



**MALAWI STATEMENT TO THE 63rd WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES,
JULY 14-22, 2022**

MADAM CHAIR,

The delegation of Malawi congratulates you and your vice chairs on your being elected to chair these Assemblies. My delegation has full confidence in your leadership and ability to deftly steer our deliberations and successfully over the next few days.

My Delegation also joins other delegations in acknowledging and commending the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang, and the excellent members of staff at WIPO for the diligent and tireless efforts during the year, and for the excellent preparation for these Assemblies.

Madam Chair,

Malawi aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Delegation of Algeria on behalf of the African Group. In particular, my delegation wishes to underline the concern about lack of equitable geographical representation of Africa within the Secretariat, and particularly in senior positions. We would like to implore the Director General to be deliberate in ensuring equitable regional representation in the organization including in senior roles of the Secretariat.

My delegation is similarly worried by the lack of progress in the IGC. Having resumed IGC meetings after the long hiatus caused by the Covid Pandemic, our expectation was that there would be a sense of urgency to complete the work of the Committee, and race towards convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of an international legal instrument that will guarantee the effective and balanced protection for traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and traditional cultural expressions. Regrettably, it is evident that political will to finalise the work of the committee is in deficit. My delegation wishes to reiterate the urgent need for member states to deliver on the commitment to conclude this work during this biennium.

Madam Chair

Agriculture productivity and commercialization, and industrialization are two of the three pillars on which Malawi 2063 as the vision for transforming the country from a low-income to upper-high income country, are anchored on. IP, innovation, and creativity are critical to the realization of the vision to make Malawi an inclusively wealthy nation. Government of Malawi is committed to building a balanced and effective intellectual property system that will support the aspirations to make our country graduate from the least developed country status. It is for this reason that the Bill to establish an autonomous intellectual property office will soon be tabled in parliament. The country is also reviewing the Patents Act as well as the Designs Act. My delegation would therefore like to appreciate WIPO's commitment to supporting Malawi to align the intellectual property system with this vision. In particular, Malawi is grateful to the DG for committing to supporting the hosting of a high-level conference on IP, Innovation and the Malawi Vision 2063 which will take place in September this year. My delegation believes that this conference will be highly impactful and will help put IP and innovation at the centre of the vision. In the same vein, my delegation hopes that the inaugural WIPO Ministerial

Conference that was postponed will be held soon and that it will become a regular event. We believe that such a conference will be highly useful for countries that are in the process of building their intellectual property systems and need political will and support in their efforts. The Ministerial Conference would also provide an impetus for accelerating norm setting work of the organization.

My delegation is similarly grateful for WIPO's support to Malawi in a number of areas including, the ongoing digitization in the IP office; development of the Traditional Knowledge Strategy; commitment to increase TISCs; and for choosing Malawi as one of the three beneficiary countries in Africa to participate in a project that has established Intellectual Property Clubs in Secondary Schools, among other support.

Madam Chair

The Delegation of Malawi is inspired by the initiatives and projects initiated by WIPO intended to expand technical support activities for the benefit of the national players, in particular young people, women, small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups, as enshrined in the WIPO's first of the four Strategic Pillars and Foundation of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

Recently, Government of Malawi collaborated with the UNDP to hold an event in commemoration of the World IP day which this year focused on the role of the youth in IP. What came out clearly during the event, is that the youth are eager to take up their place and lead in innovating for the future. However, they face challenges, and they need to be supported in their endeavours. My delegation commends the DG for the youth focus. We therefore wish to encourage WIPO to do even more in supporting the youth and especially in supporting projects that will build their

capacity to innovate as well as exploit their intellectual property. My delegation also believes that WIPO should collaborate with UNDP in those countries like Malawi where UNDP has innovation support programs, for bigger impact.

Madam Chair

My Delegation looks forward to actively and constructively participating in these Assemblies and wishes all member states fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.