



**59TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
GENEVA, 30TH SEPTEMBER TO 9TH OCTOBER, 2019**

General Statement by Ghana

The delegation of Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Delegation of Uganda on behalf of the Africa Group. The delegation wishes to express its profound appreciation to the Chair for his excellent stewardship, and the Secretariat for the comprehensive documentation prepared for the Assemblies.

My delegation wishes to express its continued support for the activities undertaken by WIPO to support the functioning and continuous development of the IP system globally. The Government of Ghana recognises the importance of the knowledge economy and the need for a country to translate its knowledge into innovation leading to the commercialization of useful and valuable products. It is for this reason that the government has introduced its flagship programs for innovation and industrialization of one district one factory under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Planting for Food and Jobs under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Mr Chairman,

The government of Ghana in September 2018 initiated the process to Establish a National Industrial Property Office, fully dedicated and responsible for the administration and registration of Industrial Property rights as enshrined in its National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy aimed at harnessing the potential for innovation and creativity at the national level, and providing effective and efficient service to users to promote creativity and competitiveness.

The Ghana Industrial Property Office under one year of this initiative is making strides in the provision of an enabling environment for a robust Intellectual Property system at the national level. The office is currently processing applications within the timelines provided under its treaty obligations for Madrid applications for trademarks and Hague applications for Industrial Designs. The Office would require capacity building activities to enhance its service delivery in these areas.

My delegation deeply appreciates its fruitful cooperation with WIPO, particularly WIPO's commitment in providing technical assistance to Universities and Research Institutions to enable them draft and implement Institutional IP Policies in line with the National IP Strategy to promote innovative activities. Ghana benefitted from the African Bureaus' flagship project that identified "Champion countries" in Africa who are using IP as a tool for wealth creation at

the respective national level in celebrating the World IP Day. The Office has also completed its mapping of institutions and is ready to host the TISC Program and looks forward to signing the service level Agreement with WIPO for the roll out of the program before the end of 2019.

Ghana appreciates the constructive spirit in which Member States have engaged at the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) and hopes that Member States can build upon the goodwill and progress made in recent meetings to find common ground.

With regard to the convening of the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the proposed Design Law Treaty in 2020, it is hoped that the existing differences on non-substantive issues will no longer prevent member States from adopting a simplified design system for the benefit of right holders and users. Ghana is satisfied with the work and progress of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and trusts that the ongoing discussions will address the larger interests of all Member States and improve the patent system for all stakeholders.

Ghana wishes to thank WIPO for the many activities undertaken with Ghana designed to strengthen the Intellectual Property System. Ghana looks forward to further collaboration with WIPO to improve its Intellectual Property system aimed at implementing

activities identified under the WIPO-Ghana IP Development Plan and the National IP Policy

Mr. Chair,

Ghana also wishes to express its profound appreciation to Member States that extended technical cooperation activities in the area of Intellectual Property. My delegation is particularly pleased with the support received from the Swiss Government under the Swiss-Ghana IP Project, Phase II of which is being implemented by the Swiss IP Institute. Our appreciation also goes to the Japan Trust- in Funds for the support in identifying viable projects in Africa and more particularly in Ghana relating to branding.

In conclusion, Ghana recognises the significance of decisions to be taken during the Assemblies and pledges its full participation and cooperation.

I thank you for your attention.