

**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION (ARIPO) DURING THE FIFTY SEVENTH  
SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE  
MEMBER STATES OF WIPO, GENEVA, OCTOBER 2 TO  
OCTOBER 12, 2017.**

Mr. Chairman,

Firstly, please allow me to congratulate the Officers elected to steer this series of meetings. Allow me also to acknowledge the wonderful work of the Director General of WIPO, Dr. Francis Gury and his Secretariat for coming up with very comprehensive working documents that include topics which are very relevant to ARIPO and its Member States.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made by the delegations of Senegal on behalf of the African group and the delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Least Developed Countries, especially regarding the work of CDIP which has facilitated many projects to be undertaken in developing countries and the urge to create an International binding framework for the protection of Traditional Knowledge, and Expressions of Folklore.

Mr. Chairman,

At this juncture, it is befitting to highlight the support of WIPO in cooperation with other cooperating partners in organizing workshops and seminars in the African region to create awareness on the importance and use of IP for technological and economic development. In that context, I am glad to report on the *‘WIPO/ARIPO Sub-Regional Meeting on Copyright and Collective Management: Shaping the Copyright and Relates Rights System in Africa’* which was held in June with the participation of the Deputy Director General of WIPO, Mrs Sylvie Forbin. This event has left a long-lasting impact on the participants and contributed to the design of the Copyright Agenda for Africa that we are

now implementing. We also appreciate the support on the digitization of back files of the ARIPO office and those of its member states and the automation of member states' offices using IPAS which will certainly improve our business processes. Further, we appreciate the support we have received to implement the project for the development of guidelines for the effective use of IP by universities and research and development institutions in Africa which will go a long way in harnessing innovation happening in Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

ARIPO with the support of WIPO and its cooperating partners has also been very active in capacity building and human resources development in the region. The Master's Degree Program (MIP) in Intellectual Property which is now running for the tenth year have now produced over 267 IP experts.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that the ARIPO Administrative Council and Council of Ministers sessions will be held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 20 to 24 November. Therefore, please allow me to use this opportunity to invite the Director General, Dr. Francis Gury and Heads of our cooperating partners to come and share with us their high level inputs during the ARIPO Governing Bodies Meetings.

Thank you for your attention.