

Ghana 's Statement – 57th Series of Meetings.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Ghana commends you and the Vice chairs for your excellent work in conducting the General Assembly, and also congratulates the new elected officers for 2018- 2018 biennium. The delegation is confident that you will steer the affairs of the meeting to a successful end.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Senegal on behalf of the African Group. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out throughout the year, and in particular for the hard work in preparing large quantities of informative documents for the meetings of the Assemblies.

My delegation appreciates WIPO's continued efforts in creating the necessary awareness of the importance of IP in the knowledge economy. The need for the promotion and protection of intellectual property rights globally as a tool for development and wealth creation continues to rise. Ghana does recognize that IP supports innovation and contributes to a nation's economic success and has placed importance on the IP regimes to work effectively to add value to innovations at the national level. It is in the light of this that Ghana is implementing activities under the National IP policy to serve national needs of creating a vibrant private sector that meet the national aspirations of creating an industry in every district of the country. The government is providing the necessary environment to ensure that the intellectual property regime at the national level provides the right incentives for innovators and creators to develop new technologies that addresses national concerns.

The delegation is very pleased to note the sound financial situation of the organization as reflected in the PBC documents which has resulted in growing a healthy surplus. The delegation recalls the long history in the normative agenda in relation to the IGC and DLT and welcomes the considerable progress made in the intense work program of the IGC in the course of the year, and hopes that member states will continue to deliberate and do so in the spirit of compromise to ensure that the future work of the IGC will focus on and accelerate the development of an international legally binding instrument. Ghana abounds in traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions and it is in the process of developing a national legal document aimed at stopping the unauthorized commercial acts of third parties and providing a protection system that would promote and preserve traditional knowledge and cultural expressions at the

national level. Ghana is indeed grateful for WIPO's technical assistance in this direction.

The delegation recognizes the considerable work and discussions that have been made on the proposed design law treaty and trusts that the member states will reach an agreed position on the issues that remained unresolved at the last Assemblies. We very much hope that Member states will be able to bridge the gap on outstanding issues in a constructive and positive spirit, to ensure a successful outcome of the process resulting in the convening of a diplomatic conference. Ghana's vibrant textile industry is slowly dying due to piracy and an adoption of design law treaty could address some of the national concerns in this area.

The delegation wishes to thank WIPO for the many activities undertaken with Ghana designed to strengthen the I.P system. In the past year, Ghana benefited from activities and technical assistance programs to build the capacity of research institutions and the IP Office staff. Ghana is ready and looks forward to the deployment of the Technology Innovation Support Center (TISC) Project for research institutions and universities at the national level.

The Government of Ghana is very committed to modernizing the intellectual property regime at the national level to support innovation, competitiveness and economic growth and to that end continues to introduce measures aimed at this goal. The establishment of a National IP Office as envisaged under the National IP Policy is gaining momentum and Ghana would be gratified to have the IPAS deployed for Patents and Industrial Designs Registries at the National level.

Mr Chairman, the delegation also wishes to express its sincere appreciation to member states that extended technical cooperation activities in the field of IP to Ghana, and wishes to thank in particular the Government of Switzerland and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Swiss IP Office for the implementation of the second Phase of the Swiss- Ghana IP Project aimed at improving the IP landscape and the establishment of a National IP Office. We also wish to thank the Korean IP Office and the Korea Inventors Association for the continued collaboration with Ghana in the use of patent information for appropriate technology.

Mr. Chair, the delegation recognizes the significance of decisions to be taken during the Assemblies and pledges to engage constructively in discussions in order to find solutions that are acceptable to all member states.

I thank you for your attention.

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