STATEMENT BY THE SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION TO THE FIFTIETH SERIES OF
MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBERS OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANISATION

Mr. Chair, Vice Chairs,

Honourable Ministers, Director General
Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives here present,
Distinguished Delegates
Observers.

The Sierra Leone delegation on behalf of the Government and People of Sierra
Leone, join all former speakers in extending congratulations to you Mr. Chair
and Vice Chairs, on your election to steer the ship of this occasion. Indeed it is
already clear that the passengers are having a smooth sail. My delegation also
conveys to all here present, warm greetings and wishes for a successful
deliberation.

Sierra Leone aligns herself with the statement and sentiments expressed by
Egypt, Coordinator of the African Group, and expresses appreciation for the
untiring efforts of the said Group in furtherance of the objectives of the
Intergovernmental Committee. Sierra Leone welcomes progress made by the
ICG during the year under review with the production of three texts on the
subject matter under consideration. We very much look forward to the ICG’s
conclusion of its current mandate by coming up with a legally binding
instrument soonest, that will ensure the effective protection of traditional
knowledge, expression of folklore, and genetic resources.

To you Director General Gurry, Sierra Leone congratulates you on your many
successes during the year under review, including the hosting of the Diplomatic
Conference on Audio Visual Performances in Beijing last June, the outcome of
which is the Beijing Treaty on Audio Visual Performances.

Sierra Leone also recognises WIPO’s continued drive through your leadership,
in the formulation of new strategies, and implementation thereof, to meet
new challenges faced by the intellectual property system in management and
technological innovation. In this regard, the establishment of the South South
Cooperation the main objective of which is to promote intellectual property
through the sharing of experiences and the drawing of best practices from
Member States, and the creation of a website that will provide access to much needed information to IP Offices of Member States.

My delegation is pleased to share with this august body, the fact that in addition to the Copyrights and Related Rights Act passed last year, Sierra Leone now has a new Patents and Industrial Designs Act was recently enacted.

For Sierra Leone, this is a great achievement in that for the very first time, we are going to be undertaking the original registration of patents. In this respect, we look forward to the usual support provided under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in the establishment of the Patents Office, and support for capacity building in the administration thereof.

Once again, Sierra Leone extends appreciation and thanks to WIPO, for its facilitation of positive intellectual property development in my country, and wishes this august body, a successful deliberations and outcomes.

I thank you all for your attention.

Mariama Seray Kallay
Administrator and Registrar General of Sierra Leone