

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Nigerian delegation commends you on the excellent job you have been doing in conducting the work of WIPO's General Assembly. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the Director-General, Mr. Francis Gurry, and, through him, to all members of the Secretariat of WIPO. Nigeria associates itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

2. We are pleased to inform the General Assembly that Nigeria has concluded plans for the takeoff of the WIPO External Office in Abuja. This has strengthened our resolve to continue to preserve the role of WIPO as the key multilateral body in charge of setting rules and principles on Intellectual Property (IP).

3. Nigeria is pleased to observe that the institutional strengthening of WIPO is gaining momentum. As a multilateral agency of the UN system that gathers round member countries, an organization whose deliberations are increasingly transparent, with an active participation by representatives of both the private sector and civil society, WIPO presents an inclusive platform for the debates on the evolution of the international system of Intellectual Property.

4. Legitimacy, "expertise" and a culture of inclusion are pre-requisites for ensuring the effectiveness of any new international order. Without those elements, these norms will not be applicable to, nor enforced in relevant economic spaces that today constitute the dynamic centre of the world economy.

5. Member States should strive to maintain WIPO at the centre of Intellectual Property "rule making". This would also entail agreeing on long debated and discussed intergovernmental mandates on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, to other complex discussions under way in different fora on the interplay between Intellectual Property, on the one hand, and public health, climate change and food security, on the other.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. The endorsement of the Development Agenda in 2007 was aimed at extending the benefits of the intellectual property system to all countries, especially those that are yet to reap fully, the promised benefits of the system. The New reality has added a fresh dimension to WIPO that calls for empirical learning methods and flexible

implementation methodologies, in addition to budgetary resources commensurate with its importance.

7. WIPO must continue to fill the void in the area of Intellectual Property. WIPO as an agency of the UN system must continue to embrace and mainstream the wider goals of the United Nations, in particular the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. In Nigeria, we have achieved tangible results in the process of reform and improvement of our Intellectual Property system. The registries of Trademarks and Patent and Designs have been separated. Each is now independent and aligned to its operating legislation (of Trademarks Act, and the Patent and Designs Act). Within that context, we have deepened and accelerated inter agency collaboration on enforcement, while building progress for Intellectual Property. That concept implies a broader and more complex approach to dealing with enforcement-related issues.

9. We have intensified national public enlightenment campaigns across the country. This is aimed at promoting awareness and respect for IP. We commend the activities of WIPO Distance Learning Academy, particularly on the positive impact of courses of the Academy in fulfilling our training needs and requirement.

10. We have accelerated our digitization process and reduced the time frame for processing applications. To this end, we thank the Africa Bureau for its efforts towards addressing the myriad of issues our delegation presented to them. These include – the setting up of a national training academy, training of trainers, examination and opposition training and other capital base activities.

11. We call on WIPO and all Member States to continue to work towards convergence of international governance in the fields of Intellectual Property. This would give concrete expression to principles of coexistence that guide us, while we remain resolute in upholding the principles of Intellectual Property.

12. Nigeria will continue to participate actively in deliberations at WIPO. We reaffirm our commitment to work with all Member States to strengthen the organization.

13. I thank you for your kind attention.