



STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION DURING THE FIFTY FIFTH SERIES OF MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates

Let me start by congratulating you Mr. Chairman for having been elected to chair these Assemblies. Allow me also extend my congratulations to your two vice chairpersons. The Zambian delegation is confident that you will navigate these series of meetings diligently and successfully.

Mr. Chairman, may I also thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for their hard work and efficiency in putting together these meetings.

Mr. Chairman, the Zambian delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African group and the delegation of Benin on behalf of Least Developed Countries. Let me be quick to add that Zambia remains hopeful that negotiations by the intergovernmental committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of folklore (IGC) in line with its mandate will eventually bear positive results in view of the successful work of the Committee thus far. It is in this context that we call for the renewed mandate of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, to demonstrate the importance Zambia attaches to the protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore, we have at the national level taken steps to put in place a *sui generis* system that would

provide for the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore as well as provide for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

Further Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to reiterate that Zambia attaches great importance to the ideals of WIPO and acknowledges its efforts to mainstream the Development Agenda to accelerate the social, cultural and economic development of developing countries. Zambia stands ready to continue fostering its cooperation with WIPO in order for the country to fully realize the potential of IP as a driver of innovation and technological progress. In this regard, Mr. Chairman, Zambia would also like to take this opportunity to urge WIPO to increase its support in raising awareness of the value of IP and promotion of the effective use of the IP system by universities, businesses and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in many developing countries including Zambia,

Let me also pay tribute to WIPO for the continued support towards the development of IP in Zambia. We are grateful in particular for the support towards the automation of our Industrial Property administrative and legal procedures and capacity building in many areas including the effective use of the IPAS system.

Mr. Chairman, as a way of contributing towards the regional cooperation in the development of IP Zambia accepted to honor to host the ARIPO Ministerial and Administrative Council Meetings which will take place in Lusaka from 16th to 20th November 2015.

As I close Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my delegations' confidence that this year's Assemblies will make progress towards achieving a common goal for an international protection of Traditional Knowledge, folklore and genetic resources.

I thank you.

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