



**OPENING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
58TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

DELIVERED BY MRS. V. MABIZA

**SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure and honour for me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, to address the Fifty-Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

My delegation wishes to join other delegations in congratulating you and your vice Chairs for having been nominated to chair this Assembly. My delegation is confident that you will steer the proceedings diligently and successfully.

Mr. Chairman,

We also acknowledge the great work by the Director General of WIPO, and his Secretariat in preparing all these working documents for these meetings.

Zimbabwe would like to fully associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of Morocco, on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the last Session of the Assemblies Zimbabwe launched the Zimbabwe National IP Policy and Strategy (ZNIPPS) on 28 June 2018. This policy was developed with the assistance and technical cooperation from WIPO. Several stakeholders including WIPO also attended the launch. The policy is ready for implementation and several outreach interfaces have already started with business and universities. We kindly appeal to WIPO and all other stakeholders to support Zimbabwe to fully implement the Policy.

The Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office continues to benefit from the several staff training and capacity building programmes carried out by WIPO. We are grateful to WIPO and the Japanese Funds in Trust for the successful digitization of the trademarks records and we are hoping to complete data verification again with WIPO support early next year. We are also in discussion with WIPO to complement the ICT skills gap currently existing in the office.

My delegation also acknowledges with gratitude the great work that the WIPO Academy continues to carry out such as the Masters in Intellectual Property (MIP) program jointly offered by WIPO, ARIPO and Africa University. The current 11th Cohort has a total of 38 students and out of these 5 are from Zimbabwe mostly coming from the private sector. This program continues to add to the critical mass of IP professionals in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe continues to value all the normative processes of the various WIPO Committees including the IGC and hope that all

delegations will continue to have positive engagement with a view to achieving consensus. Development is at the heart of every nation and we trust that the Development Agenda will maintain relevance on issues that are of critical importance to Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion I'm happy to state that Zimbabwe will continue to be available for participation in all WIPO Committees for the well-being of the organization and the IP fraternity in general.

I Thank you.