



5th Edition
All Africa Intellectual
Property Summit 2024
REPORT



T H E M E

**Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs): The Catalyst for
Sustainable Development Goals in Africa**

LOCATION & VENUE:

SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA
28TH -30TH NOVEMBER, 2024





Executive Summary

The 5th All Africa Intellectual Property (IP) Summit 2024 was a landmark event that brought together policymakers, legal experts, entrepreneurs, innovators, and academia from across the continent and beyond. The summit explored the role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in achieving Africa's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), practical strategies for leveraging IP to foster economic growth, support for innovation, to drive regional integration. Key outcomes included the proposal for IP policy reforms to align with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), promote IP as a financial asset, and enhance the role of technology in IP protection and enforcement across Africa.

The 5th All Africa Intellectual Property Summit was a three-day structured event covering the 17 SDGs, each focusing on critical aspects of intellectual property and its nexus in sustainable development across Africa.

Day 1: Africanising IP, innovation, education, industry, economic development and growth

The discussions and activities for Day 1 aligned with SDGs 1 to 9, which explored how intellectual property can serve as a catalyst for economic growth and social cohesion. Key topics covered include the transformative power of IP as an enabler of industrial development, driver of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and innovation across sectors. Several sessions emphasised the importance of Quality Education (SDG 4) and Gender Equality (SDG 5), in Africa future recognising these as essential pillars for building knowledge-driven and inclusive economies, which will set the foundation on how IP frameworks can foster resilient economies in Africa.

Day 2: AfCFTA, businesses, commercialization, creativity, production and partnership (SDGs 10-17)

Day 2 delved into strengthening regional partnership, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), commercialization and investment which align with SDGs 10 to 17, highlighting the role of partnership, collaboration, capacity building in driving sustainable growth through IP and the AfCFTA Secretariat provided update on the status of AfCFTA IP Protocol and the entire Agreement. The discussions examined the critical role of policy reforms to create a unified system that will support and facilitate trade, investment, innovation and sustainability.

The interactive session focused on strategies for financing African startups and SMEs, leveraging IP as an asset to unlock funding opportunities, including the future of IP in Africa. Delegates explored the pathways for aligning IP systems with the continent's unique socio-economic and cultural needs.

Day 3: Emerging technology, strategy and policy

The final day of the summit addressed the intersection of creativity and technology within the realm of IP. Practical guidance was shared on protecting Africa creative works and accessing finance, enabling artists and entrepreneurs to leverage IP effectively. The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) took centre stage, with discussions on balancing innovation and protection under African copyright laws. This session highlighted the need for adaptive legal frameworks to address the complexities of AI-generated works while ensuring that creators and innovators are protected in this evolving landscape.

Conclusion

Throughout the summit, a variety of interactive models were employed to foster dialogue and inclusivity. These included plenary discussions that brought together diverse experts, paper presentations offering academic and practical insights, and virtual participation to broaden engagement, interactive, game and question and answer sessions created avenue for delegates to make meaningful contributions and explore the dynamic potential of IP to drive Africa's sustainable development.





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1.0

Introduction

This year's All Africa Intellectual Property Summit the 5th edition focused on intellectual property rights as Africa's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) accelerator while engaging in discussions, insightful presentations, interactive sessions and networking to explore measures that can strategically work to increase the benefits of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among Africa and Africans.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals covers the following 17 goals:



As African countries create reforms that seek achieve the objective of the 17 goals and position itself as a global economic powerhouse, where intellectual property become a critical force to foster innovation, protect cultural heritage, and drive sustainable development. This summit was organized by Africa IP centre under the auspices of International Trade and Research Centre with the goal of advancing the continent's IP landscape, promote cross-border collaboration, and address the challenges faced by SMEs, women, and youth in accessing and utilizing IP systems.

The summit had delegates from the following countries in attendance:

	NIGERIA	GHANA
	RWANDA	INDIA
	LESOTHO	UGANDA
	SOUTH AFRICA	MADAGASCAR
	CAMEROON	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
	TANZANIA	SAUDI ARABIA
	SENEGAL	ETHIOPIA
	KENYA	FINLAND
	TANZANIA	NAMIBIA
	ZIMBABWE	FRANCE





1.1

Background

The Africa Intellectual Property Centre (Africa IP Centre), was established in 2019 by the International Trade and Research Centre (ITRC), a Public Policy, Research, Analysis, and Engagement Organization (PPRAEO) think tank dedicated to strengthening Africa's IP ecosystem and other socio-economic development issues across the global south. The Centre's undertaking is to advocate for a comprehensive, Africa-focused IP policies, support institutional capacity, promote IP awareness, knowledge sharing, innovative Africa IP financing, IP protection, enforcement and foster collaboration among stakeholders to leverage IP as a tool for development across the continent.

Over the years, the Centre has hosted several dialogues, policy analysis, capacity building, advocacy, and the flagship annual All Africa IP Summit. The Centre targets diverse stakeholder, including the public and private sectors, academia, NGOs, intergovernmental and multilateral institutions.



1.2

Summit Objectives & Key Themes



Objectives

To **raise awareness** about the role of intellectual property in **fostering innovation** and economic development in Africa.

To facilitate discussions on key issues and challenges related to **IP creation, protection, enforcement, and commercialization** in Africa.

To promote **collaboration** and networking among **IP stakeholders**.

Highlight **emerging trends in Intellectual Property** that affect the regime of current laws and treaties across the African continent.

Compare statistics and data on the continent's position on Intellectual Property and identify key areas for improvement by **setting SMART goals**.

To **identify and facilitate solutions** to critical challenges in the channels of translating IPRs to wealth for Africa and Africans.

Africanising IP, innovation, education, industry, economic development and growth (SDG 1-9)

AfCFTA, businesses, commercialization, creativity, production and partnership (SDGs 10-17)

Emerging technology, strategy, and policy



Summarised Key Themes

2.0

Day 1: Africanising IP, Innovation, Education, Industry, Economic Development And Growth (SDG 1-9)



Moderator:
Ms. Cynthia Nyam,
Founder, Development Dispatch

2.1

Welcome Address



The Welcome Address Was Delivered By Mr. Sand Mba-Kalu,
Founder, ITRC & Chairman, All Africa IP Summit Organising Committee.

The Chairman of the organising committee welcomed everyone, including delegates, government officials and distinguished guests, to the 5th edition of the All Africa IP Summit. The Chairman's narrated that sustainability of international trade, SDGs, job creation in Africa and innovation relies fundamentally on the backbone of intellectual property.

He stated that the focus of the summit is to position intellectual property as an accelerator for achieving Africa's SDGs, increase IP awareness, create an ecosystem of stakeholders that will support the implementation of AfCFTA protocols, especially the IP Protocol. He emphasised that the theme and subthemes underscore the collective responsibility to deploy innovative solutions that will revitalise partnerships and explore how IPRs can strategically work to increase Africa's development and contributions on the global stage

2.2

Opening Remark



The opening remark was delivered by Professor Desmond Oriakhogba, Law Faculty, University of the Western Cape, South Africa:

- He emphasised the importance of leveraging IP to solve African development challenges.
- He identified key areas where IP plays a crucial role, including climate change, innovation, technology, education, healthcare, agriculture, and international trade.
- He called for structuring IP law and policy to take advantage of Africa's vast IP resources.
- He also stressed the need for a balanced approach to IP law, considering both private commercial interests and public interests.

2.3

Summary Of Goodwill Messages



Mr. Felix Kabara Chege, (Founder of Real Sources Africa), good will message was on the importance of IP in driving regional trade integration and economic empowerment.

- He highlighted the role of IP in ensuring the success of the AfCFTA and the need for effective IP management and protection.



Mr. Olusegun Olutayo, represented His Excellency Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office. His good will message emphasised the importance of protecting IP rights to unlock Africa's economic potential.

- He called for the development of a Pan-African IP strategy and index to establish a unified IP framework that align with AfCFTA objectives and the need for capacity building initiatives to deepen expertise in IP law enforcement and innovation management across Africa.



Mr. Gregor Schneider, (Regional IP Counsellor of the European Union (EU) for the African continent). His good will message narrated stakeholder collaboration and capacity building.

- He highlighted the work and role of the European Union's African Intellectual Property and Innovation Project (AfrIPI) in capacity building and awareness creation in Africa.



Prof. Tatien Mashirabu, represented the Executive Secretary, Dr. Sylvance Okoth of the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO). His good will message emphasised IP policy harmonisation and enabling environment.

- He called for embracing IP as a cornerstone for social, cultural, and economic development in Africa. He emphasizes the need for a robust IP environment to incentivize creativity, ease international trade and strengthen innovation ecosystem.



Ms. Altaye Tedla Desta, (Director of IP eLearning) section at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy. Her good will message was on the importance of education and knowledge sharing.

- She called for integrating IP education into schools, colleges, and universities to foster a culture of innovation and creativity. Ms. Desta also emphasized the need for partnerships between education and industry to bridge the gap between education and innovation. She urged the summit participants to focus on IP education and capacity building to unlock Africa's potential and drive sustainable development, enable technology transfer, and facilitate value addition for economic transformation.



Dr. Tsotetsi Makong, representing His Excellency Wamkele Mene, the Secretary General, AfCFTA Secretariat. His good will message was on effective implementation of AfCFTA.

- He emphasized the importance of institutional, regulatory, and purposeful infrastructural capacity to effectively implement IP policies. He called for a strategic approach to IP policy implementation, including aligning IP policies with local innovation goals and raising awareness among stakeholders. He also highlighted the role of the AfCFTA in developing an ecosystem of interoperable instruments to drive economic growth.

2.4

Panel Discussion On IP As A Catalyst For SDGs In Africa



Moderator:

Paget Owembabazi, Founder, OASIS IP, Uganda

Presenter and Panelists:

Sharon Sinyoro, Prof. Desmond Oriakhogba, and Prof. Grace Ogunlusi Ms.

Sharon Sinyoro, is a partner at Sinyoro and Partners Legal Practitioners, Zimbabwe.

Ms Sinyoro presentation is on *Intellectual Property as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Africa*, which focused on SDGs 1, 2 (No Poverty and Zero-hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), and 6 (clean water and sanitation).



Highlighted points for the session:

- IP can empower innovation to combat poverty, enhance market access for Africa small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and drive agricultural innovation for food security.
- IP can facilitate the development of health solutions, including vaccines for neglected diseases affecting African populations, through supportive patent legislation.
- Universities are important in an effective digital economy ecosystem, and there is a need for educational institutions to adopt innovative knowledge dissemination practices, especially in Africa.
- African institutions face the challenge of translating scientific research into commercially viable technologies, and there is a need for collaboration between universities and industry.

2.5

Panel Discussion On How IP Can Drive Industrial Growth, Support SMEs, And Enhance Technological Advancements.



Moderator:
Olugbenga Adewinle, Research Manager, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

Panelists:
Professor Tatien Mashirabu, (East Africa Science And Technology Commission (EASTECO)), **Doreen Umulisa**, (Project Lead At Certa Foundation) And **Telesphore Mugwiza**, (Division Manager, National Industrial Research And Development Agency (NIRDA), Rwanda).

The Speakers Highlighted That SMEs Often Lack Knowledge About IP, Its Benefits, And How To Register Or Manage It. It Was Agreed That Simplifying IP Processes And Raising Awareness Is One Of The Solutions To Ensuring African SMEs Benefit From IP.

Key Points Presented By Speakers And Panelists

- Incentivising Innovation By Protecting IP Rights Encourages Industries To Invest In Research And Development.
- Leveraging Technology Transfer Through Patents And Licensing To Enable SMEs To Adopt And Adapt Innovations For Production.
- Using Trademarks And Geographical Indications To Enhance Branding, Competitiveness, And Access To Local, Regional, And Global Markets.
- Africa's Rich Cultural Heritage And Geography Are Assets For Creating Unique Brands.
- Stressed The Importance Of Branding Products Like Rwandan Coffee, Associating Them With Specific Geographical Or Cultural Attributes To Improve Market Value.
- Encourage The Protection And Promotion Of African IP Assets Through Trademarks And Other IP Tools To Preserve Africa's Heritage And Identity.
- Emphasize The Necessity Of Partnerships Between SMEs And Research Institutions For Technology Transfer, Product Improvement, And IP Registration.
- Suggested Involving Universities And Industries In Collaborative Efforts Early In Research To Ensure Results Can Be Commercialized Effectively.
- Proposed Government Incentives To Accelerate Research And Foster Collaboration, Bridging Gaps Between Academic Research And Industry Needs.
- Making IP Concepts Easy To Understand And Demonstrating Their Value For SMEs Can Encourage Adoption.
- SMEs Need Guidance On IP Generation, Protection, And Management To Maximise Their Potential. Encouraging Access To Patent Databases And IP Resources Can Support Innovation And Market Expansion.

2.6

Paper Presentations *The African IP System Paradox*



Chair & Presenters:

Prof. Desmond Oriakhogba (Associate Professor, Law Faculty, University Of The Western Cape, South Africa),

Simbarashe Makahamadze (Founder & CEO, AllThingsIP Africa And AfricanLaw);

Musa Odole Solomon (Nasarawa State University, Nigeria) & Hassan Kimela (Mzumbe University, Tanzania)

1. How can IP work for Africa, and what can we do differently to drive change?

Mr. Simba Makahamadze emphasised the historical and systemic misalignment of Africa's intellectual property (IP) systems with the continent's socio-economic realities. He highlighted how IP socialisation has forced African nations to adopt global IP standards that neglect Africa's strengths, such as traditional knowledge and biodiversity.

Highlighted points:

- Over half of Africa's population lacks access to essential technological resources due to prohibitive costs and rigid patent systems.
- The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) has provided limited benefits to Africa, raising questions about its effectiveness for local innovation.
- One of the key consequences of IP socialisation is the adoption of a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to IP titles and their protection.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps

Africanization of IP system by developing a homegrown African IP framework through the AfCFTA IP Protocol, which should prioritize flexibility, inclusivity, and local innovation. This approach would protect Africa's traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and biodiversity while fostering a self-reliant IP ecosystem. The AfCFTA IP Protocol presents a timely opportunity for Africa to reconstruct and contextualise its IP architecture by aligning the conflicting sub-regional IP regimes with the development-oriented aspirations that animate the African Union's IP agenda.

2. A Hybrid Model for Improved Phonetic Trademark Similarity Search Using Neural Networks and Support Vector Machine Algorithm

Highlighted points:

- Mr. Musa Odole Solomon highlighted that the hybrid model combines Neural Networks and Support Vector Machines for enhanced accuracy in identifying similar trademarks across conceptual, visual, and phonetic levels.
- The hybrid model evaluates trademark similarity using metrics like accuracy, precision, and F1-score.
- By application of the model, beyond trademarks, it has potential for copyright, patent, and legal research, showcasing the versatility of AI in IP management.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps

A cutting-edge solution for improving phonetic trademark similarity searches, addressing inefficiencies in trademark registration.

Expanding the model to work across different languages and writing systems.

3. Securitization of Intellectual Property as a Tool for Commercialising Creative Industry in Tanzania: A Prospect or a Nightmare?

Mr. Hassan Kimela presented the concept of IP securitization, a transformative financing model for Africa's creative industries.

Highlighted points:

- Securitisation Benefits: Converts intangible IP assets into tradable securities, enabling innovators to access capital without traditional loans.
- Global Inspiration: Examples like "Bowie Bonds" illustrate the potential of this model to unlock liquidity for creators.
- Challenges faced are regulatory gaps, IP valuation complexities, and limited awareness, which hinder the implementation of IP in Africa.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps

Build robust legal frameworks, standardize valuation practices, and invest in capacity-building initiatives.

Summary of session presentations

The speakers proposed the development of IP frameworks tailored to Africa's strengths in traditional knowledge, biodiversity, and cultural expressions as well as the following:

- Establish adaptive IP policies under the AfCFTA IP Protocol to overcome barriers to innovation and access.
- Promote financing models like IP securitization to bridge funding gaps in creative and technological industries.
- Invest in AI and technology-driven solutions for efficient IP management and enforcement in Africa.

2.7

Plenary Session And Lecture– Empowering Africa's Future Through SDG 4: Quality Education And SDG 5: Gender Equality



Moderated By:

Ms. Amosa Shukurat, (Federal Institute Of Industrial Research, Nigeria)

Presenter And Panelists:

Ms. Altaye Tedla Desta (Director Of IP ELearning Section, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)Academy),

Prof Pacific Malonga, (Founder Of Kiswahili Collection, Rwanda Public Library) And Ms Angela Basiima Tusiime, (Founder, Inspirational Youth Uganda Initiative).

1. Empowering Africa's Future through Quality Education and Gender Equality;

presented by Altaye Tedla Desta:

Ms. Altaye opined that over 60% of Africa's population is under 25, making IP education critical for addressing youth unemployment and fostering innovation. The WIPO Academy's initiatives include eLearning programs in multiple languages and university partnerships, which have helped to improve access. Limited IP awareness and resource access, particularly in regions with poor internet connectivity, hinder progress.

2. Gender Equality and Education: Pathways to Innovation

Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Entrepreneurship: The transformative power of hands-on education for women, particularly in STEM, is essential as a means of fostering critical thinking and innovation. An example is Ms Amanda Matthew, a South African entrepreneur who created a logistics app showcasing how women can harness technology for impactful solutions.

Impact on Patent Registration: Increasing women's participation in innovation is vital to improving Africa's low patent registration rate (currently 0.05%).

3. Policy Frameworks to Empower Women Innovators

- Collaborative and Inclusive Policies: IP reforms that include gender-sensitive approaches, promoting awareness and practical education tailored to women innovators.
- Cultural Barriers: A cultural shift is required to overcome traditional barriers through IP sensitization campaigns and educational initiatives that target local communities.
- Impact: Enhanced societal well-being and economic progress driven by gender-inclusive IP practices.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps Expand Awareness Campaigns:

“Use accessible mediums like radio programs and grassroots workshops to increase IP understanding at the community level.”

“Targeted training for women entrepreneurs and integration of EdTech solutions to enhance engagement and accessibility in IP education”

“Collaboration and partnership are key to the potential impact on IP education in Africa.”

“Enhance Vocational Training: Incorporate STEM and entrepreneurship into school curricula to prepare the youth for Africa's innovation economy.”

“Policy Advocacy: Simplify IP registration processes and introduce financial incentives for women-led innovations to boost their participation in the IP ecosystem.”

2.8

Paper Presentation - IP-Based Financing And Economic Growth



Chair & Presenters:

Youssouf Diallo (SMS-World Global),

Komborera Allan Maneji (Private Consultant), Mosun Oke (IU Robert H. McKinney School Of Law, Indianapolis USA),

Idris Malik (Akinlawon & Ajomo Legal Practitioners, Nigeria),

Prof. Grace Ogunlusi (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria),

Christian Aniukwu (Managing Partner, Stren & Blan Partners, Nigeria)

1. Financing innovation: a comparative Analysis of IP-based financing in the United States and Nigeria

Mosun Oke argued that IP has emerged as an important driver of economic growth, particularly in knowledge-based economies where innovation drives development. The presenter substantiated her point with a comparative analysis of the United States of America and Nigeria, where the development of innovation and industrialisation is crucial to realising sustainable economic growth.

Highlighted Points:

- By using IP assets as collateral, businesses can increase their collateral base, improving their ability to secure loans and access credit from financial institutions.
- The absence of universally accepted and standardised methods for valuing IP assets makes it difficult to arrive at consistent and reliable valuations. This creates uncertainty for lenders and investors.
- IP assets make 90% of the S&P 500's market value (up from 17% in 1975).

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- Encourage the growth of a secondary market for IP assets, through publicprivate partnerships and leverage government incentives to stimulate IPbased financing activities.
- Enhance the Secured Transactions in Movable Assets (STMA) Act and integrate IP registries with the National Collateral Registry to enable effective IP-based financing.

2. The Synergy of Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights: Catalyzing Business Growth in Africa.

Komborera Allan Maneji highlighted the rapid growth of digital sectors like fintech, ecommerce, and health tech, which should be the drivers of initiatives such as the AfCFTA.

Highlighted Points:

- The presenter stressed the need for robust frameworks to sustain and expand this growth.
- Portrayed data as a strategic asset essential for decision-making, customer engagement, and predicting trends.
- How IP rights safeguard creativity, promote investment in R&D, and ensure innovators reap the benefits of their work.

- Addressed barriers such as limited IP enforcement, weak regulatory systems, and lack of awareness among businesses.
- Disparity in technological adoption and infrastructure across African regions as a hindrance to leveraging data and IP effectively.
- Emphasised the potential of artificial intelligence in enhancing the efficiency of IP systems and managing large-scale data.
- The presenter highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in creating unified strategies under AfCFTA to maximise the impact of data protection and IP alignment. He presented examples of businesses that have successfully leveraged data and IP to drive growth, demonstrating the practical application of these strategies.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps

- **Align data protection strategies with IP frameworks** to create a cohesive system. Encourage **regional cooperation for regulatory consistency and capacity building**.
- **Integrate AI-driven tools** to manage data and IP systems effectively, ensuring adaptability in Africa's dynamic economic landscape.

3. Promoting Economic Growth and Decent Work through Trademark Protection

Mr. Idris Malik emphasized trademarks as a cornerstone for economic growth and decent work, which aligns with SDG 8.

Highlighted Points:

- The presenter argued that trademarks boost product quality, enhance competitiveness, and build consumer trust, which is crucial for startups and SMEs.
- The need for a coordinated IP strategy across Africa to streamline efforts and harmonise fragmented regional systems like ARIPO and OAPI.
- Over 40 years (1984 to 2019), ARIPO has received 11,896 patent applications. Only 2.5% of these applications originated from ARIPO member states, 8.5% from the rest of Africa, and 89% came from countries outside Africa.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- Promoting IP awareness among SMEs and leveraging social enterprises to address societal challenges.
- Creation of a trademark value chain, which also assesses and periodically reviews the performance of the IP regulatory authority.



4. Promoting Innovation from Universities through IP and Research Commercialization Capacity Enhancement.

Prof. Grace Ogunlusi made her presentation on how education and research commercialization can transform universities into innovation hubs using the data from the record of patent applications within the University through the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) and a postworkshop survey of a three-day workshop on Intellectual Property and Research Commercialization as a Case Study.

Highlighted Points:

- Drawing from Obafemi Awolowo University's success story, the presenter presented the key findings on how targeted training in IP rights and commercialisation does improve skills and increased patent applications.
- In Africa, educational institutions are increasingly adopting innovative approaches to knowledge dissemination, with more attention to proactive efforts in entrepreneur development.
- The ability of participants to craft effective research commercialization strategies and perform feasibility analysis shows that knowledge acquisition and the development of practical skills are the necessary tools for marketing products of research and innovation.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- Integrating IP education into academic curricula to prepare students for the knowledge economy, bridging gaps in practical application, and driving local solutions through interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Innovation can be promoted in the university setting through targeted capacity enhancement programmes.

5. The Role of Intellectual Property Protection in Building Lasting Sustainable Communities in Africa

Christian Aniwaku presentation was on how the commercialisation of intellectual property rights can support SMEs in Africa and secure economic development and sustainable communities. The presenter also highlighted the current IP ecosystem in Africa, pointed out some inadequacies, and offered recommendations for improving IP protection to secure long-term sustainability on the continent.

Highlighted points:

- Investing in IP is an investment in Africa's future, unlocking the continent's creative potential and paving the way for a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.
- A sustainable future requires IP protection alongside fair access to knowledge for climate, health, and food security solutions.
- Many African nations are reforming IP laws, creating specialised courts, and joining agreements like AfCFTA for unified continental IP protection.
- IP frameworks must evolve with digital tech, biotech, and renewable energy advancements.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- Governments: Strengthen IP laws, improve enforcement, and launch IP awareness campaigns.
- Businesses: Recognize IP's value, protect innovations, and leverage IP for brand building.
- Investors: Support IP-driven ventures with funding and mentorship.
- International Organizations: Provide technical support and capacity building for robust IP systems.
- Civil Society: Advocate for ethical IP practices that benefit local communities.

Closing remarks delivered by Bolaji Adenike Gabari:

The conclusion of key activities on day one emphasized the importance of awareness, simplicity, and actionable implementation of IP strategies in the African context to drive innovation and economic growth. The five key takeaways from

Day 1 of the summit were:

1. IP can accelerate the SDGs in Africa;
2. The need to popularise IP in everyday life to make it accessible and relatable;
3. Africanization of IP system for wider impact;
4. Prioritizing innovative approaches to financing IP in Africa;
5. Simplicity of IP filling, adopting a mindset that views challenges as opportunities for growth and innovation.

These points should set the foundation for addressing Africa's unique IP challenges while leveraging its vast potential for sustainable development.

3.0

Day 2: AfCFTA, Businesses, Commercialization, Creativity, Production And Partnership (SDGs 10-17)

The Second Day Of The Summit Began With A Session That Reflected On The Outcomes Of Day One. It Emphasized The Critical Role Of IP In Driving Sustainable Development Across The Continent. Day Two Focused On The AfCFTA, Institution Building, Commercialisation, Creativity, Production, And Partnerships Among Stakeholders To Unlock The Potential Of IP In Africa.

3.1

Plenary Session - The AfCFTA IP Protocol: Progress And Practical Applications



Moderator:

Ms. Cynthia Nyam, (Founder, Development Dispatch)

Presenter:

Mr. Desire Loumou, (Head Of Division, Intellectual Property Rights, AfCFTA Secretariat, Ghana)

Panellists:

Mr. Olusegun Olutayo (Senior Trade Expert And Lead, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office), **Dr. Fikremarkos Merso** (Expert AfCFTA Secretariat, Ghana)

Mr. Simbarashe Makahamadze (Founder & CEO AllThingsIP And AfricanLaw),

Mr. Gregor Schneider (Regional IP Counsellor Of The EU For The African Continent),

Mr. Felix Kabara Chege (Founder, Real Sources Africa).

Discussion Points:

The Presentation From The Continental AfCFTA Secretariat In Ghana, Covered The AfCFTA IP Protocol Status, Annexes And Expectations. The Panel Further Explored The AfCFTA IP Protocol, Its Role In Addressing Africa's Fragmented IP Ecosystem And The Mechanism In Fostering Trade And Economic Integration Under The AfCFTA.



Key Highlights from the Panel Discussion:

Identifying and Bridging Gaps:

The AfCFTA Secretariat is actively working to identify and bridge systemic gaps and weaknesses in the existing framework. The goal is to develop an inclusive, participatory, and efficient IP system that supports intra-African trade.

Economic-Focused Framework:

Discussions moved beyond bureaucratic protocols to practical economic applications. Simplified regimes, franchising models, and improved distribution systems for goods and services within Africa were highlighted as essential strategies.

Unified Trademark Applications:

A key proposal was the establishment of a single application system for trademarks that would cover all 54 African countries. This would reduce trade barriers, streamline processes, and enable businesses to navigate the continent's markets with ease.

- The AfCFTA Secretariat also expressed that the Annexes of the IP Protocol will be concluded in 2025.

Summary

The panel underscored the importance of harmonized frameworks and the need to provide legal and economic incentives for businesses to leverage the AfCFTA IP Protocol effectively

3.2

Interactive Session - Africa Regional IP Policy A Case Study Of East Africa- Opportunity To Learn



Moderator:

Mr. Olugbenga Adewinle, (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)

Presenter & Panellists:

Dr. Tatien Masharabu (East African Science And Technology Commission),
Dr Tsotetsi Makong (Chief Technical Advisor, Technical Assistance, Capacity Building, Trade Policy And Trade Negotiations, AfCFTA Secretariat),

Prof Samiai Andrews (Al Yamamah University, Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia),
David Bahige Mutume (Africa University Mutare, Zimbabwe), Sarah Bisamunyru (Uganda Industrial Research Institute),

Highlighted Points:

- The East African Commission's IP Policy Is A Strategic Tool For Driving Innovation, Creativity, And Sustainable Development.
- The Policy Aim Is To Use The IP System As A Means For Stimulating Innovation And Creativity, As Well As To Promote The Advancement In The Exploitation Of Traditional/Indigenous Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions And Biological Resources.
- Some Of The Best Practices In IP Management Are From The Association Of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) And European Union (EU) Regional IP Management Frameworks.
- Africa Can Leverage WIPO Resources For Capacity Building.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations And Actionable Steps:

- Encourage Cross-Border Collaboration, Resource Mobilization, And Investment In IP Systems.
- Harmonization: Create A Unified Regional IP Legal Framework.
- Capacity Building: Establish Regional IP Academies And Innovation Hubs.
- Incentives: Introduce Policies To Encourage Private Sector Participation.
- Public Awareness: Integrate IP Education Into National Curricula And Industries.

3.3

Interactive Session- Finance, Commercialisation, Agriculture, And Investment

Session Overview

This Session Focused On How IP Can Be Leveraged As A Tool For Financing African Start-Ups And SMEs, Advancing Agricultural Development, Connecting The Dots-Integrating IP Into Africa's SDG Strategy And Using Geographical Indications And Traditional Knowledge To Boost Local Agriculture, Empowering Small-Scale Farmers And Enhancing Food Security In Africa.



Moderator And Panelists:

Mr. Youssouf Diallo (SMS-World Global), **Mr. Sand Mba Kalu** (Founder ITRC, Chair All Africa IP Summit), **Mr. Komoboreri Allan Manenji** (Private Consultant), **Ms. Bolaji Gabari** (S.P.A. Ajibade & Co. Barristers, Solicitors & Notaries), **Ms. Doreen Umulisa** (Center For Law And Innovation At Certa Foundation), **Mr. Alex Ntare** (CEO, Rwanda ICT Chamber Of PSF Rwanda)

Key Discussion Points

1. Structuring IP Finance for African Start-ups and SMEs

Emphasised the potential of IP as a collateral asset, stressing the need for financial institutions to recognise IP's intrinsic value. The role of commercialization and crowdfunding as innovative financing mechanisms to bridge funding gaps for SMEs. Highlighted the growing role of digital platforms and ICT in transforming IP management and making financing more accessible to start-ups in Africa.

2. Integrating IP into Africa's SDG Strategy

Linking IP policies with broader SDG initiatives, particularly in areas like technology transfer and education. ICT innovations can streamline IP systems and make them more inclusive to rural and underserved communities.

3. Collaborative Strategy to Improve IP Systems in Africa

Highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships in strengthening IP infrastructure, advocating for public-private collaborations. Emphasized the role of ICT as a connector in cross-border collaborations, advocating for regional digital frameworks for IP management.

4. Advancing Agriculture and Food Security through IP

Emphasized using geographical indications (GIs) and traditional knowledge to boost agricultural value chains. Explored how ICT solutions could support farmers in tracking and managing GIs to improve product authenticity and market access.

5. Geographical Indications (GIs) and Traditional Knowledge

Stressed the importance of preserving local knowledge while empowering communities economically. Highlighted that digital platforms could be leveraged to create databases of traditional knowledge and GIs for easier registration and management.

Audience Feedback:

Concerns were raised about the legal frameworks needed to support IP-backed lending. Suggestions included developing regional guidelines for IP valuation and risk management. Some attendees raised concerns about IP protection accessibility for marginalized communities. How can rural communities benefit from IP integration into the SDG framework? What measures are being taken to ensure inclusive policies?

Participants urged a unified regional approach to harmonize IP laws across borders to reduce bureaucracy and enhance efficiency.

3.4

Paper Presentation -Traditional Knowledge, Trademark And Comparative Analysis



Chair and Presenters:

Mr. Emmanuel Mutabazi (EdTech Entrepreneur and Innovation Consultant), **Mr. Oyeleke Oyeniran** (Caleb University, Lagos, Nigeria), **Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma** (Rajiv Gandhi School of IP Law, IIT Kharagpur, India)

Fireside Chat:

Mr. Yogere Gildas (Ministry of Trade & Industry, Rwanda)

1. Critique of the Legal Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge in Nigeria

This presentation critiqued Nigeria's existing legal protections for traditional knowledge (TK), which includes indigenous expertise and cultural heritage.

Highlighted Points:

- Significant inadequacies in the Copyright Act and related laws, leaving traditional knowledge susceptible to exploitation, were highlighted.
- There are nobility and intellectual property practices in various indigenous practices. Several examples can be seen in the artwork of the Bini people, Kwagh-hir dance and songs of Tiv People, Ifa practice of the Yoruba people, and even in the movies such as the popular Nollywood movie Anikulapo.
- Copyright aims to protect expressed Literary, artistic, musical, and cinematography broadcast and other neighbouring practices. Traditional Knowledge is recognized under Section 74 of the Act. However, it cannot be protected, as the requirements for protection include being fixed, owned by someone, original and of limited duration.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

Advocacy for a specialized legal framework (*sui generis* law) and ratification of international treaties such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This approach will protect the cultural wealth of Nigerian indigenous communities and empower them legally.

2. Criminal Enforcement of Trademark Counterfeiting to Promote Economic Growth Through IP Rights: A Study of Legal and Policy Implications in India and South Africa

The economic and social repercussions of trademark counterfeiting in India and South Africa. The discussion centred on trademarks as critical IP assets and the shortcomings in criminal enforcement under the Trade Marks Act 1999 (India) and the Counterfeit Goods Act 1997 (South Africa).

Highlighted points:

- Counterfeit goods not only harm economies but also jeopardise public health and safety and fund organised crime.
- TRIPS Agreement regarded counterfeiting/piracy as a crime and prescribed deterrence by criminal sanctions. (art. 61 note 14a & b).
- Profits from counterfeit trade could be used for other unlawful activities such as promoting crime, including terrorism, and smuggling of drugs and arms by organised crime groups.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- The establishment of fast-track IP courts to enhance enforcement and protect innovation, stressing the necessity of robust African anti-counterfeiting measures.
- It is important that scholars across the world consider the criminal law implications of IP violations and address how balanced responses to counter such violations may be designed and applied in practice.

Summary

The session underscored the importance of robust intellectual property frameworks to safeguard economies, preserve cultural heritage, and promote innovation. South Africa's counterfeit trade challenges demand clearer trademark regulations and public awareness campaigns. India and South Africa's enforcement mechanisms need strengthening to counteract counterfeiting effectively. Lastly, Nigeria's traditional knowledge requires a dedicated legal framework to shield cultural misappropriation.

3.5

Paper Presentation- SMEs, Innovation, And Commercialisation

Chair and Presenters:

Kalibbala Nyanja Phillip (Partner at Kalibbala Ruta & Co. Advocates),

Sarah Bisamunyu (Uganda Industrial Research Institute),

Cynthia Igodo (George Ikoli & Okagbue, Nigeria), Christianah Akinyemi (American University Washington College of Law)

Fireside Chat:

Dr. Said Rutabayiru (Division Head, Rwanda Information Society Authority)

1. Promoting Small Businesses in Africa through Intellectual Property Rights Commercialization (SDGs 5,8,11).

The presentation highlighted the role small businesses in Africa play in the continent's economy, providing more than 50% of employment opportunities. They operate in diverse sectors yet face significant challenges, such as limited access to finance, lack of infrastructure, and complex regulatory environments.

Highlighted points:

- The growing urban population and the rise of the middle class, alongside digital transformation, offer opportunities for market expansion and growth.
- Empowering these businesses through Intellectual Property Rights is vital as it safeguards their innovations and enhances their market competitiveness.
- Successful case studies like M-Pesa in Kenya, Nollywood in Nigeria, and Rwandan coffee branding illustrate the potential of IPR commercialisation.
- Many small business owners lack awareness and resources related to IPR, which hinders their ability to leverage these advantages effectively.

Proposed Solutions:

- Include educational programs on IPR, dedicated support mechanisms, publicprivate partnerships, and policy reforms to strengthen IPR laws.
- Future research directions should focus on the economic impact of IPR commercialization, policy effectiveness, capacity building, technology integration, and contributions toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Public Domain Patents and Innovation in Africa: Unlocking the Potential for Sustainable Development

The presentation emphasized the critical role of public domain patents in fostering innovation and sustainable development in Africa. It highlighted the significance of intellectual property as a double-edged sword that can both promote and hinder progress.

Highlighted Points:

- The challenges faced by African nations in adopting new technologies, alongside the opportunities that public domain patents present for enhancing access to essential technologies in various sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, and renewable energy.
- The presentation also reviews Africa's performance in the Global Innovation Index, noting the low patent filings and contributions to local innovation.
- It outlines the limitations of patents and the potential benefits of public-domain patents, which can drive economic growth and knowledge sharing.
- Case studies illustrate successful applications of these patents, while challenges to their exploitation in Africa are identified.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

Strategies should effectively utilize public domain patents, along with recommendations for increasing awareness and improving legal frameworks to bridge the innovation gap in Africa should promote inclusive growth.



3. The Impact of IPR Commercialization on the Growth of Small Businesses: A Comparative Analysis of Africa and the U.S.

The presentation explored the impact of intellectual property rights (IPRs) commercialization on small businesses, comparing Africa and the U.S.

Highlighted Points:

- IPRs help protect innovations and generate revenue, but their commercialization faces challenges like high costs, weak enforcement, and piracy, especially in Africa.
- The U.S. has a well-developed IPR ecosystem with strong enforcement, government support, and successful case studies like Crocs and Spanx.
- Africa's IPR ecosystem is evolving, with businesses like Innoson and Yswara benefiting from innovative practices despite limited awareness and support.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

Strengthening IPR frameworks, simplifying registration, fostering partnerships, and encouraging small businesses to leverage audits, technology, and social media to maximise IPR value.

Summary

The session offered a dynamic exchange of ideas, delivering actionable insights for policymakers, innovators, and entrepreneurs striving to harness IP as a tool for sustainable development in Africa. The conclusion underscores the untapped potential of public domain patents in advancing sustainable development across the continent.



3.6

Paper Presentation- Future Of IP, Public Domain & Collaboration



Chair And Presenters:

Ms. Amosa Shukurat (Federal Institute Of Industrial Research),

Prof. Desmond Oriakhogba (Associate Professor, University Of The Western Cape, South Africa),

Mr. Elangi Botoy Ituku (Industrial Property Officer, TISC Development Section, WIPO)

Panelists:

Dr. Tsotetsi Makong, (Chief Technical Advisor, Technical Assistance, Capacity Building, Trade Policy And Trade Negotiations, AfCFTA Secretariat),

Prof. Samiai Andrews, (Al Yamamah University College Of Law, Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia),

Mr. Emmanuel Mutabazi (EdTech Entrepreneur And Innovation Consultant)

1. IP Management, Public Domain, and Technology Transfer

Mr. Ituku underscored the significance of IP as a core business asset, focusing on patents and trademarks. He outlined best practices for effective IP management, including regular audits, documentation, and legal guidance. He highlighted technology transfer as a driver of economic growth and societal advancement, emphasizing that robust IP management is essential for innovation and business sustainability in Africa.

2. The Future of IP in Africa: Challenges and Prospects

Prof. Oriakhogba emphasized the need for balancing IP protection and accessibility. Using examples from South Africa's restrictive copyright environment and pandemic responses, he highlighted the need for adaptive IP frameworks that do not hinder innovation, especially in public health and education.

Highlighted points:

1. IP and Small Business Development:

- The role of IP in supporting small business growth through better access to financing, markets, and innovation.

2. IP Management:

- Leveraging public domain patents to foster innovation in key sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and renewable energy.
- Address political, economic, and infrastructural constraints affecting IP management in Africa and urge leveraging AfCFTA to open markets for technology transfer and partnerships.
- Advocate for the use of digital technologies, such as AI and blockchain, to streamline IP management and emphasized the need for public-private partnerships to strengthen innovation ecosystems in Africa.

3. IP Ecosystem Strengthening:

- There is a need to simplify IP registration, enhance enforcement, and foster partnerships between government, industry, and academia.
- The integration of university research into market needs emphasised the essential role of technology transfer offices in commercialising innovations. She highlighted political obstacles that prevent proper research funding in African institutions.

4.0

Day 3- Non-Fungible Tokens And AI Generated Works

4.1

Recap Of Day Two's Activities



Day Two concluded with a collective call to action:

- Unified Vision and Collaboration: Stakeholders must align their efforts to create a cohesive continental IP strategy that promotes innovation and economic growth.
- Practical Implementation: Resolutions from the summit should be translated into actionable programs that address Africa's unique challenges and opportunities.

Empowering Innovators: Education, capacity building, and public awareness must remain central to efforts to strengthen Africa's IP ecosystem.

The discussions on Day Two set the stage for continued progress, offering a blueprint for a transformative approach to intellectual property in Africa.

4.2

Paper Presentation- The Future Of IP In Africa



Chair and Presenters:

Ms. Bolaji Gabari (S.P.A. Ajibade & Co),

David Bahige Mutume (Africa University Mutare, Zimbabwe),

Panashe Zowa (Vazi Legal, Zimbabwe)

1. NFTs in Copyright Exploitation

David Bahige Mutume presented the role of NFTs in protecting digital copyrights and preserving cultural heritage in Africa.

Highlighted points:

- Highlighted how blockchain technology could establish ownership and automate royalty payments.
- Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) are revolutionizing the digital copyright landscape, offering new opportunities for creators to protect and monetize their work.
- NFTs have the potential to address copyright challenges in the digital age, with a focus on their implementation in Africa.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- Reduce transaction fees and increase scalability, making NFTs more accessible.
- Focus on mobile devices to reach a larger segment of the African population.
- Empower local communities to develop and manage their own NFT projects.

2. AI-Generated Works and African Copyright Law

Panashe Zowa examined the impact of generative AI on intellectual property rights and the creative economy in Africa.

Highlighted points:

- Highlighted challenges such as economic harm to artists, legal ambiguity over copyright for AI-generated works, and ethical concerns regarding the use of creative outputs as training data.
- A robust creative sector can help African states to diversify their economies and advance SDG goals.
- If creative outputs are viewed as creative data, a limitation-based remuneration right that affirms the value of human authenticity in creativity and equally provides sufficient space for generative AI as a creative practice could be constructed as a unique claim.

Proposed Solutions, Practical Recommendations and Actionable Steps:

- There is a need for a balanced understanding of the complex relationships between creativity, technology and the law.
- The most important approach is that of creative data sovereignty which seeks to affirm the rights of artists to control their works and address the structural imbalances that result from datafication.

4.3

Panel Session- Policy Meets Business IP Roundtable



Moderator:

Ms. Paget Owembabazi, (Founder OASIS IP, Uganda)

Panelists:

Gloria Kamanzi Uwizera - (Founder and CEO of Glo Creations),

Felix Kabara Chege (Founder and CEO of Real Sources Africa),

Kalibbala Nyanja Phillip (Partner at Kalibbala Ruta & Co. Advocates)

Session Overview

This session focused on bridging the gap between IP policies and practical business needs. Panelists discussed simplifying IP processes and leveraging IP as a financing tool for SMEs.

Key Highlights:

- The discussion highlighted the importance of careful contract negotiation and seeking advice before committing to any agreements, as many creators unknowingly put themselves in unfavourable situations.
- Stressed the need for Africa to support the innovation process, recognising that creativity takes time and persistence.
- Additionally, being part of networks was emphasised as essential for gaining access to advice and opportunities.
- A local artist's success story with Nike exemplified how unexpected opportunities can arise, demonstrating the value of staying open to new possibilities.



5.0

The Summit Launches The All Africa IP Index



Chair and Presenters:

Ms. Bolaji Gabari (S.P.A. Ajibade & Co),

David Bahige Mutume (Africa University Mutare, Zimbabwe),

Panashe Zowa (Vazi Legal, Zimbabwe)

The All Africa IP Survey will be a groundbreaking initiative that will highlight Africa's creative and innovative potential in the IP ecosystem. For the first time, the Africa IP survey will explore the IP landscape from the government, private sector, academia, multilateral institutions and relevant stakeholders across all 54 African nations, producing data that will address the challenges of IP awareness, registration, enforcement, innovation and support investment and innovation. The survey will aim to shape Africa's future by using IP data to drive innovation, fuel trade and investment under the AfCFTA, and boost global competitiveness. The initiative will include the publication of research findings with robust mixed methodology.



6.0

Closing, Conclusion And Resolution



Closing statement:

Mr Olusegun Olutayo, Senior Trade Expert and Lead, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office

Mr. Olusegun Olutayo delivered the closing remarks at the All Africa IP Summit 2024, emphasising the importance of resilience, leadership, and collective effort in achieving the goals of the AfCFTA IP protocol under the AfCFTA. He underscored the power of perseverance and inspiration to overcome challenges. He celebrated the AfCFTA's role in creating opportunities and fostering economic prosperity, sharing the success story of an SME leveraging the platform to secure transformative business deals. Highlighting the need for clear leadership and teamwork, he encouraged participants to fully engage with intellectual property as an instrument of sustainable development in Africa.



6.1

Conclusions

1. IP as a Driver for Innovation and Economic Growth:

The summit underscored the critical role of intellectual property (IP) in fostering innovation, driving industrial growth, and supporting SMEs. Leveraging IP systems effectively, it can enhance branding, encourage investment in research and development, and unlock new markets locally and internationally.

2. Collaboration as a Key Enabler:

Partnerships between universities, research institutions, and SMEs emerged as vital for bridging the gap between innovation and commercialization. Collaborative efforts are necessary to develop technologies, improve product quality, and streamline the IP registration process.

3. Simplification and Awareness of IP Systems:

Lack of awareness and the complexity of IP systems are significant barriers for SMEs. The summit highlighted the need for simplified processes and targeted awareness campaigns to help businesses understand and benefit from IP protections.

4. Cultural and Geographical Branding as Unique Strengths:

Africa's rich cultural heritage and geographical diversity were recognized as valuable assets for creating unique brands and enhancing competitiveness. Leveraging trademarks and geographical indications can protect and promote these assets globally.



6.2

Resolutions



Resolutions

1. Develop Africa-Centric IP Frameworks:

The Summit affirms the need to advocate for an IP policy that reflects Africa's socioeconomic realities by focusing on traditional knowledge, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. The IP policy should align with the AfCFTA frameworks to foster regional collaboration. In addition, Africa's IP system should reflect African values and traditions and the importance of collaboration across sectors—government, public, private, academia, and end-users—to create an effective IP system.

2. Promote IP Awareness and Education

The Summit seeks to launch community-level IP awareness campaigns and support advocacy that will incorporate IP education into academic curricula to ensure SMEs, innovators, and youth understand the value and practical applications of IP. Likewise, IP awareness can be improved through enhanced publicity and inclusion in all official African Union languages.

3. Simplify IP Processes for SMEs:

The Summit is committed to supporting policy reforms that will streamline IP registration procedures, make IP registration affordable, and provide user-friendly resources to guide SMEs through IP generation, registration, protection, and commercialisation.

4. Encourage Public-Private Partnerships:

The Summit is committed to supporting increased collaborations between governments, universities, and industries to support innovation. The Summit recommended that African governments of each African Union member state should provide grants and incentives for research while universities focus on translating research into commercial products. The government should provide a strong policy framework to enable IP development across Africa.

5. Leverage Technology to Enhance IP Systems:

The Summit advocates that Africa should adopt AI and digital tools to improve IP management, enhance efficiency in trademark searches, and provide accessible patent databases to facilitate innovation. While supporting the full implementation of the AfCFTA IP protocol, it will also explore IP's role in emerging technologies and the need for more localised, inclusive IP systems in Africa.

6.3

Next Steps:

- Adopt Summit Resolution: Stakeholders are encouraged to implement the proposed resolutions for implementation.
- Annual Progress Reviews: Regular monitoring of IP advancements across the continent.

6.4

Host Of Next All Africa IP Summit

Through participants and delegates voting, Senegal was voted to be the host country for the 6th edition of All Africa IP Summit 2025. Among other option countries that were contending for the opportunity to host. The countries are Uganda and Kenya.

7.0

Acknowledgements

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