

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA DURING THE SIXTY-FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Mr. President,

Director General,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Rwanda express its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for the excellent leadership in guiding the work of the Assemblies and appreciates the exceptional contingency measures applied by the Organization to safeguard the health and safety of WIPO staff and stakeholders from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out throughout the year, and especially in this particular work context in preparing informative documents for the meeting of the assemblies.

The Government of Rwanda joins the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and would like to take this particular moment to thank and congratulate the Director General Francis Gurry for the recent creation of the Regional Bureau for Africa during his mandate; Rwanda does recognize his tireless support and commitment in contributing to the development of Intellectual Property as a tool and vector for the development of our nation's economic success. With the support of the bureau and WIPO in general, we have placed great importance on the IP regime and its facilitating role in adding value to innovations and creation at the national level. We wish him all the best for the next chapter of his career and life.

Mr. President,

Director General,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Rwanda is creating the necessary environment to ensure that the intellectual property regime at the national level provides the right incentives for innovators and creators to develop new technologies that address national concerns.

We are pleased to report that Rwanda has ratified three key industrial property treaties since 2011 and has taken positive steps to comply with these instruments. We are honored to announce that recently our Parliament approved the draft law to join the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise Print-Disabled .

Significant progress also has been made in Copyright enforcement with campaigns, and various administrative interventions geared to support the growth of copyright industries in Rwanda. In this regard, we acknowledge and commend WIPO for its support and assistance in improving the Collective Management system in Rwanda.

We also recognize the technical support of WIPO in the amendment of our national Intellectual property law of 2009, in reformulating substantive provisions so that we may have a modern and comprehensive national law.

In addition, the Government of Rwanda appreciates the support it has received in improving its Global Innovation Index ranking and the recent appointment of a cabinet member of the Government to the advisory board of the Global Innovation Index; this is truly a giant step for our country .

Mr. President,
Director General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Rwanda also wishes to express its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the WIPO' family for the loss of Mrs. Carole Croela who's contribution in building the creative Industry in Rwanda will remain alive.

Mr. President, the Government of Rwanda recognizes the significance of decisions to be taken during the Assemblies and pledges to engage constructively in discussions in order to find solutions that are acceptable to all member states.

We thank you.