



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT OF HON. (RTD) MAJ. GEN KAHINDA OTAFIIRE MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AT THE 55<sup>TH</sup> SERIES OF  
MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

The Chairperson, WIPO General Assembly,

The Director General, WIPO,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr Chairman, first I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of this Assembly. We have all the confidence in your stewardship.

Let me start by extending my sincere gratitude on behalf of the people of the Republic of Uganda to the Director General, WIPO, Dr Francis Gurry and your team for the continued support towards the promotion of IP in Uganda.

Uganda has tremendously benefited from our cooperation with WIPO in promotion of IP for our national growth and development. We are committed to transforming our country into a modern and prosperous society and we do understand that IP plays a crucial role in promoting science, technology, innovation and ICT to in realising our national development goals.

A lot has happened over the course of the preceding period since we were last here. This is demonstrated by the results of the Global Innovation Index 2015. Uganda has consistently for the last three years qualified as an innovation achiever thanks to the various reforms and activities undertaken by the Government of Uganda to realize the potential of Ugandans and overcome poverty.

Uganda has continued to carry out legal reforms in industrial property, plant variety protection and is investing in human resource and, institutional capacity development . With WIPO's cooperation, Uganda has sensitized policy makers including Members of Parliament and MSMEs have been introduced to tools for

managing their IP assets. We are also currently engaged in developing capacity to facilitate technology transfer through use of intellectual property tools.

I wish to note and thank WIPO for the MOU entered with the Government of Uganda in July, 2015 to benefit from the project on “Capacity Building in the use of Appropriate Technology Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges”. We will be reporting accordingly on the implementation of this project.

I am also pleased to report that work continues with regards to the process of formulating a National IP Policy to provide a framework for use of IP for national development. We are looking forward to receiving WIPO’s support to commence assessment of the contribution of the copyright based industry to our economy. We are however, at unease at the delay in carrying out this assessment and we trust that this Assembly will provide proper guidance on the management of these kinds of surveys to ensure that work on this activity is undertaken as soon as it is possible.

In 2014, these Assemblies took various decisions of “no decision”. Although this was necessary at the time, in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, we

believe that after a considerable time of reflection members can chart a way forward on all outstanding issues.

And as Uganda we look forward to positive deliberations in the coming days.

Thank you.

Hon. (Rtd) Maj. Gen KahindaOtafiire

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Republic of Uganda

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY