



**DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DRAFT
PROTOCOL ON VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION OF
COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS.**

REMARKS: MINISTER ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Your Excellencies

Hon. Cabinet & State Ministers

Hon. Members of the ARIPO Council of Ministers;

The Administrative Council;

Members of the URSB Board

The Director General ARIPO;

The Registrar General URSB;

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity again to welcome our brothers and sisters from the rest of Africa to Uganda, the Pearl of Africa.

In light of the present circumstance, it is a welcome opportunity to celebrate a momentous achievement as such today; it is a privilege to host you all to this conference.

Our country is "**gifted by nature**," not only in natural beauty but in the creative endeavors as well. It is, therefore, my hope that you have had or will have an opportunity to experience this first hand.

As a country, the outcomes of this extraordinary session have been long hoped for and will only serve to further the growth of Intellectual Property in the region.

For our country, Copyright and Related Rights are very topical issue with a myriad of stakeholders. It is the most common Intellectual Property Right with the potential to transform the futures of many of this continent's predominantly youthful population if utilized and enforced effectively.

We know that artistic and literary works are an expression of our individual and collective identity and uniqueness. By implication, as Africans, we have the competitive edge in the arts, culture and literary industries. An advantage we must utilize and market to benefit through the use of copyright.

Your work in the last two days will contribute to the achievement of this collective goal for Africa.

In the words of Mark Getty, founder of Getty images;

"Intellectual property is the oil of the 21 century. All today's richest men have made their money out of intellectual property."

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this 11th Extra Ordinary Session.

For God and My country!

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs