

STATEMENT BY:
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**63rd WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION (WIPO) SERIES
OF ASSEMBLIES**

14th - 22nd JULY 2020
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Thank you Madam President

WIPO Director General,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

1. Let me start off by joining other delegations to express our delight in seeing you chairing the 63rd General Assemblies. I am quite confident that your able leadership, supported by your vice chairs, will successfully steer these meetings towards effective decisions.
2. My delegation wishes to congratulate the Director General and the staff of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) for the hard work in preparing for the 63rd Session of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO. In the past two years, the Secretariat worked tirelessly to ensure that the organisation continued to operate despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 global health pandemic.

Madam President,

3. As we acknowledge the adverse effects of Covid-19 on the global economy, my delegation wishes to applaud the Director General and the Secretariat for ensuring that WIPO emerges out of the pandemic with a good financial position and an unqualified audit of the financial statements of the last biennium.

Madam President,

4. The financial position indeed reflects the role that IP played in enabling creation and distribution of innovations geared towards fighting the Covid-19. Thus, demanding WIPO to play an active role not only in promoting protection of IP, but also advocating for equitable distribution of vaccines, technologies and other innovations in such desperate times.

Madam President,

5. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegation of Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

Madam President,

6. My delegation remains grateful to WIPO for the support it has received over time in the establishment and growth of Botswana's IP system. Allow me to share that WIPO supported Botswana with the development of a National Intellectual Property Policy in 2017. I am delighted to announce that the Policy was approved by Parliament in February 2022, and will be officially launched in the near future and we are certain that implementation of the Policy will leapfrog our IP system.

Madam President,

7. WIPO is also supporting us with the project on IP Model Office and this project will enable us to leverage ICT for increased efficiency and effectiveness in offering IP services online.

Madam President,

8. My delegation is hopeful that, with the pandemic ceasing to prohibit movement and effective engagements, the various committees of the Organisation will now commence their norm-setting work in earnest. We wish to make specific mention of our hope in progressing the DLT and finalisation of the work of the IGC.

Madam President,

9. My delegation commits itself to working with other Member States to ensure that these Assemblies make decisions that will continue to grow the organisation and its impact in advancing IP for development amidst socio-economic aftermath of Covid 19 in the member states and the world over.

Thank you, Madam President