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**Vanuatu statement**  
**64<sup>th</sup> WIPO GA (6-14 July 2023)**

**Statement by Mr Brittien YOSEF Registrar-Ministry of Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Industry, Commerce & Ni-Vanuatu Business Government of the Republic of Vanuatu**

07.07.2023

*Your Excellency, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Director General of WIPO,*

*Excellences,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

- Vanuatu thanks you Madam Chair for your esteem leadership at this General Assembly. And we also extend our appreciation to the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang for his leadership and active engagement, and the Secretariat for the fine efforts for our Assembly.
- At the outset, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

**Madame Chair,**

- Vanuatu would like thank the WIPO through its technical support and assistance towards capacity building to Vanuatu relating to Geographical Indication which is an enabler to the conduct of legislative reforms for our IP regime.
- The support of WIPO in the establishment on Vanuatu's Copyright Management organisation is acknowledged – helping to develop a Vanuatu Copyright Guide which is adding value to the IP work in our everyday activities. At this juncture, and as Vanuatu hosts a Melanesian Arts Festival in July 2023, this Guide will inform our consumer

communities, the creators of our arts, the distributors of the works such as the events organisers and broadcasting organisations that there are rights and legal obligations that must be fulfilled when copyright work is commercialised.

- On the Genetic Resources, Associated with Traditional Knowledge, we look forward to the discussions on the relevant agenda item.

**Madam Chair**, in the medium term,

- Whilst IP issues of today are confronting us, embarking on a journey for the future must also be pursued. In that respect, Vanuatu is developing a National IP Strategic Plan with a view to building an IP eco system that, increases creativity and innovation. It must be for both economic and social reconstruction. In this regard, we draw particular attention to the issue of climate change (an existential threat of our time), sea level rise, natural disasters and associated effects where innovation must be part of the response and resolutions. Complacency is not an option.
- Partnering with our National University of Vanuatu, and other academic and research institutions to develop components of IP in their training modules is a noble objective. We ask the WIPO family to support us in these endeavours.

*Thank you Madame Chair*