



SHAPING THE IP LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA

# ARIPO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



## ARIPO IN BRIEF

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) established, *inter alia*, to promote, harmonize and develop intellectual property systems in Africa. ● ● ●



To be Africa's leading intellectual property Organization that promotes socio-economic development.



To foster creativity and innovation for socio-economic growth of our Member States through an effective intellectual property system.



- Integrity
- Engagement
- Client-focus
- Agility
- Diversity
- Accountability.



# CONTENTS

<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 1: THE ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>5</b>
MEMBERSHIP AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK	5
ORGANS OF ARIPO	7
ARIPO’S LEGAL INSTRUMENTS	10
<b>SECTION 2: YEAR IN REVIEW</b>	<b>12</b>
2024 MILESTONES	13
2024 PERFORMANCE	15
2024 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) RESULTS	16
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES BY PILLAR	16
<b>SECTION 3: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>31</b>
AUDIT OPINION	35

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AfriPI</b>	Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation in Africa
<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute Resolution
<b>ARIPO</b>	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
<b>ARPET</b>	ARIPO Regional Patent Examination Training
<b>AU</b>	Africa University
<b>BSC</b>	Balanced Scorecard
<b>BRELA</b>	Business Registrations and Licensing Agency
<b>CNIPA</b>	China National Intellectual Property Administration
<b>CIPA</b>	Companies and Intellectual Property Authority
<b>EPO</b>	European Patent Office
<b>ERM</b>	Enterprise Risk Management
<b>ERP</b>	Enterprise Resource Planning
<b>EUIPO</b>	European Union Intellectual Property Office
<b>GI</b>	Geographical Indication
<b>HIPOC</b>	Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Conference
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technologies
<b>IGO</b>	Inter-governmental Organization
<b>IP</b>	Intellectual Property
<b>JPO</b>	Japan Patent Office
<b>KPIs</b>	Key Performance Indicators
<b>KNUST</b>	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
<b>MIP</b>	Master in Intellectual Property
<b>PCR</b>	Private Copy Remuneration
<b>PPH</b>	Patent Prosecution Highway
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SO</b>	Strategic Objectives
<b>SARIMA</b>	Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UDSM</b>	University of Dar es Salaam
<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Property Organization
<b>ZITF</b>	Zimbabwe International Trade Fair

## FOREWORD



The intellectual property (IP) landscape continues to evolve at an extraordinary pace, reshaping how economies grow, how innovation is protected, and how value is created. At the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), our commitment to staying ahead of this transformation remains unwavering. This progress is powered by the dedication of the remarkable men and women who serve this Organization with professionalism, integrity, and purpose..

This Annual Report is not merely a record of the year's activities; it is a reflection of how ARIPO continues to grow, adapt, and serve its Member States with purpose and agility. I am thankful to our Member States and Governing Bodies for their steadfast support and strategic guidance throughout the year..

Guided by the Strategic Plan 2022–2026, we successfully implemented all approved programs within budget. Among our most significant milestones was the review and adoption of amendments to the Harare Protocol, a vital step in strengthening our legal framework. We also celebrated the entry into force of the Arusha Protocol in November 2024, which establishes a regional system for the protection of plant breeders' rights. Equally noteworthy was the launch of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with China in June 2024, a move that enhances efficiency and accelerates patent examination for applicants within ARIPO and China.

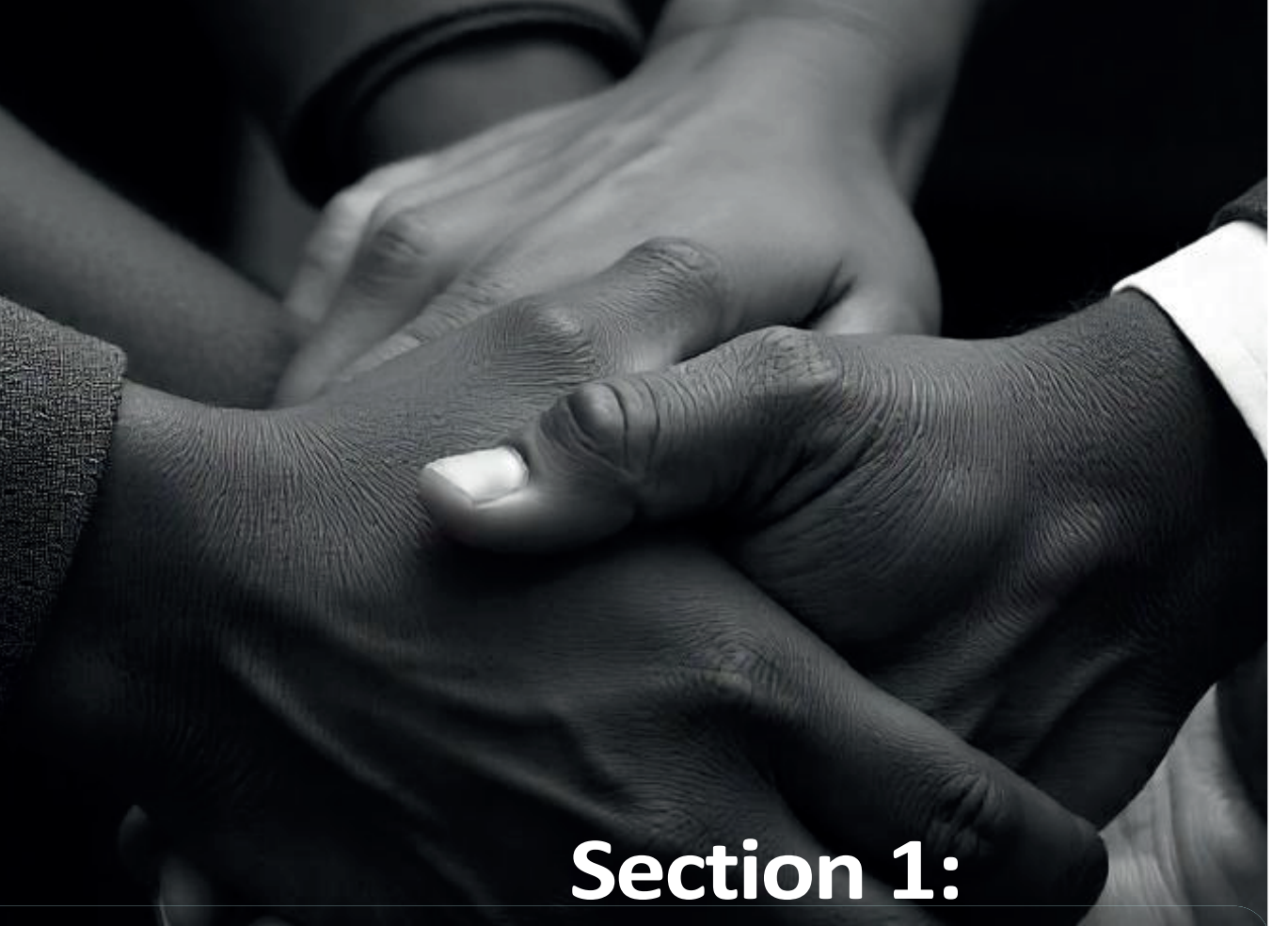
While we experienced a decline in revenue, ARIPO's financial position remains strong. Revenue stood at US\$9.1 million (unaudited) in 2024, down from US\$9.9 million in 2023, mainly due to a decrease in renewals and reduced fees from “extra pages and claims” in patent applications. Nonetheless, a current ratio of 1.33 reflects sound liquidity and prudent financial management, reinforcing our capacity to fulfil our mandate effectively.

Looking ahead, we are adopting a forward-thinking agenda that enhances digital capabilities, increases membership, strengthens policy frameworks, and accelerates capacity-building throughout the region. We are particularly committed to ensuring that IP acts as a catalyst for inclusive socioeconomic development, particularly among the youth, women, and small businesses. I am confident that ARIPO, with its strong foundations and dedicated community, will continue to play a central role in shaping Africa's IP-driven transformation.

We remain deeply grateful to our Partners, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the AfriPI project under the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), among others. Their support has enabled us to expand our reach, enhance our technical capacity and deliver value to our Member States. I also express my gratitude to our stakeholders—users of the ARIPO IP system—for their continued confidence in the Organization. Their trust confirms the growing recognition of IP as a strategic asset for sustainable development, innovation, and competitiveness across Africa.

Finally, I pay tribute to the political leadership of our Member States for their continued support of ARIPO's mission. Throughout the year, we engaged with Heads of State and senior policymakers who continue to champion the role of IP in national development agendas. Their unwavering commitment reinforces our mission and emboldens our pursuit of a more inclusive and innovation-driven Africa.

