Nigeria – Closing Remarks (IGC 53):

I have the honour of delivering these closing remarks on behalf of Nigeria.

Our delegation thanks the secretariat, especially the TK division, our interpreters and everyone else who contributed to every detail to ensure the success of IGC 53. We pay special Tribute to Dr. Edward Kwakwa for his excellent legacy in the service of WIPO at various capacities and we wish him the very best into the future.

Our delegation notes that it was a hard concession to reduce the IGC to 8-days of meetings per session in the biennium after the GRATK Treaty was adopted in 2024, which as we noted then would be operationally difficult for majority of demandeurs. But my delegation is worried that some secondary procedural issues relating to selective interpretation of evidence-based approach continues to be weaponized by very few members states to divert the Committee from the core of its mandate regarding text-based negotiations.

Nonetheless, our delegation recognizes and appreciates modest but important strides at text-based negotiations at IGC 53. Chair, that is to the credit of your leadership and the ability of majority of delegates across various regions to engage in a constructive manner.

We also note the imperative for continuing linkage of GRs with TK and TCEs, noting that the GRATK Treaty's focus is on the patent system. More importantly, my delegation calls for the strengthening the GRATK Treaty Core Champion Group, which Nigeria has the privilege of facilitating. We appreciate the support of founding members of the Group and all other member states, especially from non-demandeurs, who have indicated progress on their ratification pathway to bring the Treaty into force.

Finally, Chair, my delegation appreciates your capacity to steer the affairs of IGC 53 without any working Vice Chairs nor Facilitators, not to mention Friend/s of the Chair. Given the dynamic of IGC negotiations, we know that this uncommon burden has its toll and should be avoided. We strongly urge you, Chair, the secretariat and all member states to ensure that you should have functional and effective assistance at the next IGC as an urgent matter. We stand ready to support that process in any way we can.

We pledge our continued constructive engagement and our commitment to the work of IGC, which is critical to the interests of our peoples, communities and regions.

Thank you, Chair