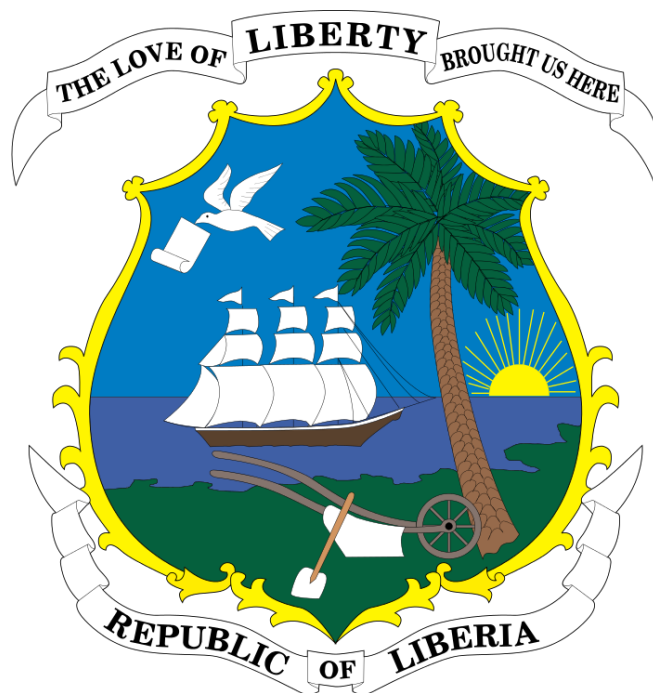

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
56th SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF WIPO**



STATEMENT

BY

H.E. AXEL M. ADDY

MINISTER

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, R.L.

**COUNTRY REPORT ON THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEM
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

Geneva, Switzerland

October 3, 2016

**Country Report on the Intellectual Property System of the Republic of Liberia
presented to the 55th Series of Assemblies of Member States of WIPO**

Mr. Director General,
Mister Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the Liberian delegation, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and the people of Liberia, I congratulate you Mr. Chair, on the occasion of your election and for a well-organized assembly. I am delighted to be a part of this auspicious occasion and am also grateful to WIPO for its enormous support, which has allowed us to near the completion of the objectives of our Intellectual Property Development plan (IPDP) under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Francis Gurry.

Mr. Chairman, the Liberian Delegation also notes with satisfaction and aligns itself with the statements made by the delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and the delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Least Developed Countries and supports the conclusion of the coordination committee and the implementation of the recommendations thereof.

Mr. Chair, we are proud of WIPO's contribution to the enhancement of Liberia's Intellectual Property System, and pleased to inform this august body that Liberia has fulfilled many of its legal obligation which includes the amendment of IP and relevant Commercial Laws and the ratification of protocols, conventions and treaties to which Liberia is Signatory as a major part of its WTO accession program. These Legal Instruments enacted or ratified include:

1. Intellectual Property Law
2. Competition Law
3. Foreign Trade Law
4. The Marrakesh Treaty for the visual impaired and people with print disabilities
5. Lusaka Agreement (creating ARIPO)
6. Banjul Protocol (Registration of Marks)
7. Harare Protocol (Patents & Industrial Designs)
8. Swakopmund Protocol (Traditional Knowledge & the Expression

Mr. Chairman, We also note that the Beijing Treaty and that on plant variety (UPOV) protection are yet to be acceded to and ratified. It is our hope that the Beijing Treaty will be acceded to during in the near future.

Mr. Chair, to protect and promote small- and medium sized enterprises, the MoCI has established a structured MSMEs Division with a Small Business Administration that is currently undergoing mobile registration for Small Businesses, and which will further promote Liberian produce.

Distinguished delegates and colleagues, in view of the foregoing, we are still counting on WIPO under the framework of the IP Development Plan for the requisite technical and financial support to enhance activities of this new income generating sector of the Liberian Commerce and the construction of the new IP Building to encourage the amalgamation of the twin offices of Intellectual Property.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, thank you for your kind attention and I wish you a successful and productive deliberations.
