

General Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
Fifty Seventh Series of Meetings
Geneva, Switzerland
3rd to 11th October 2017

Opening Statement from Samoa

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for Samoa to be represented at the 57th WIPO General Assemblies.

As a Small Island State and a developing country from the Pacific Region we see the need for improved commitment from Pacific Island Countries. Our voices need to be heard particularly in the discussion on traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources. We in the Pacific Region therefore request specific assistance from WIPO and our partners who are present today to ensure a continuous and stronger representation from the Pacific Islands in the future in all WIPO meetings.

On TK, TCEs and Genetic Resources, Samoa [supports the recommendation to convene a diplomatic conference with a view of expediting the work towards an international framework for the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Any discussion of exceptions in future should closely consider the importance of TK and TCEs to the existence and livelihoods of small island states like Samoa.](#)

To date, Samoa is the first Pacific Island to accede to the Beijing Treaty. Currently, Samoa is preparing to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty, the Madrid Protocol and other equally important Agreements. We therefore respectfully request technical support from WIPO and increased capacity building opportunities for Registry staff and the private sector to facilitate implementation of obligations under these agreements and to continue the current momentum.

The National Copyright Task Force had its first meeting in August this year. The National Copyright Task Force was formed to enhance public private partnership in IP awarenesses, IP development and IP enforcement.

At the regional level, Samoa continues to actively encourage and support her neighbors to join WIPO and to accede to WIPO agreements of interest to Pacific Island Countries. Recently, Samoa in collaboration with WIPO hosted the 1st Pacific Regional Head of Intellectual Property Offices Conference and the 1st Pacific Regional Workshop on Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources. Such is the commitment from Samoa and her Government. We welcome further collaborations in the nearest future.

At this point, we would like to thank WIPO for the ongoing support on Intellectual Property Development in the Pacific Region in which Samoa has benefitted greatly from. We wish to acknowledge the efforts by Mr. Andrew Ong, the Director of the WIPO - Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific as well as Ms. Gao Hang, the Director of the WIPO - Copyright Development Division and their teams.

We also want to acknowledge assistances from the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea with IP development work in Samoa. Your support has no doubt set the current momentum and positive results for our efforts. Thank you.

Lastly, thank you Mr. Director General and all WIPO staff involved in the preparations towards this Meeting.

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen. We appreciate your patience. Faafetai.

Soifua.