

STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARIPO, MR. BEMANYA TWEBAZE, AT THE OPENING OF THE 64TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO MEMBER STATES

GENEVA, 6TH TO 14TH JULY 2023

Chairperson,

I would like to extend ARIPO's deepest appreciation to WIPO, under the leadership of Mr. Daren Tang, Director General, for the unwavering collaboration and support.

Throughout 2023, ARIPO and WIPO successfully carried out several collaborative initiatives that include a Regional Forum on IP for Women in Agribusiness, which took place in Rwanda, workshop on IPAS Cloud functionality, TISC Regional Meeting, and the PCT online training. Additionally, we conducted engagements on Alternative Dispute Resolution for IP and Technology Disputes; Digital Licensing and Documentation for CMOs; and Reproduction Rights. We are also actively engaged in the ongoing IP School Club initiative.

I am delighted to report that the Heads of IP Offices Conference (HIPOC) has continued to flourish. We successfully concluded its second edition in Kigali, Rwanda, just last month.

Moreover, the initiative to transform ARIPO Academy into a Regional Center of Excellence for IP training is progressing well, and we have renewed our MoU with Africa University and WIPO.

Chairperson, these are just a few of the highlights, and I would like to reiterate ARIPO's profound gratitude to WIPO for their continued support.

Thank you!