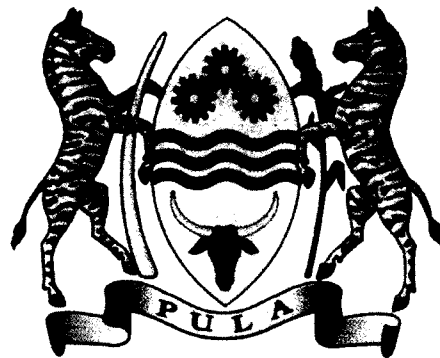


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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

CONFIDENTIAL

H. E. MOTHUSI BRUCE RABASHA PALAI

AT

**THE 51ST WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANISATION SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

24TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Madam President,

Director General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you Madam President on your election. We also thank the WIPO Secretariat for its hard work during the course of the year and in preparing for the Assemblies.

Madam President,

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group. We add a few point of our own.
3. The protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IP) has been identified as one of the key factors necessary for socio-economic growth as it promotes innovation, invention and diversification. Advanced economies have long demonstrated the positive dynamic of IP in relation to development.

4. Developing Countries, on the other hand, are still in the informative stage of IP systems development, let alone making good use of the international IP regime. Whilst it may be admitted that strides are being made, much still remains to be done to develop and harness IP potential in these countries. It is therefore imperative that, at country level, as well as internationally, IP policies and related laws put in place, should ensure the participation of developing countries as well as effective contribution of IP to socio-economic development.

5. It is in this regard, Madam President, that the implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations by WIPO Committees, including the norm-setting committees, is essential. While developing countries are increasingly taking appropriate measures to develop their IP systems, recognition by development partners of their development deficit will be reassuring.

Madam President,

6. There are discussions going-on at different international fora on Global Value Chains (GVC) and their contribution to development. There is recognition that integration of

developing countries in the GVC can contribute to the much-needed economic development and employment creation, especially to the growth of the Small and Medium Enterprises. Among issues highlighted as necessary for the integration of developing countries is Intellectual Property Protection. In this regard, the support of WIPO in developing the IP systems in developing countries cannot be over emphasized. The reinstatement of the Program on SMEs and innovation in the next biennium budget is therefore rather critical.

Madam President,

7. The opening of WIPO external offices in Africa will be most welcome. We see this development as complementary to existing arrangements. In this connection, the continued strengthening of the existing ARIPO and OAPI offices remains essential.

Madam President,

8. As pointed out by other speakers, the successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh should now lead the way and serve as an inspiration towards concluding a treaty on the remaining issues on copyright exceptions and limitations. In the same token,

we call for more constructive engagement in the IGC negotiations that should lead to the adoption of legally binding international instrument for the protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions in the 2014/2015 biennium.

Madam President,

9. Let me also express my country's appreciation for the assistance that we continue to receive from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) towards the development of our IP regime. Botswana, with the assistance of WIPO, is embarking on the modernization of its Industrial Property office. This entails the upgrading of the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) to an IPAS-JAVA version. This should lead to improved service delivery by our IP office.

10. WIPO has also assisted Botswana in the development of the Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP). We look forward to further assistance in the development of a national IP policy. Botswana is also developing a counterfeit legislation with the assistance of WIPO in order to curb the challenging phenomena of counterfeiting.

11. The assistance by WIPO is greatly appreciated and my country looks forward to the continued support as we endeavor to develop our IP system, which is still in its infancy.
12. This support will facilitate the fulfillment of our national aspiration of a productive and innovation nation. For our part, we have created an institutional focus on innovation with a view to attract both local and foreign knowledge and capital.
13. Lastly, Madam President, my delegation looks forward to a constructive dialogue in the following days for a successful outcome of the Assembly.

I thank you.