

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (ARIPO) DURING THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO MEMBER STATES, GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 24 TO OCTOBER 2, 2018

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to express ARIPO's appreciation for the opportunity to address these Assemblies and highlight remarkable achievements in ARIPO thanks to the support of WIPO. My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made by the delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Africa Group and the delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs.

During this year WIPO and ARIPO organized several joint activities with the objective of creating awareness and capacity building in the African region on the importance and use of IP for technological and economic development.

In that context, I would like to underscore among others a regional Seminar on Patent-Related Flexibilities, a Training of Trainers Workshop on Teaching of IP in Police Colleges, a workshop on Patent drafting, a sub-regional meeting on development of TISCs as well as a Workshop on Online Tools and Services for Industrial Property Administration and Automation.

With regard to capacity building, the Master's Degree Program (MIP) in Intellectual Property, offered at the Africa University in Mutare Zimbabwe, is now running for the eleventh year and has produced over 296 IP experts from 26 African Countries. As further results of the MIP Programme, a peer reviewed African Journal on IP was launched and a Textbook on IP – *Intellectual Property Law, Practice and Management: Perspectives from Africa* – was published.

Drawing from the success of the Mutare Programme, ARIPO in collaboration with the Ghana IP Office launched a new MPhil programme on IP at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology. Another programme will be launched at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in May 2019.

Mr Chairman,

Early this month, ARIPO launched a Regional IP Database that was developed with the support of WIPO with the aim to avail online published IP data to enable easy access of IP information to users. Currently, the database has more than 400,000 IP titles from ARIPO Office and 12 member states. This is in line with the ARIPO vision of becoming an IP hub in the region.

Lastly, **Mr. Chairman**, ARIPO believes that many more milestones in the IP arena will be achieved in the African Continent under the new tripartite framework of

cooperation which was established between WIPO, ARIPO and OAPI. We are confident that with the invaluable support of WIPO our Member States will continue to reap more benefits of the IP system.

Thank you for your attention.