



REMARKS BY THE CHIEF GUEST- EXTRA ORINARY ADMINSTRATIVE COUNCIL, DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DRAFT PROTOCOL ON VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION OF COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS.

Hon.Members of the ARIPO Council of Ministers

The Administrative Council;

The Director General;

My Lords, the Judicial officers present;

Permanent Secretaries;

Members of the legal Fraternity;

Stakeholders from the Creative Industry;

Participants from Ministries,Departments and Agencies present;

Distinguished participants, all protocol observed;

I take the singular honour to welcome you to this conference and to thank you for sparing time to attend to the important matters at hand.

My appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Uganda, for hosting this conference and to the the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation for organising it.

Ladies and Gentlemen, whether it be works of science, art, or literature, Africa had it for thousands of years. It therefore brings me much pride to be a witness to the current efforts to put in place a system to facilitate registration of copyright at a regional level in Africa in order to provide evidence for ownership; facilitate enforcement of rights; facilitate access to creative content and facilitate efficient distribution of royalties to the right holders. This protocol is the first of its kind but I must say that for Africa and for ARIPO we are grateful that it has come such at an opportune and as Uganda we are privileged to have this protocol adopted in Kampala.

That said, we have the opportunity to start now and therefore i call upon Member States to support the protocol and to utilise the system which will be put in place under the protocol. Creativity alone does not lead to tangible benefits and development unless the commecialisation and exploitation of that creativity is supported through systems that enable recognition and respect for ownership of creative works. One of the factors undermining respect and recognition of copyright in Africa, is lack of documentation of ownership of works: the laco of this information hinders utilisation, deters investment in the industry and curtails

enforcement action. We have an opportunity supporting the development of the industry at this very conference by adopting the protocol.

Through this protocol and other interventions available to us, let us commit to provide the best copyright protection possible for our citizens because copyright supports industries that are essential for our respective countries to create wealth for a wide range of citizens. Copyright based industries are resilient to economic shocks, which can hurt other sectors and the industry has low barriers of entry as it does not depend on the limited traditional factors like land and therefore, provides employment opportunities for people from all walks of life regardless of their back ground. Indeed, a lot of the the people employed in the creative industries have little or no formal schooling yet this is not a limitation to their achievement in these industries. Providing an enabling legal and regulatory frame work such as the current protocol will therefore facilitate economic development in ways that other sectors may not be able to.

As such, our emphasis on copyright protection and remunerated access to copyright works cannot be overstated. Let us envision a region where every body who wants to exploit a given work can find it, remunerate the owner and exploit it. Copyright works are supposed to be used and exploited to the benefit of the creators.

Once again, I am proud of the step ARIPO has taken as a region today and I congratulate the entire Region upon this achievement.

Thank you.