



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS AT GENEVA**

**Sixty-first series of meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

**Assemblies September 22, 2020**

***AGENDA ITEM 5***

**General Statement**

**Mr President**

**Your excellency Director General**

**Your Excellences,**

Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statement delivered by the African Group.

I would like to start by congratulating you on your election as the President of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the outgoing Director General, Mr Francis Gurry, for the consultative approach he took during his leadership and the excellent results achieved partly as a result of that approach.

In the same vein, my delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang. Mr. Director General, we look forward to working closely with you and to support your mandate to strengthen a balanced and effective International Intellectual Property system that facilitates innovation and creativity for the benefit of all state members.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the social and economic wellbeing of people around the world, we commend the work WIPO has been doing to support the response to the pandemic, including WIPO COVID-19 Search Facility, the WIPO policy tracker, and the WIPO crisis management dashboard. We recognize that Intellectual property is a transformative tool that would help rebuild our socio-economic infrastructures after the pandemic and achieve sustainable development goals. Now more than ever, we believe that strengthening an inclusive innovation ecosystem is a matter of vital importance.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation wishes to sincerely thank WIPO and ARIPO for the many initiatives undertaken to support the development of Sierra Leone's IP system, especially its technical assistance. We look forward to your guidance and assistance to effectively utilize IP and innovation to meet our Sustainable Development Goals and bridge the digital divide.

We are fully committed to advancing the creation of a mutually beneficial IP ecosystem under your guidance and leadership.

In closing, Mr. President, please be assured of Sierra Leone's continuing constructive engagement with WIPO

**I thank you.**