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**SIERRA LEONE STATEMENT TO THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SERIES OF
MEETINGS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Janie Krakens, Chair, World
Intellectual Property Organization,
Vice Chairs,
Honorable Ministers,
Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors,
Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization
Dr. Curry,
Distinguished Delegates.**

**The Sierra Leone Delegation brings to you warmest greetings on
behalf of the President and People of Sierra Leone, to distinguished
Delegates, and all others otherwise present.**

**Sierra Leone Delegation once again congratulate Director General
Curry and his team, for not only achieving another successful year
in the administration of WIPO's administration, but especially more
so for surpassing the goals set for the past year.**

**Sierra Leone aligns herself, with the Statement of the African
Group, and sentiments expressed therein, in its entirety**

**Barely two years after successfully eradicating the Ebola virus that
cost Sierra Leone so many lives and devastation of our economy,
we were yet again very recently, fraught with a mudslide of great
magnitude that took the lives of over one thousand lives, about
sixty percent of such lives, buried under the rubbles. So many
others severely injured, and properties lost.**

**Indeed, a very traumatic experience for us all. Rapid responses
from some Heads of States on behalf of their Countries,
international Agencies, other organisations, my Government and us
the people of Sierra Leone displaying humanity, in no small way,**

supported and otherwise assisted in no small way, to ease our situation We are however, not out of the woods yet.

As our President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma would re-echo whenever us the people of Sierras Leone face such trying times, we are a people full of resilience, and we shall rise again.

Sierra Leone continues to make strides in the development of our intellectual property system though at a slower pace than anticipated. We are expecting to get the Sierra Leone Intellectual Property Agency set within the next six months, but if the said Agency is to be functional, much would depend on the assistance we receive from especially WIPO, ARIPO, and the other countries these two organisations partner with through various activities.

As stated before, registration of a patent in Sierra Leone has always been done since Sierra Leone was colonised, through the United Kingdom. We are going to start patent registration for the very first time; we are going to start doing original patent examination for the first time, and so on. Sierra Leone needs to have a functional Research and Development Departments in our Universities and Colleges. We appreciate that these are short, medium, and long term activities. We also appreciate that a one week workshop or seminar cannot do it.

Sierra Leone is therefore requesting that those member states that are in the position to assist in this direction, come to our aid through WIPO and or ARIPO, or directly, in any way whatsoever.

I thank you for your attention.

Honourable Arrow Bokarie
Deputy Minister of Ministry of Justice
Republic of Sierra Leone