



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT OF HON. (RTD) MAJ. GEN KAHINDA OTAFIIRE MINISTER OF
JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AT THE 56TH
SERIES OF MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION**

3rd - 11th October 2016

Chair,

Director General,

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies the Ambassadors

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Chairman,

It gives me great pleasure to participate in these assemblies.

First of all let me congratulate you on your election to Chair this august body.

On the whole, the Republic of Uganda associates itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the Africa group and by Bangladesh on behalf of the least Developed Countries, but permit me to add a few remarks.

We would like thank the Director General for his comprehensive 2016 report and the International Bureau for the excellent preparations for these assemblies and from the documents and reports received in time. We note the commendable performance of the Organisation in various areas as set out in the various reports. We will, however, be making specific comments when the various items come up on the agenda.

Mr Chairman,

As we are all aware that the world is changing, we are faced with challenges some of which are unprecedented and existential; climate change, youth unemployment, poverty and disease, depletion of natural resources among others but it is in these same challenges that we have an opportunity; an opportunity to harness the most infinite resource - our human creativity and ingenuity to overcome these challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals

2030 provide us with an important policy objective on which to guide some of this Organisation's activities.

We do acknowledge that it is the function of governments to achieve the SDGs but we also believe that the tools to realizing these goals partly lie with the work that is undertaken in this Organisation. Therefore, we would like to stress that now more than ever development should drive and inform WIPO's activities and work.

In this we have noted the excellent performance of the Organisation especially regarding use of IP for development for which Uganda has been a beneficiary of various technical assistance programs including a study visit to Kenya Copyright Board which strengthened south-south cooperation. We are also participating in initiatives to improve the quality of service delivery such as with the recent review of the TISC program in Uganda which showed notable successes as well as areas of improvement; the planned study on innovations in agrobased industries in Uganda which will inform our agricultural policy implementation among others.

Further through the WIPO Academy a number of Ugandans have received training to build capacity and awareness of IP. On the whole, except for lack of progress regarding the appropriate technology project for Uganda we

commend the secretariat for the improvements made in mainstreaming development in the various activities.

Let me conclude by encouraging fellow member states to support the Medium Strategic Plan 2016-2021, proactively participate in delivering on decisions that these assemblies will be taking during the course of the coming days including facilitating decisive action on the Design Law Treaty and IGC deliberations among others.

I thank you

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY