

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Delivered by the Deputy Minister of Justice

WIPO General Assembly

Mr. Chair,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of the Republic of Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and congratulates you, Mr. Chair, on your election to preside over this session. We also commend the Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent preparations and continued support to Member States.

Sierra Leone remains firmly committed to building a balanced, inclusive, and innovation-driven intellectual property system — one that serves our national development goals, supports economic diversification, and advances the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair, over the past year, Sierra Leone has achieved significant milestones. Cabinet has approved the ratification of almost all major WIPO-administered treaties, demonstrating our commitment to aligning with international standards. With WIPO's invaluable technical assistance, we have also successfully deployed the IPAS 4 Automation System, a major step forward in modernizing our IP administration, improving service delivery, and enhancing transparency.

To foster innovation from the ground up, we launched the Intellectual Property School Clubs initiative, integrating IP awareness into extracurricular learning. We have also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General and the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation — a model partnership that we intend to replicate with universities and research institutions. Discussions with higher education institutions are already underway to integrate WIPO Academy programmes into academic curricula.

We have expanded our nationwide IP awareness campaign through workshops, media engagements, and capacity-building initiatives targeting creators, entrepreneurs, law enforcement, the legal community and the private sector. We are encouraged by growing public recognition of intellectual property as a catalyst for economic growth and innovation.

Mr. Chair, despite this progress, challenges remain. Sierra Leone still lacks a fully operational Collective Management Organization, which constrains the administration

and enforcement of copyright in our creative sectors. Enforcement more broadly requires greater institutional coordination and technical capacity. We also recognise the need to strengthen human resources, expand digital infrastructure, and increase participation of SMEs, women, and youth in the IP ecosystem.

Sierra Leone therefore welcomes continued WIPO collaboration on legislative modernization, copyright management, enforcement, and IP education — and we particularly look forward to support in establishing an effective Collective Management Organization.

The Government of Sierra Leone remains fully committed to a system that promotes creativity, rewards innovation, attracts investment, and empowers our people.

In closing, we express sincere appreciation to the Director General, the Secretariat, and all development partners for their continued support, and reaffirm our commitment to working with all Member States towards a more inclusive and effective global intellectual property system.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.