**Bemanya Twebaze**  
Director General, ARIPO



# Section 1:

## THE ORGANIZATION

# SECTION 1: THE ORGANIZATION

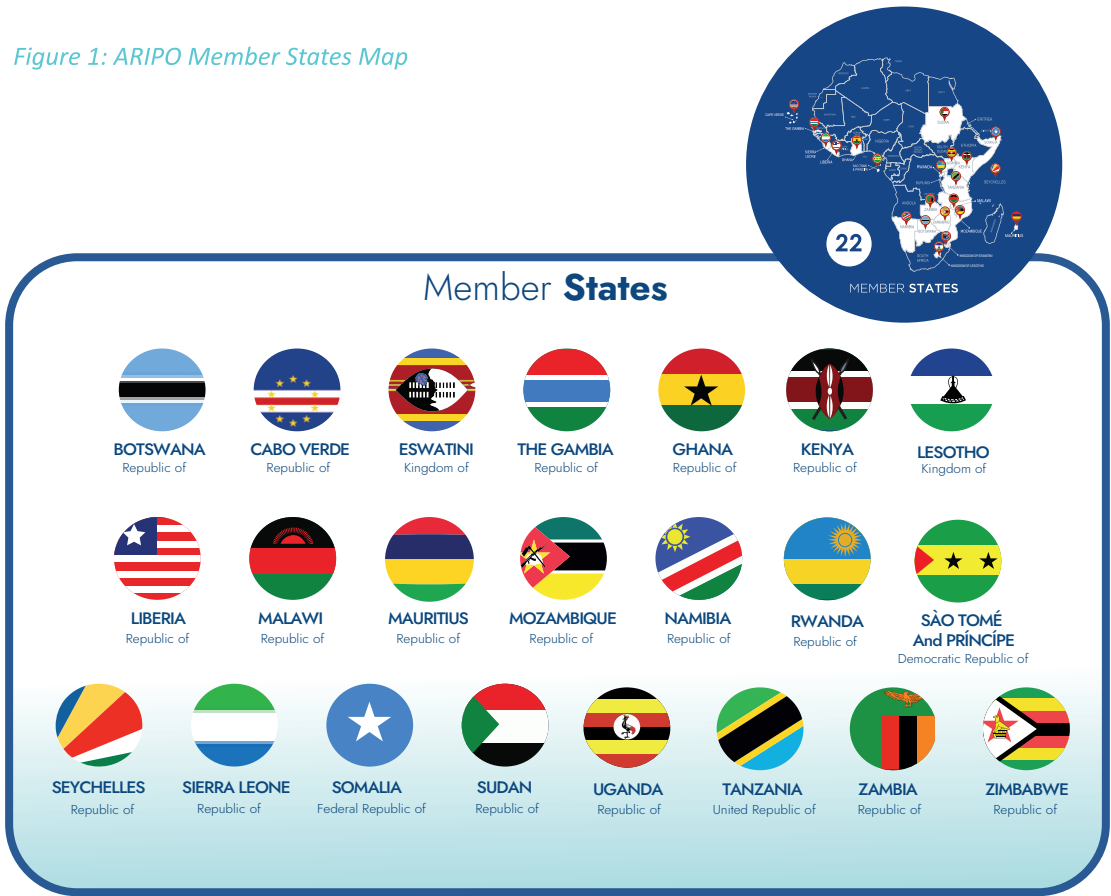
## MEMBERSHIP AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

ARIPO was established by the Lusaka Agreement which was adopted at a Diplomatic Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 9 December 1976. The Agreement outlines the mandate of the Organization, which is primarily to pool resources of its Member States to promote, develop, and harmonise IP laws and policies.

Since its adoption, the goals of the Lusaka Agreement have been implemented through various protocols, each dedicated to a specific area of IP. These protocols are:

- 1. The Harare Protocol on Patents, Utility Models and Industrial Designs
- 2. The Banjul Protocol on Marks
- 3. The Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore
- 4. The Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
- 5. The Kampala Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights

Figure 1: ARIPO Member States Map



## PROTOCOLS AND THEIR CONTRACTING STATES

The table below shows the status of ARIPO Member States, when they joined the Organization and the dates when they became Contracting States to the Protocols.

Country	Lusaka Agreement	Harare Protocol	Banjul Protocol	Swakopmund Protocol	Arusha Protocol	Kampala Protocol
Botswana	6 February 1985	6 May 1985	29 October 2003	28 March 2012		
Cabo Verde	14 July 2022	14 October 2022	14 October 2022	14 July 2022	14 July 2022	
Kingdom of Eswatini	17 December 1987	17 March 1988	6 March 1997			
The Gambia	15 February 1978	16 January 1986	3 August 2021	11 February 2015		
Ghana	15 February, 1978	25 April 1984			24 November 2023	
Kenya	15 February, 1978	24 October 1984				
Kingdom of Lesotho	23 July 1987	23 October 1987	12 February 1999			
Liberia	24 December 2009	24 March 2010	24 March 2010	25 October 2016		
Malawi	15 February	25 April 1984	6 March 1997	20 December 2012		
Mozambique	8 February 2002	8 May 2000	15 August 2020			
Mauritius	25 September 2020					
Namibia	14 October 2003	23 April 2004	14 January 2004	11 February 2015		30 August 2024
Rwanda	24 June 2011	24 September 11		16 July 2012	7 June 2019	
São Tomé & Príncipe	19 May 2014	19 May 2014	27 February, 2015		29 September 2020	
Seychelles	1 October 2021	1 January 2022				
Sierra Leone	5 December, 1980	25 February 1999				
Somalia	10 December 1981					
Sudan	2 May 1978	25 April 1984				
Tanzania	12 October 1983	1 September 1999	1 September 1999			
Uganda	8 August 1978	25 April 1984	21 November 2000			
Zambia	15 February 1978	26 February 1986		28 August 2015		
Zimbabwe	11 November 1980	25 April 1984	6 March 1997	22 April 2013		

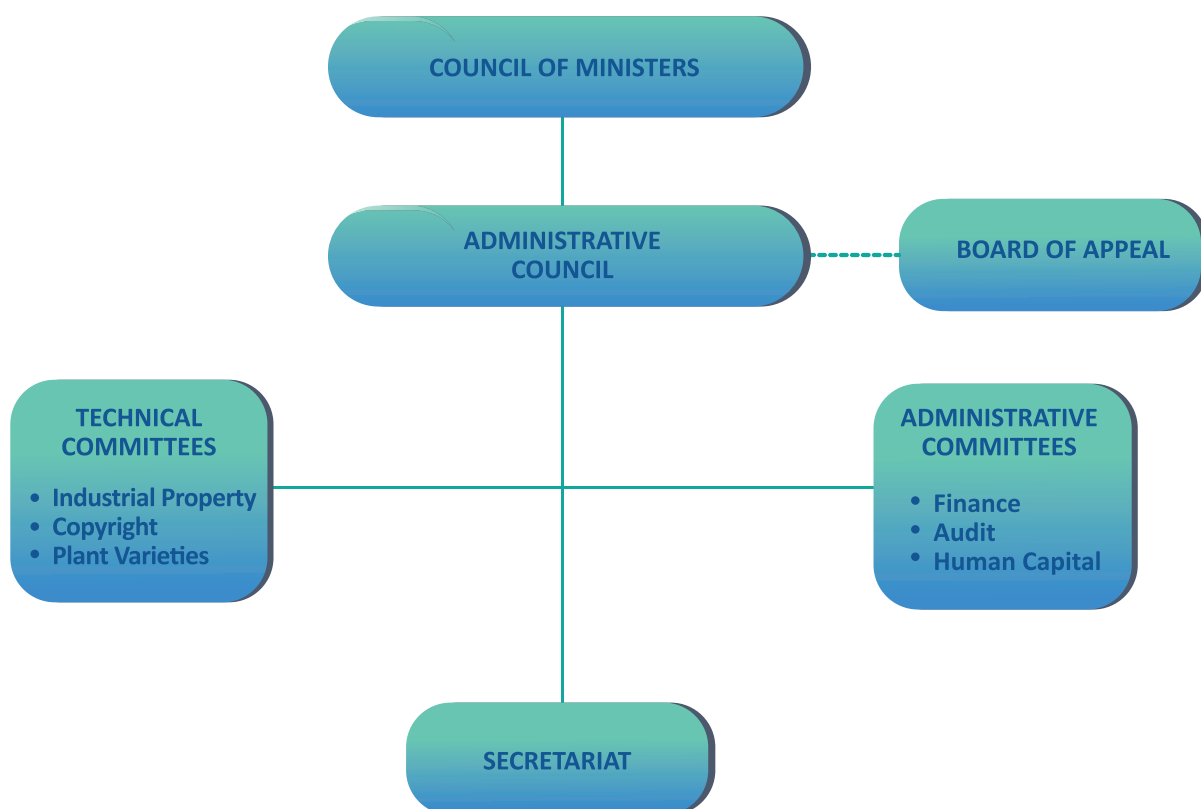
*Table 1: ARIPO Member States and the dates when they became Contracting States to the ARIPO Protocols*

## ORGANS OF ARIPO

### Overview

ARIPO is governed by the Council of Ministers, the Administrative Council, the Board of Appeal, and the Secretariat.

Figure 2: Organs of ARIPO





## **Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers is composed of government ministers from ARIPO Member States responsible for administering IP laws within their respective countries. It serves as ARIPO's supreme governing body. Currently, the Republic of Botswana chairs the Council of Ministers.

## **Administrative Council and its Subsidiary Committees**

The Administrative Council comprises the heads of offices responsible for industrial property and copyright matters in each Member State. It operates under the authority of the Council of Ministers. The Republic of Botswana currently chairs the Administrative Council.

The Administrative Council oversees subsidiary committees, which fall into two main categories: Administrative Committees and Technical Committees.

## **Subsidiary Committees of the Administrative Council**

The Administrative Council has subsidiary committees organised into two categories: Technical and Administrative Committees. These committees provide the Administrative Council with expert recommendations on technical and administrative matters.

## **Board of Appeal**

The Board of Appeal is an independent body established to hear and review appeals against administrative decisions made by the ARIPO Office regarding the implementation of ARIPO protocols.

## **The Secretariat**

The Secretariat manages ARIPO's daily operations and implements policies established by the Council of Ministers and the Administrative Council. The Secretariat is headed by a Director General.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Mr. Bemanya Twebaze**  
Director General



**Mr. David Njuguna**  
Director, Intellectual Property



**Ms. Nkgare C. Phirinyane**  
Director, Business Transformation  
and Development



**Mr. Pierre Claver Runiga**  
Director, Legal Affairs and  
International Cooperation



**Mr. Ben Mulenga**  
Director, Finance



**Mr. Letu Mathew Shilongo**  
Head, Internal Audit and Risk  
Management



**Dr. Graham Mhlakaza**  
Head, Human Capital and  
Administration

## ARIPO'S LEGAL INSTRUMENTS



### The Lusaka Agreement

ARIPO was established under the Lusaka Agreement, signed in Lusaka, Zambia, on 9 December 1976. The objectives, *inter alia*, are to promote, harmonise, and develop IP systems in Africa. To carry out its functions, ARIPO administers five Protocols.



### The Harare Protocol

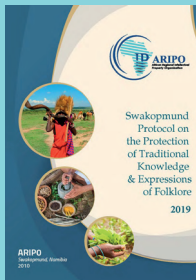
The Harare Protocol on Patents, Utility Models, and Industrial Designs was adopted on 25 April 1984. It empowers ARIPO to grant patents and register industrial designs and utility models on behalf of the Protocol's Contracting States.

Currently, the Protocol is in force in all the Member States except Somalia and Mauritius.



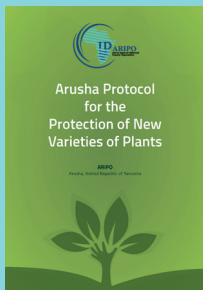
### The Banjul Protocol

Adopted in 1993, this Protocol empowers ARIPO to register marks on behalf of the Protocol's contracting states. Thirteen Member States are currently party to the Protocol. These are Botswana, Cabo Verde, the Kingdom of Eswatini, The Gambia, the Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.



### The Swakopmund Protocol

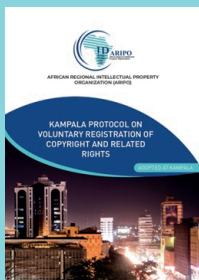
The Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore was adopted in 2010 and entered into force on 25 May 2015. The Protocol aims to protect the traditional knowledge and expressions of folklore of Africa and ensure that they are properly utilized for the welfare of her people. Nine Member States have ratified the Protocol: Botswana, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



### The Arusha Protocol

The Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants was adopted in Arusha, Tanzania, on 6 July 2015 and entered into force on 24 November 2024. The Protocol provides Member States with a regional plant variety protection system that recognises the need to provide growers and farmers with improved plant varieties to ensure sustainable agricultural production.

Four Member States have ratified the Protocol. They are Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Cabo Verde and Ghana. Other States that are signatories to the Protocol are The Gambia, Mozambique, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

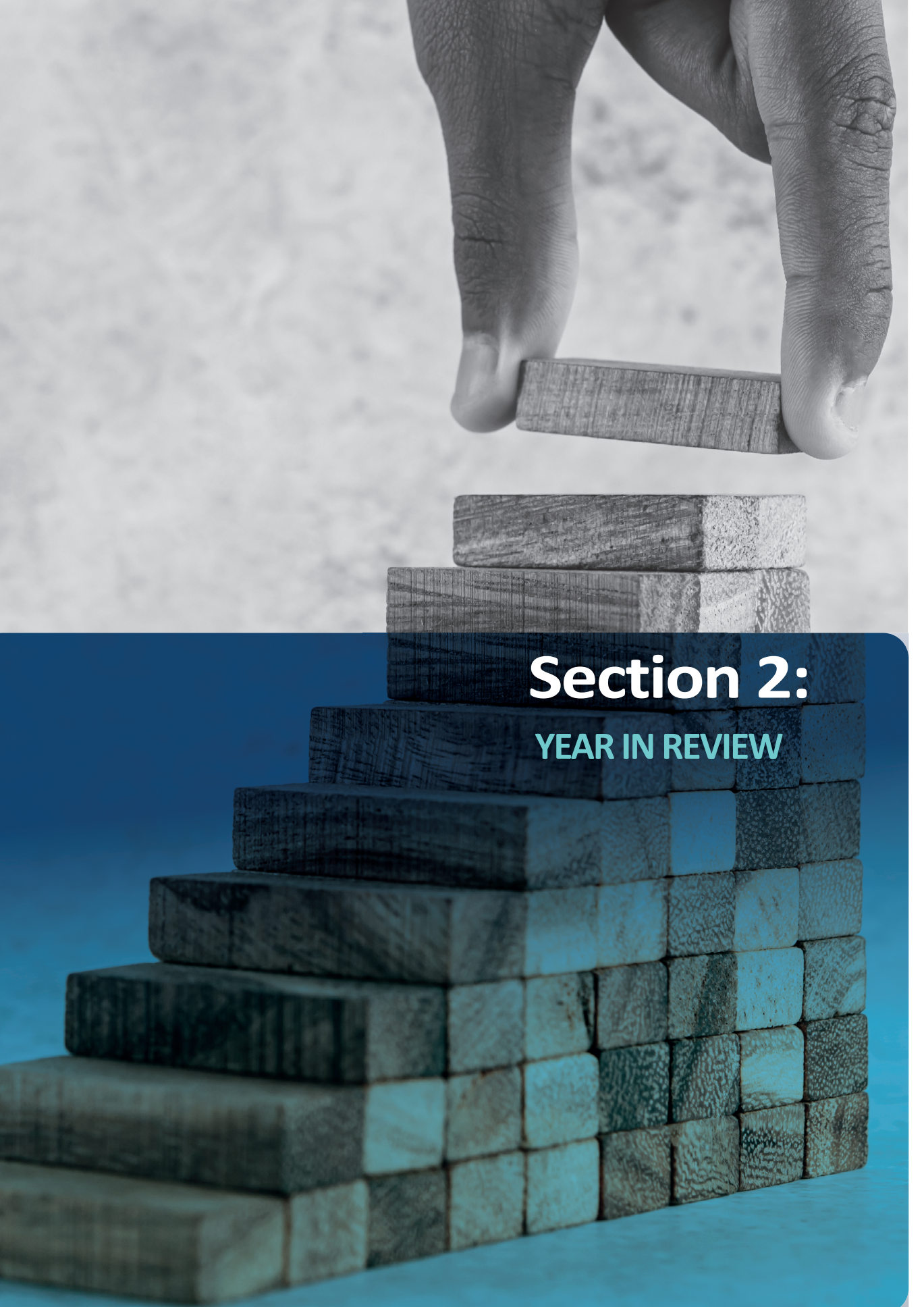


### The Kampala Protocol

The Kampala Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights was adopted on 28 August 2021 in Kampala, Uganda. The Protocol will establish a regional system for voluntary registration of copyright and related rights and create and maintain a regional database for copyright and related rights. It will enhance the protection of the ARIPO Member States and Africa's creative industry by ensuring the creators benefit from their works.

The Republic of Namibia ratified the Protocol in August 2024. Eleven States have signed the Protocol: The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The Protocol will come into force once five Member States have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession with the ARIPO Director General.





## Section 2:

YEAR IN REVIEW

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

The year under review marked a period of significant progress and strategic consolidation for ARIPO, as the Organization continued to advance its mission of fostering IP for socio-economic development in its Member States. In alignment with the Strategic Plan 2022–2026, ARIPO implemented key initiatives to enhance regional cooperation, improve service delivery, and reinforce its role as Africa’s leading IP Organization.

This section highlights the major milestones, operational achievements, and collaborative efforts that defined the year. It reflects ARIPO’s ongoing commitment to innovation, capacity building, and responsive governance, supporting sustainable growth throughout the region.

### 2024 MILESTONES

- a. Harare Protocol review -The Harare Protocol, regulations, and fee structure were comprehensively reviewed, and amendments to the Protocol were approved by the special sitting of the Administrative Council in December 2024.
- b. China PPH launch - ARIPO and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) launched a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program in June 2024. The PPH facilitates accelerated examination of applications from CNIPA at ARIPO and vice versa.



- c. Kampala Protocol ratification by the Republic of Namibia in August 2024.
- d. The Arusha Protocol on Plant Variety Protection entered into force in November 2024, following the deposit of the instruments of ratification by the Republic of Ghana in November 2023.
- e. Media Awards -The inaugural IP Journalists Awards was held in 2024, with the top three journalists being awarded during the Administrative Council in the Kingdom of Lesotho.



- f. The Master in Intellectual Property (MIP) program—43 students graduated from MIP programs, bringing the total number of MIP graduates to 533.
- g. ARIPO-WIPO Training of Trainers for East Africa region – certified 33 trainers from the region.
- h. Promoting IP education and awareness for youth— the IP School Club’s membership increased from 276 students to 294 and 30 teachers across fifteen schools in Liberia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.
- i. The inaugural Women in IP Conference for ARIPO Member States was held in August 2024 in Kampala, Uganda.
- j. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to strengthen regional collaboration in IP as a catalyst for trade, investment, innovation, and economic growth.





## 2024 PERFORMANCE

This section presents the progress made in implementing the 2022–2026 ARIPO Strategic Plan in 2024. The four key pillars of the Strategic Plan are:

- 1. **Growth Strategy and Sustainability**
- 2. **Intellectual Property Promotion**
- 3. **Strengthened and Harmonized Legal Framework**
- 4. **Human Capital Development**

These pillars are supported by 14 Strategic Objectives (SOs) that guide and align the Organization’s operational priorities.

### Strategic Objectives by Pillar

Strategic Pillar	Strategic Objectives
Growth strategy and sustainability	<div>1. Grow membership</div> <div>2. Accelerate digitization process</div> <div>3. Improve visibility</div> <div>4. Improve liquidity</div> <div>5. Increase revenue generation</div> <div>6. Improve enterprise risk management</div> <div>7. Improve Information Communication Technologies (ICT) security</div>
Intellectual property promotion	<div>8. Enhance IP expertise of Member States</div> <div>9. Enhance examination process</div>
Strengthened and harmonized legal framework	<div>10. Promote development of model national and institutional IP policies</div> <div>11. Develop model laws and systems</div>
Human capital development	<div>12. Acquire talent</div> <div>13. Empower leaders to drive transformation strategically</div> <div>14. Employee engagement</div>

# 2024 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) RESULTS

The KPIs outline the progress made in 2024 in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR 1: GROWTH STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

This pillar is assessed through 8 KPIs under seven SOs.

### SO1: Grow Membership



- High-level engagements were held with potential Member States, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Egypt.
- Namibia ratified the Kampala Protocol in October 2024, becoming the first Member State to do so. The Protocol requires five ratifications to enter into force.
- Member engagements were also undertaken regarding the ratification of the Arusha Protocol, while Mauritius initiated discussions on ratifying the Banjul Protocol.

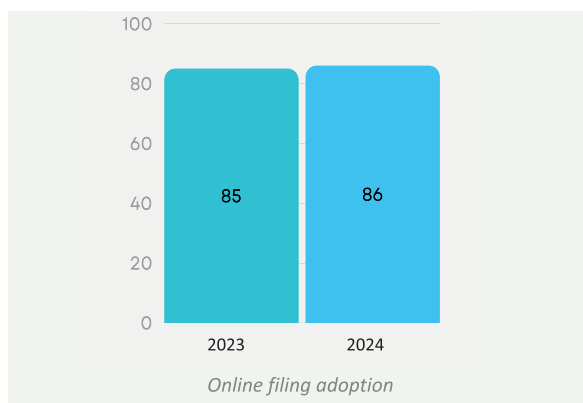
### SO2: Accelerate Digitization process

#### Digital Transformation Strategy

- A three-year digital transformation Strategy was developed in 2024 and is currently being implemented. The plan guides ARIPO in leveraging digital technologies to enhance operational efficiency.
- An ERP system was implemented to manage and integrate the administrative processes.

### ARIPO Online Services

- Online filing adoption reached 86% in 2024, up slightly from 85% in 2023.



- Patent filings had the highest digital uptake at 97%, consistent with 2023.
- Sensitisation workshops were conducted in Botswana, Cabo Verde, Lesotho, and Liberia.

### ARIPO Member States Module

- Enables secure, paperless data exchange between ARIPO's POLite+ system and Member States' IPAS platforms.
- Implemented in Cabo Verde and Liberia in 2024, bringing the total participating countries to 15.
- A cloud-based version was rolled out in Cabo Verde, and Liberia.
- Capacity-building sessions were also conducted in Botswana, Cabo Verde, Lesotho, and Liberia.

### POLite+ System Upgrade

- The system was upgraded to meet user requirements in line with new technological trends and the Harare Protocol amendments.

### ***SO3: Improve Visibility***

- The 2024–2026 Communication Strategy was adopted, focusing on IP awareness and positioning ARIPO as a regional innovation enabler.
- Social media and website reach grew by an average of 176.8% across LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and the ARIPO website.
- Launched the IP Journalists Awards to recognise media professionals covering IP issues; winners hailed from Botswana, Uganda, and Kenya.
- ARIPO took part in international and regional forums to enhance conversations and inclusiveness of ARIPO in the IP ecosystems as follows:
  - o ARIPO showcased its work at Kenya Innovation Week 2024, delivering a keynote on IP protection.
  - o Participated in the 7th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Week in Harare, Zimbabwe, to advocate IP-driven industrial growth.
  - o Attended the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Conference in Mozambique to promote institutional IP policies and university awareness.
  - o Exhibited at the 64th Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

### ***SO4: Improve Liquidity***

- The Organization's current assets improved by US\$ 2.1 million from US\$19.5 million in 2023 to US\$21.6 million in 2024 (unaudited) reflecting a strong liquidity position. This improvement demonstrates prudent financial management, including the retention of operational reserves.

### ***SO5: Increase Revenue Generation***

- Total revenue fell by US\$792,163 (8%), from US\$9.9 million in 2023 to US\$9.1 million in 2024 (unaudited). This is attributed to reduced IP right renewals and a notable reduction in fee collection from “extra pages and claims” for patent filings.

### ***SO6: Enhance Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)***

The Risk Management function worked closely with Management and the Audit Committee to assess and enhance the Organisation's risk posture. The 2024 focus areas included:

- IT security, Expenditure, fixed asset management, and IP registration systems audits.
- Year one of the three-year ERM strategy focused on governance reporting, risk education, and integration of risk practices.

In ensuring the resilience and sustainability, ARIPO is committed to adopting a proactive approach in providing assurance and advisory services commensurate with the maturity of the internal control environment.

Through the Audit Committee, the Administrative Council is assured that the internal control arrangements designed and implemented by Management are sound and are operating effectively, consistent with the ARIPO strategic plan and risk appetite. The policies and procedures are functioning as directed, and appropriate steps have been taken to promote an enterprise-wide culture that supports appropriate risk awareness, behaviours, and decision-making around risk. The focus areas for 2025 include:

- Maturing the organisation's risk maturity level
- Strengthening the cybersecurity posture.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR 2: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROMOTION

This strategic pillar is monitored through two KPIs under the strategic objectives: Enhance IP Expertise of Member States and Enhance Examination Process.

### ***SO8: Enhance IP Expertise of Member States***

In pursuance of Lusaka Agreement Article III, ARIPO continues to enhance expertise in the Member States in the bid to promote IP. To advance this objective, ARIPO undertook the following:

#### **Academic Programs**

ARIPO sustained its support for three Master's level IP programs in partnership with Africa University (AU), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), awarding scholarships and contributing teaching expertise.

- **AU (Zimbabwe):**  
The MIP program has been offered since 2008 in collaboration with WIPO.
  - o 5 ARIPO scholarships awarded in 2024;
  - o 27 students graduated in 2024;
  - o 462 graduates to date.
- **KNUST (Ghana):**  
MPhil in IP program has been offered since 2018 with ARIPO and the Ghana IP Office.
  - o 5 ARIPO scholarships awarded in 2024;
  - o 39 graduates to date.
- **UDSM (Tanzania):**  
The MIP program has been offered since 2019 in collaboration with BRELA.
  - o 5 scholarships awarded in 2024;
  - o 31 graduates to date.

#### **Annual MIP Conference:**

The annual MIP Conference, themed "IP and Agriculture," was held from 4 to 5 December 2024 in collaboration with WIPO and AU.

#### **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) Support:**

To support SMEs, ARIPO organised IP Asset Management workshops in Kigali, Rwanda and Monrovia, Liberia. The aim was to help SMEs identify, protect, and commercialize their IP.

Training of Trainers (ToT) Program

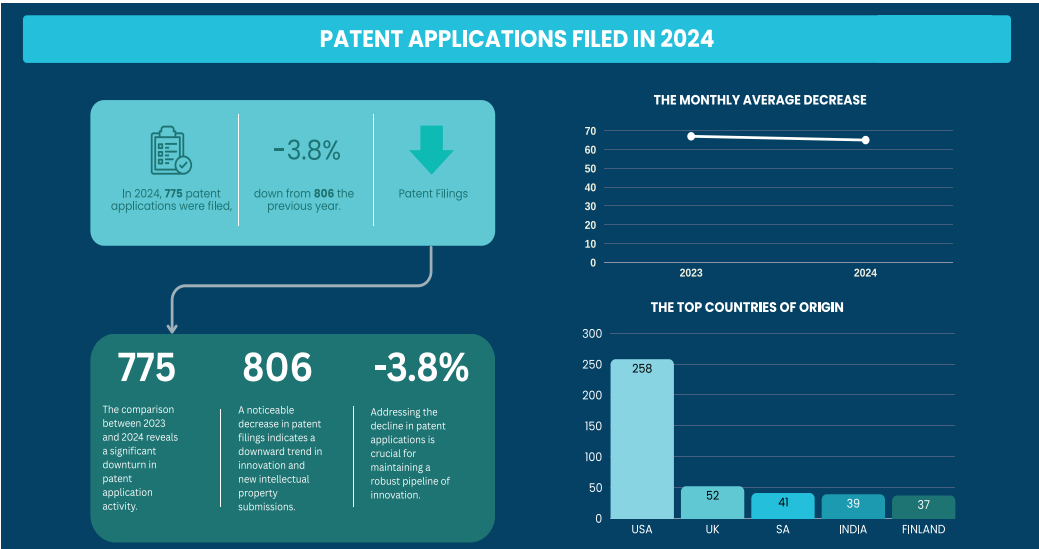
The program supports ARIPO’s transformation into a Regional IP Training Centre of Excellence. In November 2024, a training was conducted in Tanzania in collaboration with WIPO and the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA). Thirty-three participants from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia were certified as IP trainers.

SO9: Enhance Examination Process

The ARIPO system continues to be robust because the Organization invests in its quality and efficiency. To enhance the examination process, the following initiatives were undertaken in 2024:

- China PPH launch - ARIPO and the CNIPA launched a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program in June 2024. The PPH facilitates accelerated examination of applications from CNIPA at ARIPO and vice versa.
- Patent Examiners received advanced training from the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).
- Two Examiners continued with the ARIPO Regional Patent Examination Training (ARPET)
- Sensitisation workshops were conducted in Botswana, Cabo Verde, Lesotho, and Liberia.

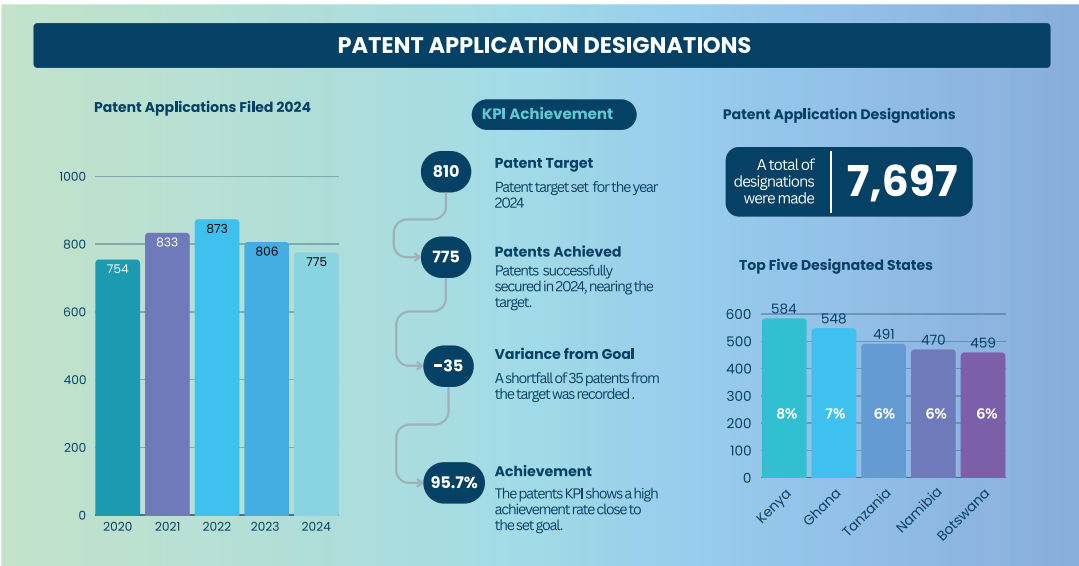
Following the successful implementation of the initiatives above to drive SO 8 and SO 9, the following performance outcomes were achieved in advancing the delivery of quality IP rights in 2024.



- A total of 775 patent applications were filed in 2024, compared to 806 in 2023, marking a 3.8% decline.

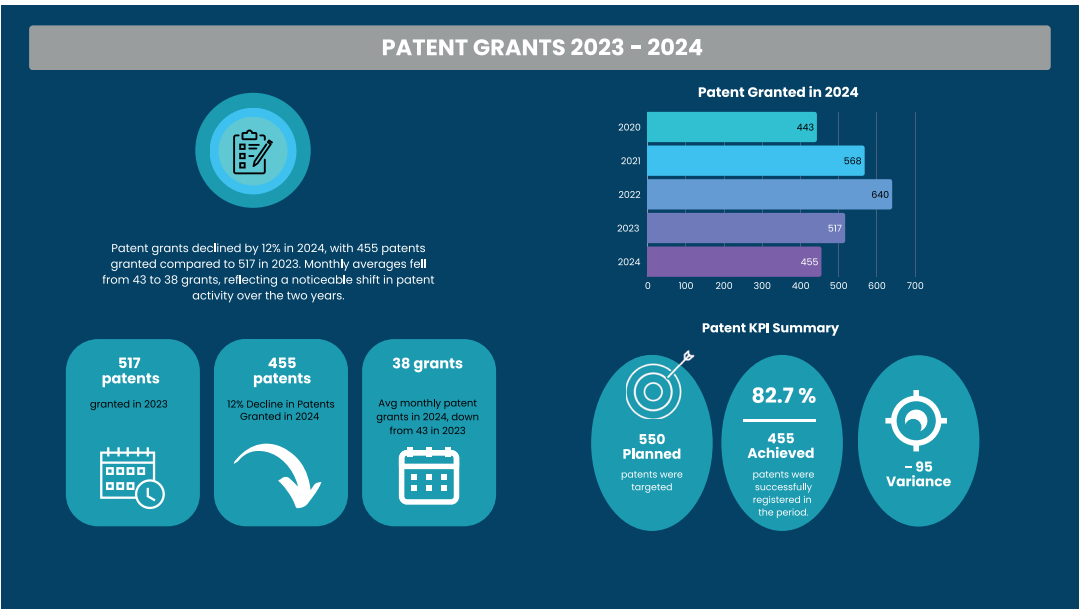


Patent Application Designations



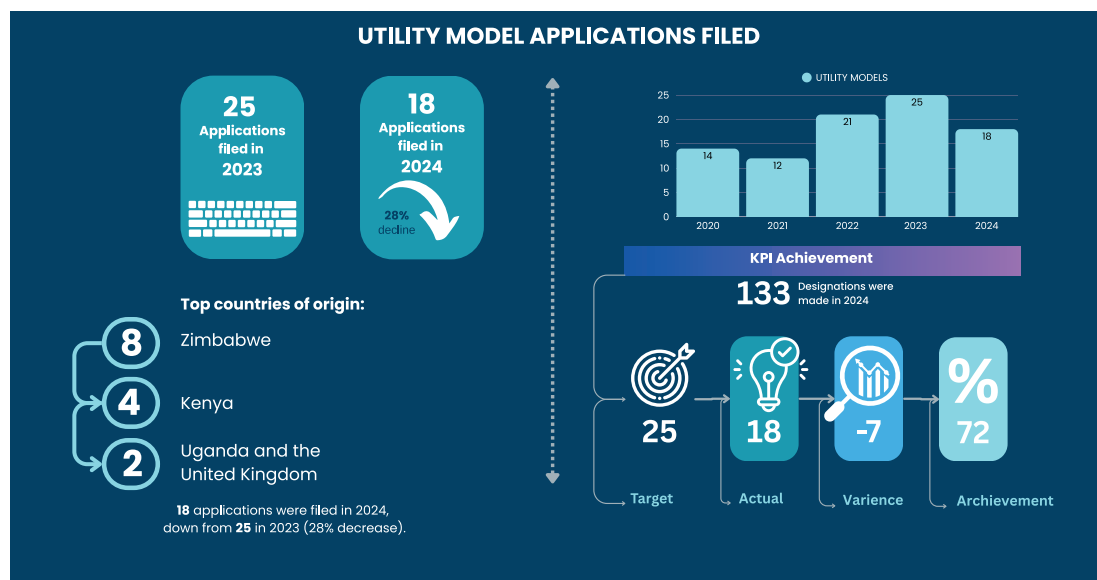
- A total of 7,697 designations were made.

Patent Grants

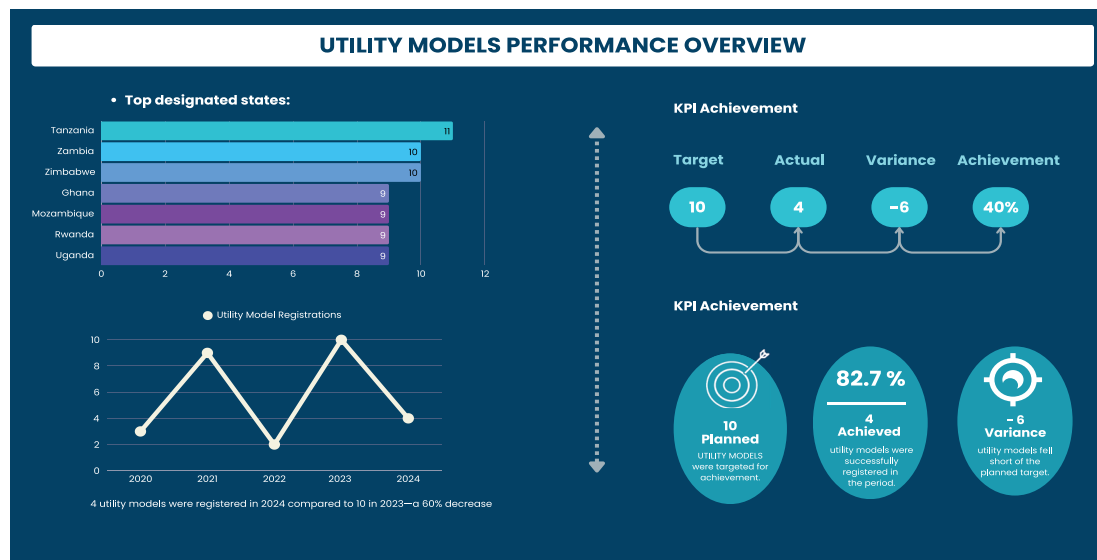


- 455 patents were granted in 2024, a 12% decline from 517 in 2023.

## Utility Model Applications Filed



- 18 applications were filed in 2024, down from 25 in 2023 (28% decrease).



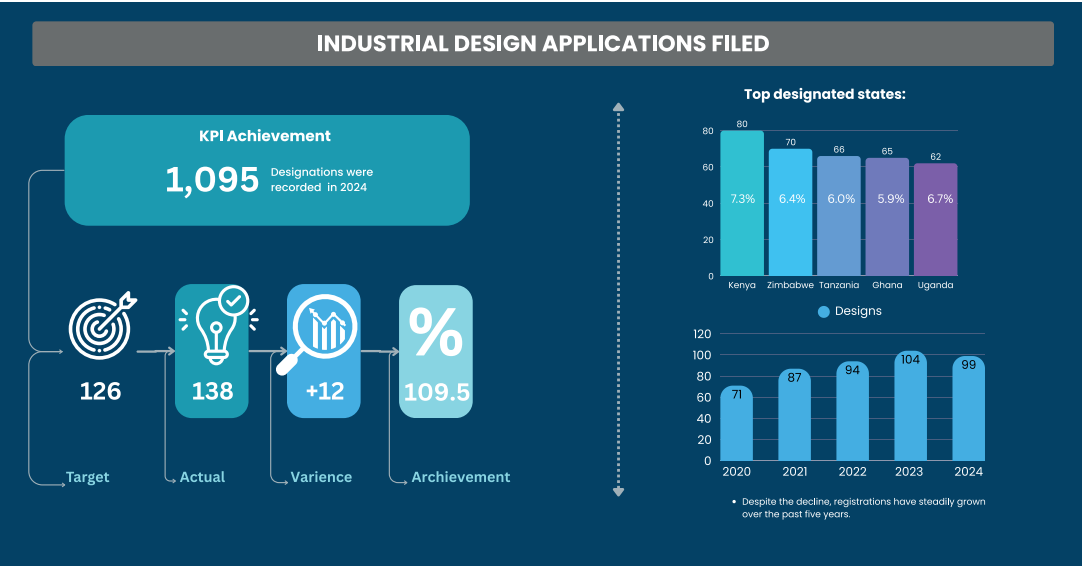
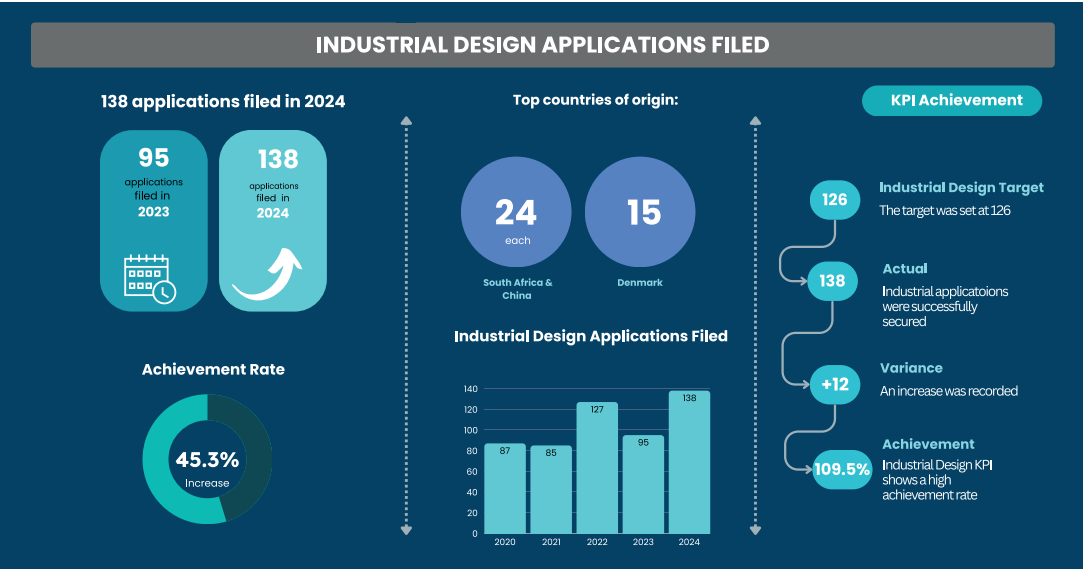
## Utility Model Designations

