

General Statement of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Fifty-Eighth Session of the WIPO General Assemblies
September 24 – October 2, 2018

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the African Group. We congratulate you on your election to steer this session of the WIPO Assemblies. We are confident that under your astute leadership and with the support of your bureau, this Assembly will achieve positive outcomes. We join previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat of WIPO for the impressive report of activities of WIPO in the last year.

2. The promotion and protection of Intellectual Property Rights as a bona fide tool for socio-economic development, is a priority for Nigeria. This is particularly significant in the context of emerging global challenges and new paradigms. In line with our commitment to uphold Intellectual Property Rights, we deposited instruments of ratification of four major copyright treaties during the 57th Session of the WIPO General Assemblies in October 2017. Steps are being taken to align the framework of our Intellectual Property protection to reflect our commitments under those treaties and other instruments to which Nigeria is party.

3. A Draft Bill on the review of the statutory framework for the protection of copyright has been approved by the Federal Executive Council for enactment into law. Institutional structures for industrial property administration are also undergoing major reforms, to align with the legal framework of Nigeria's industrial property legislations and the overall policy of the Government on ease of doing business in Nigeria. The new reform measures include, digitization of IP records, the online processing of applications and timely publication of trademark journals. We are also putting in place a trademark tribunal to facilitate expeditious disposition of oppositions. This is with a view to addressing the timelines for the grant of the right of trademark protection.

4. Nigeria acknowledges WIPO's continuing efforts to improve the global IP systems and provide support services and user-friendly tools that will increase efficiency in the national and international IP systems. We support the activities of the PCT Working Group towards enhancing the PCT system. We would like to see more activities aimed at promoting the visibility of these services in the African region.

5. We commend the WIPO Secretariat for its continuing focus on human capital development. The IP training for Judicial Institutions in some member countries has been beneficial to Nigeria. These initiatives have the potential of strengthening respect for IP and their importance as building blocks for development.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Nigeria lauds the decision and vision of Member States in approving the establishment of more external offices of WIPO. We are pleased to host one of WIPO's External Offices in Africa as approved in the last biennium. The Government of Nigeria has continued to work closely with the WIPO Secretariat and I am delighted to inform the Assembly that progress has been made to ensure the effective commencement of operations in WIPO Nigeria Office.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We acknowledge the importance of the WIPO norm setting agenda which presents an opportunity for addressing cross-cutting issues with immense socio-economic consequences to member states and the world at large. We look forward to greater demonstration of commitment, goodwill and flexibility by WIPO member states in addressing pertinent issues in the various WIPO standing committees. Among these are the crucial work relating to the protection of tradition-based assets within the IGC; the outstanding issues on exceptions and limitations under the SCCR; the discussions on Protection of Broadcasting Organizations and the African Group proposal on the Design Law Treaty. Nigeria is strongly in favour of transparent efforts towards conclusive outcomes. We call for the adoption of clear roadmaps leveraging on current milestones in the respective processes, to facilitate prompt conclusions.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Nigeria is firmly committed to working with other delegations to achieve the target objectives of this Assembly. We will speak further to specific issues under the relevant agenda items.

9. I thank you.