



**STATEMENT OF THE MALAWI DELEGATION TO THE 64<sup>TH</sup>  
GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO), GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, JULY  
6<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**MADAM CHAIR,**

The delegation of Malawi is once again pleased to see you and your vice Chairs presiding over these Assemblies. My delegation is confident in your capabilities to steer these Assemblies to successful conclusion.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to complement Director General, Mr. Daren Tang for the excellent, inclusive and responsive leadership of this organisation. We also would like to recognise your able team of Deputy and Assistant Directors' General and indeed the entire secretariat for the dedicated execution of the work of this organisation and also the excellent organisation and documentation of these Assemblies.

**Madam Chair and esteemed Excellences,**

Malawi aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Delegation of Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

**Madam Chair,**

Malawi recognises the critical role that a focused and well balanced intellectual property system can play in stimulating technological change and advancement and promoting economic development. For this reason, Malawi has identified the intellectual property system as a tool for the attainment of the aspirations outlined in the Malawi Vision 2063, as the roadmap for transforming Malawi from a lower income to a high-middle income economy. As a nation, we realize that the

transformation of the country from the current Least Developed Country (LDC) status, hinges on our ability to harness the intellectual property system to build innovation capacity anchored in an innovation ecosystem that is well positioned to stimulate and sustain innovation in all sectors of the economy for economic prosperity and development. It is imperative therefore to increase targeted awareness about the role that a well-balanced intellectual property system can play in stimulating development.

**Madam Chair,**

While acknowledging the important role that the IP system can play, it is important to always remember that it is not a one size fits all framework. The reality is most of our countries have had intellectual property laws for a long time without tangible economic impact. One can therefore be justified for being cynical about the accepted wisdom on the connection between the IP system and its economic benefits. In reality, the intellectual property system does not work in isolation. Having effective IP laws in our statute books is not enough. IP laws, including international IP instruments are only a part of the matrix. For the intellectual property system to channel economic benefits to our nations, it is critical that it is aligned to the structure of our economies, and our economic plans and aspirations.

I therefore would like to once again thank Director General Tang for his focus on impactful interventions in the support that WIPO is providing to our countries and my country in particular. In March this year, WIPO supported Malawi with convening a highly successful national High Level Conference on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Actualisation of the Malawi 2063 which has generated a lot of interest in IP as well as demand for support from various stakeholders. I would also like to acknowledge and thank WIPO for support with appropriate technology project under the LDC Division and also support towards the development of the Traditional Knowledge Strategy that is being finalised and will be launched soon.

**Madam Chair,**

We are grateful that in the implementation of these support area, WIPO is listening to our needs and working with us on how best to implement these interventions. My delegation therefore wishes to encourage WIPO to continue with this inclusive and responsive approach in the implementation of technical assistance and support. It is

also our firm belief that the normative work of WIPO should follow a similar approach so that the IP system can be an instrument for the social and economic prosperity of all and not just some nations.

**Madam Chair,**

My Delegation looks forward to participating actively and constructively in these Assemblies and wishes all Member States fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.