

## GENERAL STATEMENT ON THE FIFTY – FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

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The delegation of the Kingdom of Swaziland wishes to join other delegations who have taken the floor before us in extending our thanks and gratitude to the Director General and the Secretariat for the progress achieved during the course of the year, including the quality of the documents at our disposal. We also extend our thanks and gratitude to the organization for the assistance we have received from the organization during the course of the year, in particular the mission that will be undertaken which will facilitate our joining the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS). We believe that the use of (IPAS) will improve our Trade Marks operations for the benefit of our applicants.

It is worth noting that the country has reviewed all our outdated Intellectual Property legislations and most of them have already been tabled before our Parliament. It is hoped that when the new Parliament takes over in October, priority will be given to the intellectual property bills that have been tabled. The delegation associates itself with the views expressed by the delegation of Algeria on behalf of the African group. We are optimistic that with the renewed mandate of the WIPO inter-governmental Committee on intellectual property, genetic resources and expressions of folklore( IGC), the Committee will foster ahead and make positive progress, and finally come up with a binding international instrument, which will benefit the owners of the traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore.

We salute the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the adoption of the new landmark Treaty that will open access to books for the benefit of the hundreds of millions of people who are blind,

visually impaired and print disabilities. We believe that the conclusion of the Treaty is as a result of hard work from member states on improving access for the blind visually impaired and print disabled to published works in formats such as Braille and large print books. My delegation is confident that this Treaty will address the book famine to blind people by encouraging the contracting parties to speed up the process of domestication provisions that will allow reproduction, distribution and making available the published works in accessible formats through limitations and exceptions to the rights of copyright holders.

We extend our thanks and gratitude to the organization and the Director General for the assistance and support rendered to us during the course of the year. The country therefore pledges its commitment to all the World Intellectual Property Organization initiatives in making intellectual property benefit both the right holders and users, with minimum or none constraints, in the enhancement of the economic development of the country.

I thank you for your attention.