



**SKM**

**General Statement of the Moroccan delegation  
On behalf of the African Group  
- Assemblies of WIPO Member States-  
41st Series of Meetings  
(Geneva , 26 September –5 October 2005)**

**Mr Chairman,**

On Behalf of the African Group, I would like to express to you my sincere congratulations for your election to the chairmanship of these meetings of outstanding importance . Your high diplomatic skills as well as your experience and your human and professional qualities are many factors for a successful assembly . The African Group will spare no effort to favour the fulfilment of your tasks in the best conditions . My congratulations go also to the Vice-chairmen.

The African group would like, also, to express its gratitude to the Director General, Dr Kamil Idriss, for his strategic orientations which were behind , among others, the widening of the Intellectual Property horizon in favour of a large number of developing countries , the promotion of the IP culture as an important vector for the advent of economic, cultural and social development and the contribution of the IP mechanisms to the achievement of the Millennium development goals.

The African group would like , finally, to express its appreciation for the efforts deployed by the International Bureau for the preparation of the documents submitted for consideration .

**Mr Chairman,**

The African group appreciates the positive assessment of the activities and programmes of action accomplished in the african

countries, covering , among others , the legal and technical assistance programmes for the adaptation of their legislations to the relevant international norms, the development cooperation programmes which enabled the modernisation and the automation of IP infrastructures and the encouragement of creativity and innovation within the framework of national plans of action.

In this respect , it is worth reaffirming the great interest that the African group attaches to the technical and legal cooperation programmes, the activities of the WIPO World Academy, the cooperation for development as well as to the traditional knowledge , traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources . The capacity building and the development of human resources, the narrowing of digital divide and the importance of taking into account the needs of Small and Medium Enterprises while defining the development cooperation activities require ,henceforth, a special attention .

While highlighting the importance of a solid financial basis for WIPO as the best guarantee for an optimum functioning , it should be stressed ,however, that any possible budgetary deficit should not justify a lack of ambition on the part of WIPO towards the afore-mentioned fields of outstanding importance to the African countries .

Moreover, WIPO should privilege the full and entire use of flexibilities provided for by international Agreements and endeavour to preserve the balance between the costs and the benefits while setting the norms for the reinforcement of the intellectual property system

**Mr Chairman,**

The development dimension was and unquestionably remains the major concern of African countries . The clear illustration is the ambitious initiative of the New Partnership of Development in Africa (NEPAD) which recommends a global and holistic approach for the promotion of an integrated socio-economic framework for the advent of development .

That's why, the African group would like , at this stage , to reiterate the need for the pursuance of the proceedings on the Development agenda at WIPO , which remains uncompleted since some proposals , most notably that of the African group, was not discussed

at the Intergovernmental intersessional process . The sense of equity and fairness recommends a just, equal and fair treatment of all submitted proposals .

In this regard, it is worth recalling the political signal of the Heads of States and Governments of G.77 member States at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Summit in Doha , calling on WIPO , as a Specialised Institution of the United Nations , to integrate the development dimension in the whole of its future plans and activities , comprising development promotion , access to knowledge, technical assistance and technology transfer.

Concerning the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Committee relating to traditional knowledge , folklore and genetic resources, the African group sets a high value on the consolidation of the progress registered at the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC)with the view to establishing a legally binding instrument to ensure the effective protection of Traditional knowledge and Folklore against the abusive use and misappropriation. The participation of accredited NGO's representing local and indigenous communities should be encouraged in order to ensure much more visibility and importance to the IGC .

### **Mr Chairman**

I can not conclude without reaffirming the firm determination of the African Group to contribute in a positive and realistic manner in order to make from these meetings a true space for a constructive dialogue and fruitful consultations, likely to bring about tangible conclusions up to the expectations of the member States. Thank you