

**GENERAL STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LESOTHO  
DURING THE 65<sup>th</sup> SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF  
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO), 09 TO 17 JULY 2024,  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Lesotho aligns itself with the statement delivered by Kenya on behalf of Africa Group.

Your Excellency, my Delegation congratulates you for the excellent manner in which you steer the discussions of the General Assembly. We are confident that under your stewardship, we will reach a successful conclusion and we assure you of our unwavering support

We wish to express our deep appreciation to Director General Daren Tang for his visionary, inclusive and dynamic leadership, which has resulted in remarkable achievements as outlined in his report. We applaud Secretariat as a whole for the excellent arrangements for these Meetings, which are held in hybrid format, to allow for a wider participation of all Member States.

The delegation of Lesotho congratulates WIPO Community for having concluded a historic Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, after many years of negotiations. We are pleased with the extended mandate of the IGC to continue discussions on the outstanding issues. We look forward to progress in its work and we hope that its mandate will be extended beyond 2025.

As we approach the upcoming Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty, we urge all Members States to maintain the spirit of inclusiveness, collaboration and multilateralism, to enable us to reach a successful conclusion of the Design Law Treaty, which we hope will take the concerns of developing countries like Lesotho into consideration.

My delegation is particularly pleased with the progress made by WIPO in the implementation of its 4-Pillar Medium Term Strategic Plan. We are pleased that under Mr. Tang `s able leadership, WIPO continues to extend its activities to a wider audience including women, universities, Research institutions, youth, Small and Medium sized Enterprises and indigenous

and local communities. We urge WIPO to increase resources allocated to support these activities in its Member States, particularly those from developing and Least Developed countries.

Over the years, Lesotho has benefitted from WIPO's technical assistance programs, and we are grateful for WIPO's continued support, as we continue to modernize our IP system and to take it to the people. Programs that have been implemented in Lesotho include development of National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS), deployment of IPAS 4, establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) as well as programs aimed at human capital development.

While we acknowledge with deep appreciation technical assistance that WIPO is providing to Lesotho, we request WIPO's further support in other programs which include; Revision of the IP Legal framework, branding of national products, Youth Empowerment Strategy projects, mentoring program for SMEs including women crafters, , strengthening of IP generators such as the National University of Lesotho Innovation Hub and other Research Institutions, as well as strengthening of our creative industries. We look forward to collaborating with WIPO on these activities, which are meant to encourage the use IP as a key tool to unlock growth opportunities and to build a sustainable knowledge-based economy.

The Delegation of Lesotho once again would like to thank the Director General and his Secretariat for their excellent work. We look forward to fruitful deliberations and constructive participation by all Member States on all core issues.

Thank you for your attention.