

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE GAMBIA DURING THE 64<sup>TH</sup> SERIES  
OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF WIPO  
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM THE 6<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

Chair, Director General of WIPO, Honorable Ministers here present, Your Excellences the ambassadors, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. The Gambia is honored once again to participate in the series of meetings of the Member States of WIPO here in Geneva.

I would like to start by registering our support for the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

Chair, The General Assemblies gives us the opportunity to reflect and measure the gains we have been able to achieve so far in the area of intellectual property development as Member States of WIPO as well as enable us to strategically plan our activities for the future.

The Gambia is pleased to report that it has carried out a number of activities during the year under review in the pursuit of the promotion of Intellectual Property rights. The implementation process of the Gambia IP Policy and Strategy 2018-2023 is ongoing and the document is earmarked for review during the first quarter of next year.

Chair, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to report that The Gambia Intellectual Property Bill 2023 is now at the Committee Stage of the National Assembly of The Gambia. It has passed through the First and Second Readings and is expected to be enacted before the end of this year. The Bill will create a single intellectual property office for The Gambia to streamline the administration of intellectual property rights.

With the partnership of WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Division and the University of The Gambia we were able to organize a hybrid workshop on Patent, Trademark and design search tools for the benefit of tertiary institutions and innovators in The Gambia in April this year. I am happy to report that we used the occasion to launch the University of The Gambia Institutional IP Policy as well as the University of The Gambia Technology and Innovation Support Centre. These efforts will go a long way in strengthening support to our youthful population in innovation and generating employment, an area very much needed given high levels of unemployment in our youthful population. We therefore look for more support for the development of the centre.

IP Office automation is one of our priorities as a Country; we are therefore delighted to participate in the IPAS 4.0 Regional Training workshop organized by WIPO in partnership with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

in Harare this year. We have made a request to WIPO for the System to be launched in The Gambia and we are hopeful to achieve this before the end of the year.

The ratification of all the major WIPO Copyright and Related Rights treaties is at an advanced stage. We will be depositing the instruments of ratification in the near future. I wish to seize this opportunity to thank WIPO Division for Copyright and Related Rights for the dedication to support The Gambia creative industries. We hope this collaboration will be strengthened in the years ahead especially after the ratification process.

We wish to express our appreciation for the support we continue to receive from the indefatigable team at the WIPO Africa Division. They have guided and supported us over the years in all our endeavors towards the development of intellectual property in The Gambia.

I commend and encourage the continued collaboration between WIPO and ARIPO in the promotion of IP in and amongst ARIPO Member States. I must say that The Gambia has greatly benefited from this partnership and I am hopeful that this mutual collaboration will continue to grow from strength to strength.

In conclusion, I want to thank all our partners and sister countries for all the support rendered to The Gambia over the year. I thank you all for your kind attention.

Check against delivery

Geneva, Switzerland

6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

By: Solicitor General and Legal Secretary Hussein Thomasi