

Statement by
Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia
at the 57th Series of Meetings of the WIPO Member States,
3 October 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Director General,

Distinguish delegates

Namibia congratulates you and your team on your election and we look forward to a fruitful deliberations session under your able stewardship. My delegation, further appreciates the excellent preparations the Secretariat for this Assemblies as well as the Director General's report.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by Senegal on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

the Government of Namibia has adopted various policies and strategies directed towards creating an enabling environment for industrialization, small and medium enterprise development and to facilitate trade and commerce to addressing the challenges which threaten the aspirations of our people towards prosperity.

These include the Vision 2030, National Development Plan 5 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan. These policies form the basis of our National Intellectual Property Policy and its implementation strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

It is with pleasure that I inform you that the Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act entered into force on 16 January 2017. This Act therefore establishes the Business and Intellectual Property authority (BIPA) as an autonomous institution with a mandate to administer and promote registration of business and intellectual property.

Furthermore, the draft National Intellectual Property Policy & Strategy is at an advanced phase and I would like to thank the WIPO for the support. The Policy will create a conducive framework to unlock the potential of IP as a tool towards economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

Namibia's cooperation with the WIPO is defined in the Memorandum of Understanding entered into on 6 October 2016 during the 56th Series of the WIPO General Assemblies. The MOU facilitates the framework for the implementation of the National IP Development Plan.

Namibia and WIPO have within the framework of the MOU, embarked upon several projects, namely the development of the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy, the Model Intellectual Property Office Project, the Intellectual Property, Tourism and Culture Project, the establishment and development of the Technology and Innovation Centres and the Building Respect for Intellectual Property Strategy.

Namibia would thus like to thank WIPO for the above and many other contributions made to the development of IP in Namibia.

Lastly, my delegation would like to underscore our commitment for the African Group's position to work towards appropriate conclusions on matters which have overstayed on the Assemblies Agenda.

I Thank You.