence that Mr. Tang will steer this organization to the desired level.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya appreciates the support that WIPO has provided over the years in the areas of capacity building, information infrastructure and systems and collaborations in Intellectual Property policies and innovations and we continue to look forward to increased collaboration in areas of vital importance to the economy.

Kenya will continue to stand with WIPO in its endeavours to support and promote the leveraging of IP as a tool for socio-economic development. Whereas the Organization has made significant achievements since its establishment as a specialized Agency of the UN, challenges and shortcomings have been experienced, which require a new strategic approach and support by all Members States.

As such, Mr. Chairman, the following should be fast tracked as a matter of urgency:

- (i) Streamlining of WIPO's Development Agenda to enable countries to accrue the benefits of innovation and bridge the technological gap.
- (ii) Traditional Knowledge (TK), Traditional Cultural Expression (TCE) and Genetic Resources (GR) have remained outstanding for long and there is need for the relevant committees to conclude the work.

- (iii) The Treaty on Design Law and the convening of a diplomatic conference should be finalized so as to unlock the potential of this important intellectual property right for Member States.

Finally, we look forward to successful deliberations during the 61st Series of Meetings of WIPO Assemblies.

Thank you