

## **59<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Member States of WIPO General Statement of the Republic of The Gambia**

Mr. Chairman, Director General Francis Gurry and esteemed Delegates.

The Gambian delegation is glad to be part of this annual august gathering and wish to commend the Secretariat for working tirelessly in organizing this Session. We wish to congratulate you and your entire team for presiding over this meeting and wish you well. The Gambian delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the Africa Group and also to thank the DG of WIPO for his very informative report to this Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, The Gambia once again is grateful to WIPO for the continuous partnership in our effort to the development of intellectual property in The Gambia.

My delegation is happy to inform you that in April this year, The Gambia Industrial Property Office in partnership with WIPO and University of The Gambia has successfully organized a National Symposium on intellectual property education at the University of The Gambia. This program has helped inspire University of The Gambia administration to partner with the IP Office in other areas of intellectual property promotion. What we envisage in this new partnership, is the introduction of Intellectual Property in all relevant faculties of the University which forms part of our efforts to increase understanding and appreciation for IP in The Gambia. We wish to specifically thank the WIPO Academy for the wonderful support it provided towards this endeavor.

We are pleased to report that The Gambia has now attained Second Maturity Level in the establishment of TISC after signing the TISC Service Legal Agreement,

Institutional level Agreement with three institutions in The Gambia and has started offering advisory services to clients. We appreciate and commend the TISC team for successfully organizing two Regional Workshops at the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) Secretariat in Harare Zimbabwe which has immensely enhanced our efforts for the establishment of a national TISC Network in The Gambia.

Mr. Chairman all these projects were possible due to the effective facilitation role played by Regional Bureau for Africa in fostering collaboration between The Gambia and the relevant WIPO departments. We are therefore profoundly grateful for the support we had and still continue to receive from the Africa Bureau

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to use this forum to once again express gratitude to WIPO and ARIPO for the joint Masters programme in Intellectual Property (MIP) offered at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. This program is auguring well for our efforts to build a strong team of professional with knowledge and skill in IP to man the Gambia IP office.

Mr. Chairman with these few remarks, I wish to thank you for your kind attention.