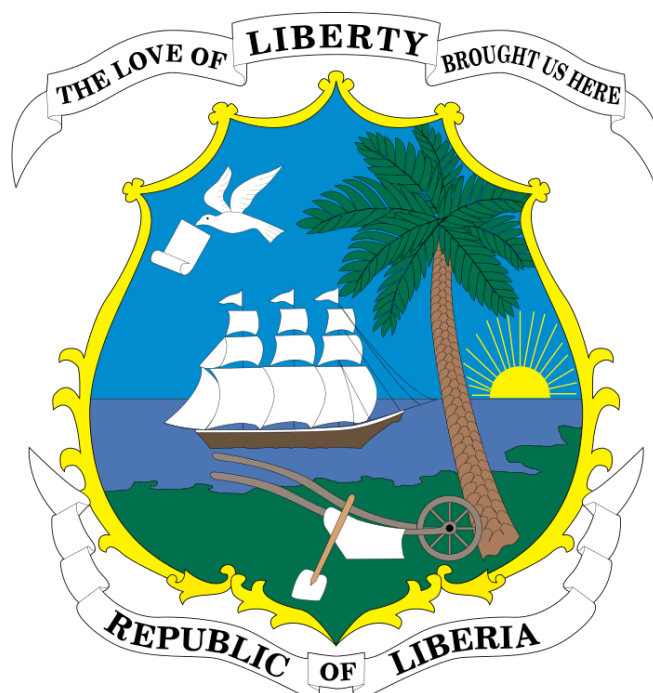

**57TH SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES OF
WIPO MEMBER STATES**



***Country Report on the Intellectual Property System,
Republic of Liberia***

**H.E Axel M. Addy
Minister
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Republic of Liberia**

October 2 – 11, 2017

Geneva, Switzerland



Mr. Director General;

Honorable Chair;

Excellencies and distinguished delegates;

1. On behalf of the Liberian Delegation at this 57th series of Assemblies of WIPO member states, let me first congratulate you Mr. Chairman, for your election to spearhead these assemblies.
2. My heartfelt congratulations also go without saying to your two Vice Chairs. Along with my delegation, I am most confident that you will successfully steer these assemblies. Mr. Chairman, my delegation is also pleased to extend congratulations to the outgoing chair and vice chairs for their able leadership.
3. Mr Chairman, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and the people of the Republic of Liberia, it is indeed an honor to participate in these 57th Series of Assemblies of Member States of WIPO. We are grateful to WIPO for its enormous support extended to Liberia under the leadership of Dr. Francis Gurry.
4. I should like to use this opportunity to wish the Director General of WIPO and his new team success in their continued effort to enhance Intellectual Property Rights worldwide.
5. Mr. Chair, my delegation associates itself with the Statement of Senegal on behalf of the African Group and Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs Group.



6. Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, I am also pleased to have you informed that with WIPO's support to the Liberia Intellectual Property System, the Liberia Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) which was endorsed by WIPO and Liberia in 2009, has completed its first phase.
7. This covers:
 - a) Accession to and ratification of all treaties that had been pending in our legal review process for years;
 - b) Training of employees of the Copyright and Industrial Property Offices;
 - c) The organization of the collective societies of Liberia to include the Musician Union, Movie Union, Culture Union and Writer's Association.
 - d) And most importantly the enactment of a new modern Liberia Intellectual Property Law and now the recently appointed and confirmed by the National legislature, the new Director General, Attorney Roosevelt Gould, and Deputy Director General, Mr. Chairman, my delegation also recalls that during the 54th General Assembly, it made certain requests for the conduct of a Workshop for the Liberian Judiciary. However, we note that our health crisis made that impossible and as a result, I am making an appeal that such activities be implemented for 2017. These critical training opportunities are needed to enhance IP enforcement in accordance with the new IP Law.
8. Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, the Liberian Delegation is pleased to inform you again Liberia has now laid the foundation for the construction of the new Liberia Intellectual Property Offices. The technical details for the proposed IP Offices have been



worked out. A building has also been provided temporally to host the Liberia Intellectual Property Offices.

9. We look forward to the support that will lead to the realization of the new IP Offices. We will also be grateful to have a fact-finding mission to fulfil the second phase under the framework of our IPDP.
10. Mr. Chairman, my delegation also wishes to use this opportunity to thank WIPO and ARIPO for its collaboration for continued technical assistance especially as it relates to capacity building of our employees of the newly established Liberia Intellectual Property Offices.
11. Mr. Chair, four years ago, I delivered my first statement to this body expressing our commitment to achieving a number of milestones. Over the last four years, we have done all we can to ensure that those milestones derived in our development plan were achieved in as much as possible. Today Mr. Chair, we have been able to ratify the various treaties and most importantly passed the new IP Law creating the new Liberia Intellectual Property Office. We were able to secure a temporary office for this new office and we were able to provide much needed training for a number of staff.
12. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in these four years, while we know there is still much to be done, nevertheless, we have come a long way. Much of this would not have been possible without the leadership and guidance of my distinguished IP advisor Mr. Roland Walter Morris who made IP a priority of my Ministry's National Strategy. As such in this public manner I would like to recognize Mr. Morris who has been an advocate for IP in Liberia for over 40 years. I also want to say a heartfelt thank you to



you Mr. Director General. As our administration come to a close, and we go to the polls to vote in a new administration, I remain humbled by this wonderful experience and grateful to you Mr. Francis Gurry, the WIPO family, particularly the Africa Bureau and all members, particularly our major partners, the government of US, China, and Japan, who have acted as mentors and provided moral support as we strive to transform our country.

13. On October 10, in a few days, Liberians will go to the polls to vote in a new government. For many, it will be the first time we will witness a democratic transition of power with an outgoing President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and a newly elected incoming President who will take office in January. Mr. Chairman, distinguished excellencies, much of the work on Intellectual Property in Liberia will required continued support to achieve the full implementation of Liberia IP development plan.
14. That commitment must translate into impacting the lives of members of our vibrant collective society, the champions of innovations in Liberia. WIPO's role remains even more critical as a driver of inclusive growth in countries like Liberia. As such, let me congratulate you Mr. Director General in your leadership in taking WIPO to the people through a commitment to establish external offices and the establishment of technology and innovation centers to serve as a much needed resource for innovators and students of IP. I strongly believe this will truly impact the pace of the transformation of IP services in the region. Congratulations to all of you who have made this possible and thank you for the vision to make this objective of WIPO work a reality.



15. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, you can count on my delegation's full cooperation in the successful deliberation of these assemblies.

16. I thank you.