

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE 62ND SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION 4 - 8 OCTOBER 2021

Kenya aligns with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the African group and joins other delegations in thanking you, Chair, the Vice Chairs, the WIPO Director General, and the WIPO Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for this session of the Assemblies, despite the prevailing circumstances. We welcome the Report of the DG and are keen on the implementation of the MTSP.

WIPO has and continues to provide support to many members, including Kenya, in the areas of capacity building, information infrastructure and systems, and collaboration in intellectual Property policies and innovations. We appreciate this valuable support and look forward to advancing the partnership, with a view to enhancing the contribution of innovation and the attendant intellectual property to our economic aspirations.

IP remains a cardinal tool for socio-economic development and a driver for advancement of MSMEs, youth entrepreneurship and their integration in regional and global value chains. Kenya therefore advocates for more sensitization of, especially the youth in developing countries to leverage IP protection as a key component of innovation. We also encourage the simplification of IP registration procedures to inspire the youth and MSMEs to embrace IP as commercial assets. Kenya will therefore continue to work with WIPO in its endeavours to provide more impact-based support to IP national offices, as well as to other stakeholders.

As such, Kenya calls for streamlining of WIPO's Development Agenda to make IP more relevant to developing countries and create a more inclusive IP system. In addition, we call for reinvigoration of the pending work on Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources, to result in a balanced and effective protection. Kenya also supports renewed momentum to move forward the deliberations on the Design Law Treaty and conclude the negotiations.

Finally, we assure you, Chair, and the DG of our unwavering support and look forward to successful deliberations during the Assemblies.

Thank you