- 133 designations made in 2024.

## Utility Model Registrations

- 4 utility models were registered in 2024 compared to 10 in 2023—a 60% decrease.

Industrial Design Applications Filed



- 138 applications filed in 2024, up from 95 in 2023, reflecting a +45.3% increase.
- Top countries of origin:
  - o South Africa & China – 24 each
  - o Denmark – 15

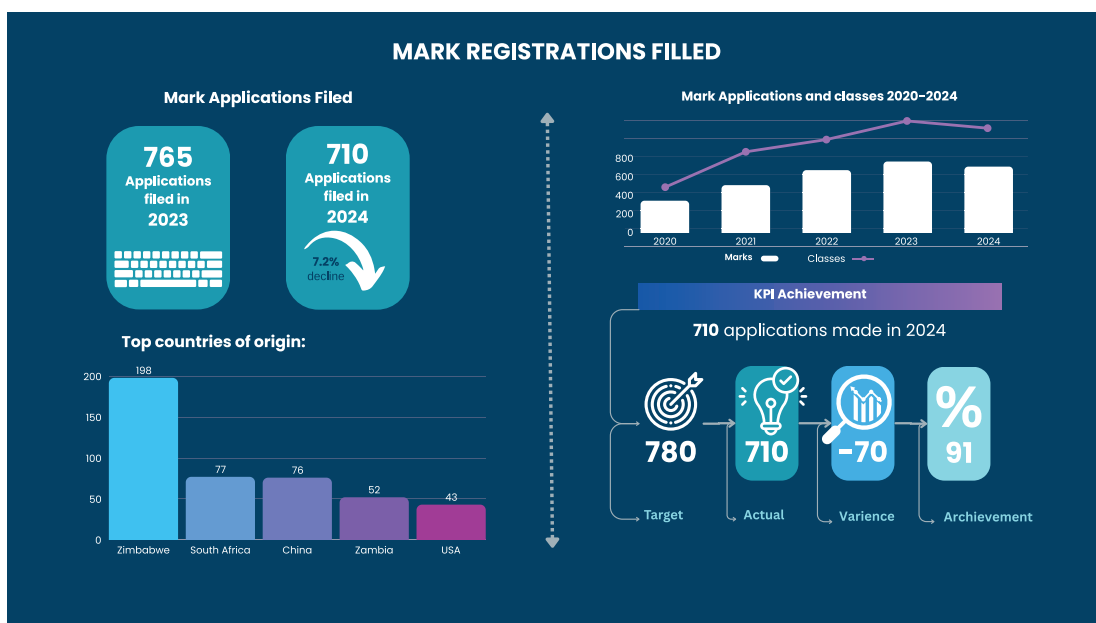
### Industrial Design Designations

- 1,095 designations were recorded

### Industrial Design Registrations

- 99 registrations in 2024, slightly down from 104 in 2023 (4.8% decrease).
- Despite the decline, registrations have steadily grown over the past five years

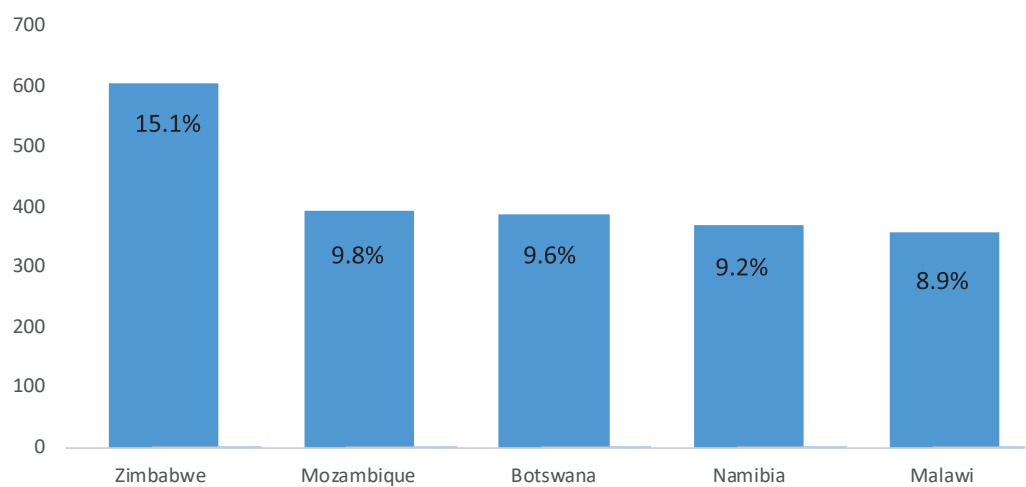
### Mark Applications Filed



- 710 mark applications filed in 2024 vs. 765 in 2023 (7.2% decrease).
- The applications spanned 1,311 classes, down 6.1% from 1,391 in 2023.

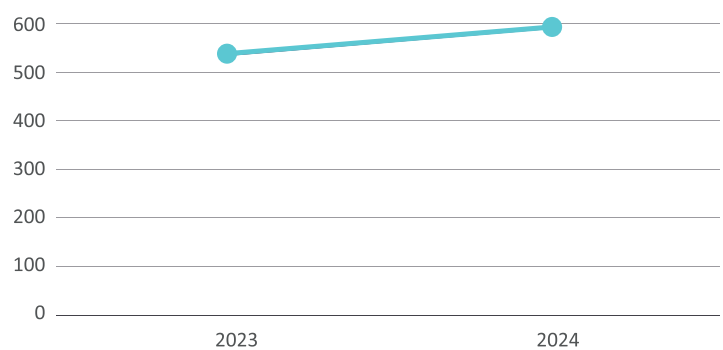
**Mark Designations**

- 4,024 designations made in 2024.
- Top designated states:



**Mark Registrations**

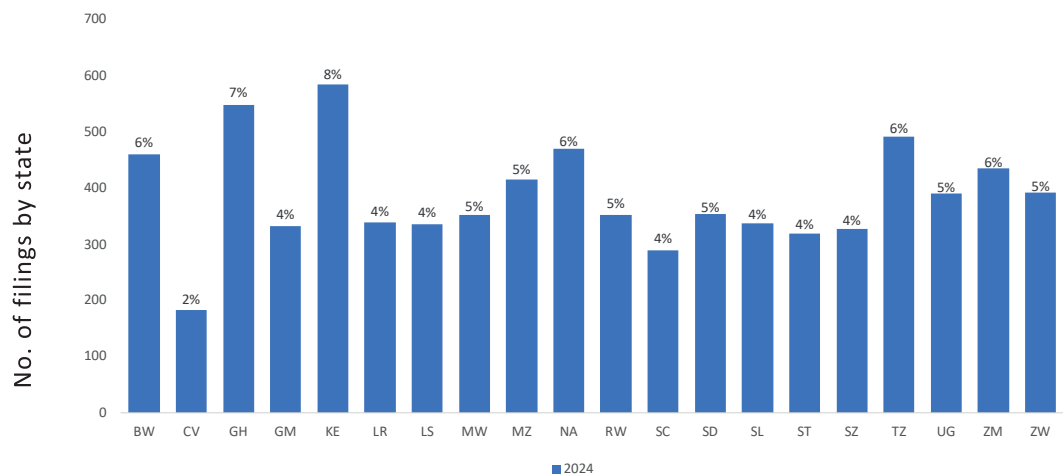
- 591 trademarks were registered in 2024, up from 534 in 2023 (+10.7% growth).



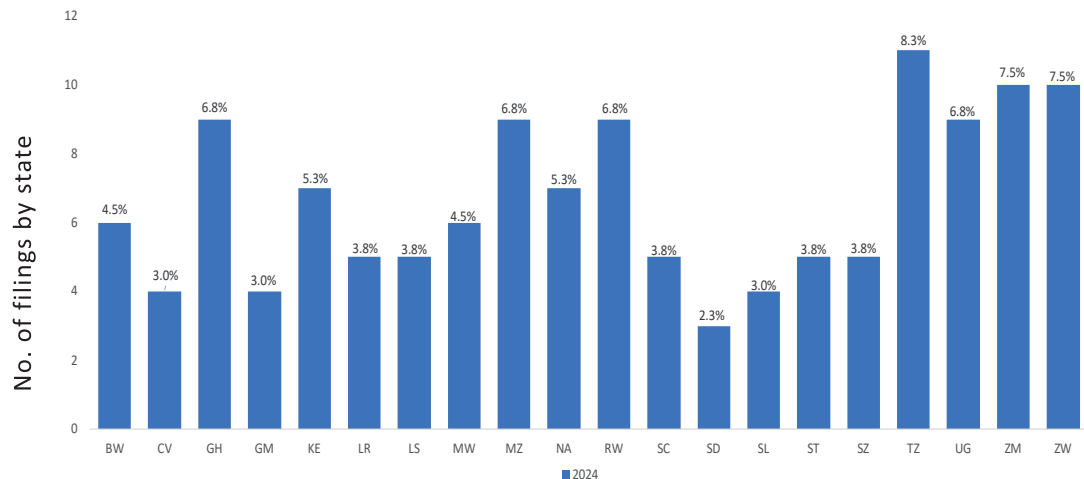
Summary of Designations by IP Right

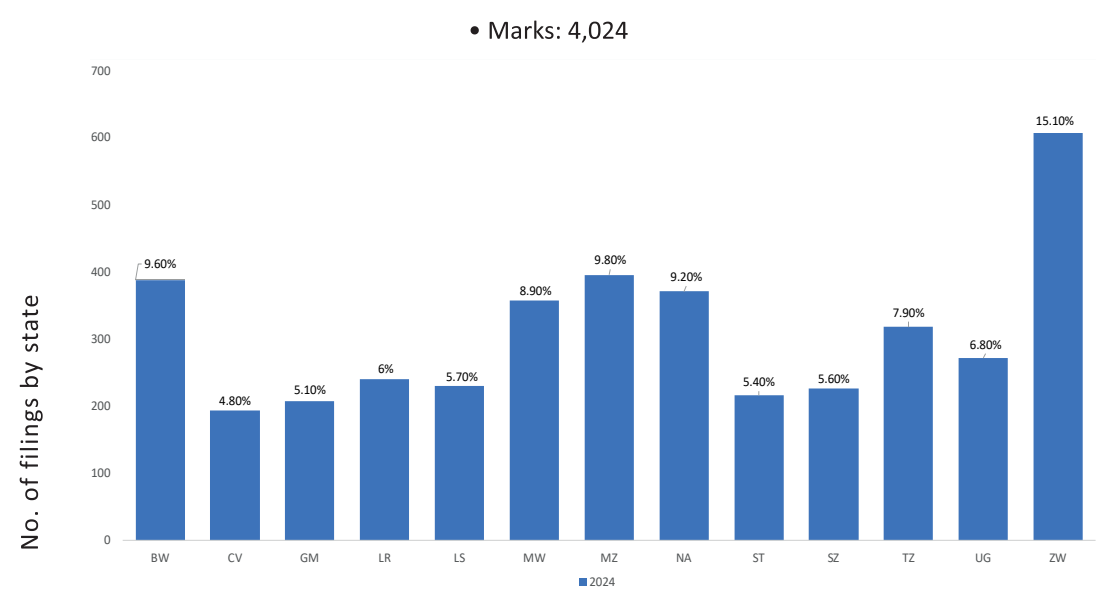
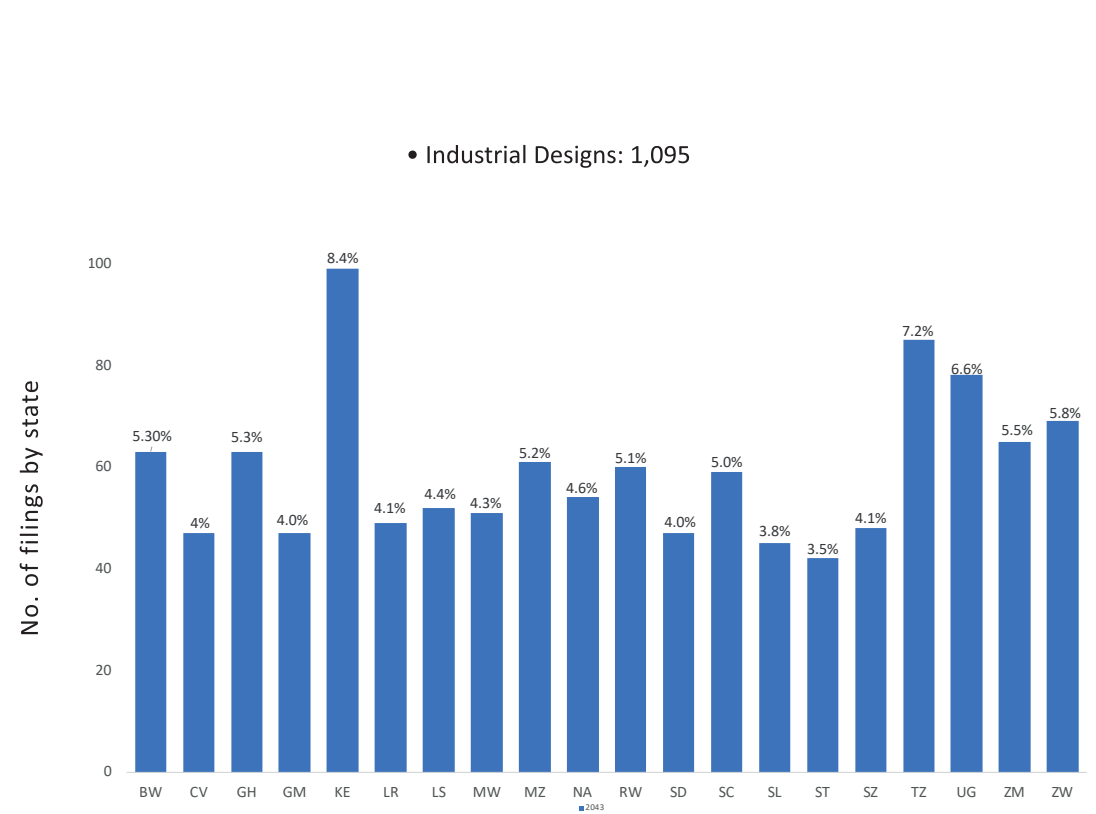
For ease of reference, designations made in 2024 are summarized as follows:

- Patents: 7,697



- Utility Models: 133







## STRATEGIC PILLAR 3: STRENGTHENED AND HARMONISED LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This pillar is measured by two KPIs aligned with the following strategic objectives:

### ***SO10: Promote the Development of Model National and Institutional IP Policies***

Key activities in 2024 included:

- Development of the University of Botswana's Institutional IP Policy, currently under review.
- Initiation of the National IP Strategy for Seychelles.
- A policy development seminar conducted for the University of Cabo Verde.

### ***SO11: Develop Model Laws and Systems***

- The draft Geographical Indications (GI) Model Law was completed.
- Amendment of the Harare Protocol.
- Development of the Regional Strategy for Private Copy Remuneration (PCR).
- Information-sharing sessions on the Proposed Broadcasting Treaty and Artists' Resale Rights.
- A session on Artist's Resale Rights on fair compensation mechanisms for creators.
- The 2nd ARIPO-WIPO Seminar on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for IP and Technology Disputes.
- Training on IP Rights Enforcement and inter-agency collaboration.
- The 2nd African Publishers Conference on IP challenges and opportunities in the publishing sector.
- An exchange of best practices on anti-counterfeiting for Portuguese-speaking countries.
- WIPO-ARIPO Regional Seminar on Copyright.
- IP Education and Awareness Programs for Youth.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR 4: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The 2022-2026 human capital development strategic pillar is anchored on building a diverse, inclusive, agile and high-performing Organization, supported by a stimulating and attractive work environment that benefits both current and prospective employees. This ambition is guided by four main objectives upon which the human capital strategy is built and is currently being pursued as follows:

- Promoting employee wellness
- Fostering diversity and exclusivity
- Promoting employee engagement
- Fostering a high-performance culture

### ***SO12: Acquire Talent***

#### **Key Appointments:**

Ms. Nkgare Cookie Phirinyane - Director, Business Transformation and Development (Botswana)

Mr. David Njuguna - Director, Intellectual Property (Kenya)

Mr. Chupicai Manuel - Executive Assistant to the Director General (Mozambique)

#### **Two Young Professionals: joined the Organization in 2024.**

Mr. Jeremiah Kekula, Civil Engineering (Liberia)

Mr. Ramothobi Tolo, Biotechnology (Lesotho)

# Section 3:

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## SECTION 3: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

#### NATURE OF BUSINESS:

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) functions are, the modernisation, harmonisation and development of the Intellectual Property Laws of Member States; fostering the establishment of a close relationship between the Member States in Intellectual Property Matters; the establishment of common services and organs for the modernisation, harmonisation and development of Intellectual Property activities affecting the Member States; and promotion and evolving of a common view and approach to Intellectual Property matters and assisting the Member States in the acquisition and development of Intellectual Property related technology.

#### GOVERNING ORGANS:

##### Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers consists of Ministers of the Governments of Member States who are responsible for the administration of Intellectual Property.

##### Administrative Council

The Administrative Council consists of the Heads of Offices dealing with the administration of Intellectual Property in the Member States.

#### SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM (SECRETARIAT)

Mr. Bemanya Twebaze	(Director General)
Mr. Ben Mulenga	(Director Finance)
Mr. Pierre Runiga	(Director Legal Affairs and International Cooperation)
Mr. Grey Njowola	(Ag. Director Business Transformation and Development)
Ms. Flora Mpanju	(Ag. Director Intellectual Property)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE

African Regional Intellectual Property Organization  
(ARIPO)  
11 Natal Road  
Belgravia  
Harare

#### PRINCIPAL BANKERS

**Swiss Bank Corporation**  
UBS SA, Castle Postale  
CH121, Geneva 2  
Geneva 2, Switzerland

#### **Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe Limited**

Belgravia branch  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

#### AUDITORS

Grand Thornton Chartered Accountants (Zimbabwe)  
Registered Public Auditors  
Camelsa Business Park  
135 Enterprise Road  
Highlands  
Harare

#### ATTORNEYS

Honey & Blackenberg  
200 Herbert Chitepo Avenue  
Harare

## INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

## Contents

Independent Auditor's Report	35
Statement of Financial Position	39
Statement of Financial Performance	40
Statement Of Changes In Reserves	41
Statement Of Cashflows	42
Notes To The Financial Statements	43
Statement Of Comparison Of Budget And Actual Amounts	58

## The Financial Statements are expressed in United States Dollars (USD).

### AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

#### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

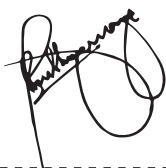
It is the Administrative Council's responsibility to ensure that the Financial Statements fairly present the state of affairs of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). The external auditors are responsible for independently reviewing and reporting on the financial statements.

The Administrative Council has assessed the ability of the Organization to continue operating as a going concern and believe that the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis is still appropriate.

The financial statements are prepared with the aim of complying fully with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), which includes standards and interpretations approved by the IPSASB.

The Organization's accounting and internal control systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the financial statements and to adequately safeguard, verify and maintain accountability of its assets. Such controls are based on established written policies and procedures and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring that the Organization's operating practices are conducted in a manner which in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach.

The Organization's financial statements which are set out below on page 51-71 were, in accordance with their responsibilities, approved by the Administrative Council on 30 October 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:



-----  
**Bemanya Twebaze**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**



-----  
**Joel Duke Ramaphoi**  
**CHAIRPERSON**



**Grant Thornton**

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

**To the members of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)**

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) set out on pages 51 to 71, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of financial performance, the statement of changes in reserves, and the statement of cashflows for the year ended, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ARIPO as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and cashflows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the Statement of Income and Expenditure section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Chartered Accountants  
Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd  
A list of partners may be inspected at the above address



## **Responsibilities of the Administrative Council for the Financial Statements**

The Administrative Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Administrative Council is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Administrative Council either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Administrative Council are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

## **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Administrative Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion.
- Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Organization to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Organization's audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Administrative Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


We also provide the Administrative Council with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Administrative Council, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

## Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with all legal requirements.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is Alice Mafanuke.



### Alice Mafanuke

Partner

Registered Public Auditor (PMB Number 0465)

### Grant Thornton

Chartered Accountants (Zimbabwe)

Registered Public Auditors

21 November 2024

**HARARE**



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### as at 31 December 2023

		2023 USD	2022 USD
Revenue	Note		
Fees from protocols		9 014 660	8 862 244
Contributions from member states		795 150	530 100
Member states contribution to reserve fund		95 000	95 000
Other income	13	65 732	92 514
Total revenue		9 970 542	9 579 858
Expenses			
Mission and training costs		(1 475 707)	(1 157 614)
Personnel Costs		(4 683 380)	(3 842 480)
Provision for leave days		-	-
Other operating expenses	14	( 694 527)	(498 674)
Total expenses		(6 853 614)	(5 498 768)
Surplus for the year before depreciation and amortisation		3 116 928	4 081 090
Depreciation and amortisation		(776 150)	(775 841)
Surplus for the year after depreciation and amortisation		2 340 778	3 305 249

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

### for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Revenue

	Revaluation reserve US\$	Accumulated surplus US\$	Total US\$
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2021</b>	1 728 060	4 439 681	6 167 741
Surplus for the year	-	3 305 249	3 305 249
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2022</b>	1 728 060	7 744 930	9 472 990
Surplus for the year	-	2 340 778	2 340 778
<b>Revaluation</b>	<b>(960 557)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(960 557)</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>767 503</b>	<b>10 085 708</b>	<b>10 853 211</b>

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT****For The Year Ended 31 December 2023****ASSETS**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>NOTE</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Surplus for the year		2 340 778	3 305 249
<b>Adjusted for :</b>			
- Property and equipment depreciation		329 246	328 939
- Amortisation		446 904	446 902
- Fair value gain/loss on investments		(11 239)	5 749
- Profit on disposal of property and equipment		(410)	-
- Interest income		(150)	(75)
		3 105 129	4 086 764
<b>Changes in working capital:</b>			
Decrease in trade and other receivables	6	52 614	57 020
(Decrease)/Increase in member states and other payables		850 578	(162 776)
Increase in fees received in advance-deferred	11	(68 852)	116 156
(Decrease)/increase in receipts from agents not allocated		(5 130)	33 350
(Decrease)/Increase in member states investments	7	(6 312)	1 771 803
Decrease in employee benefits liability	12	176 483	36 078
		4 104 510	5 938 395
<b>Net cash flows generated from operating activities</b>			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Interest income received		150	75
Additions to property and equipment	9	(197 982)	(247 768)
Intangible assets work in progress		(86 000)	-
<b>Increase in investments</b>	7	-	(2 137 213)
<b>Proceeds from sale of property and equipment</b>		4 000	-
		(279 832)	(2 384 906)
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Net cash flows utilised in financing activities</b>		-	-
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		3 824 678	3 553 488
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>		15 423 185	11 869 697
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>		19 247 863	15 423 185

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION

African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (“ARIPO” or “the Organization”) was established in 1976.

The objectives of the Organization are:

- promoting the harmonisation and development of the intellectual property laws;
- fostering the establishment of a close relationship between its members in matters relating to intellectual property (“IP”) and;
- establishing such common services or organs as may be necessary or desirable for the co-ordination, harmonisation and development of Intellectual Property.

ARIPO carries out a wide variety of tasks related to the protection of IP rights including working with Member States to develop IP laws; managing regional registration systems for trademarks, industrial designs and appellations of origin and a filing system for patents; providing dispute resolution services; and acting as a forum for informed debate and for the exchange of expertise.

The Organization is an inter-governmental organization established by the Lusaka Agreement signed in Lusaka, Zambia on December 9, 1976. The Organization operates and is governed according to the provisions of the Lusaka Agreement. The Membership of the Organization is open to the member states of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) or the African Union (AU) and currently has 20 member countries.

ARIPO is governed by the following constituent bodies:

- the Council of Ministers, which is the supreme body of the Organization, consists of Ministers of Governments of the member states;
- the Administrative Council, which is responsible for the administration of intellectual property in the Member States;
- the Secretariat, which reports to the Administrative Council and performs duties as delegated by the Administrative Council;
- the administrative Committees: Audit Committee, Finance Committee and Human Capital Committee; and
- the Technical Committees: Technical Committee on Industrial Property, Technical Committee on Copyright & Related Rights, and Technical Committee on Plant Varieties Protection.

## **2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements have been prepared on an accrual and going-concern basis and in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (“IPSAS”).

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. The accounting policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

### **2.1 Changes in accounting policy and interpretations.**

#### **New standards, interpretations and amendments not yet effective**

##### **IPSAS 43 Leases**

This standard is effective date of 1 January 2025 for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023, with earlier application encouraged. IPSAS 43 introduces a right-of-use model that will replace the risks and rewards incidental to ownership model in IPSAS 13 Leases.

For lessors, IPSAS 43 substantially carries forward the risks and rewards incidental to ownership model in IPSAS 13.

### **2.2 Foreign currency translation**

#### **Functional and presentation currency**

The financial statements are presented in the United States of America Dollar (“USD”), which is the Organization’s functional and presentation currency.

### **2.3 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with less than three months maturity from the date of acquisition, including cash on hand and demand deposits with banks.



**2.4 Trade and other receivables**

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method and represent amounts due from staff or customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Other receivables are measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, less an allowance for impairment. An allowance for impairment of other receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Organization will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the agreement. The amount of the allowance is the difference between the asset’s carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The allowance is recognised in the statement of financial performance.

**2.5 Property and equipment**

Property and equipment are valued at cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset’s carrying amount or are recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Organization and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of financial performance during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Land and buildings are initially recognized at cost, but are subject to revaluation to fair value by an external independent valuer. Valuations are performed with sufficient regularity to ensure that the fair value of a revalued asset does not differ materially from its carrying amount.

Land is not depreciated. Property and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts to their residual values over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Buildings	40 years
Furniture and fittings	10 years
Computer equipment	4 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Software	10 years

The assets’ residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. There has been no change to the estimated useful lives from those applied in the previous financial year.

## **2.6 Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs consist of interest and other costs that the organisation incurs in connection with the borrowing of funds. Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets, which are assets that necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use or sale are capitalized as part of the cost of the assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale. Investment income earned on the temporary investment of specific borrowings pending their expenditure on qualifying assets is deducted from the borrowing costs eligible for capitalization. All other borrowing costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

## **2.7 Receipts from agents not allocated**

Receipts from agents not allocated represent annual maintenance fees paid in the current financial year for IP protection that extends to the future financial years.

## **2.8 Employee benefits**

### **a) Pension obligations**

The Organization has a defined contribution plan, which is a pension plan under which the Organization pays fixed contributions to a separate fund. The Organization has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the entity does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to the employee service in the current and prior periods.

### **b) Termination benefits**

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated by the Organization before the normal retirement date or whenever the employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits.

### **c) Other benefits**

The Organization recognises provisions for the value of accumulated leave deferred at the reporting date and for gratuity payable at the reporting date.

## **2.9 Member State payables and other payables**

The Organization collects maintenance fees on behalf of member states. The Organization holds these funds on a temporary basis until they are transferred to the Member States. These funds are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business). Other payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

## **2.10 Revenue**

Fees from protocols comprise fees charged for applications for registration of patents, trademarks and industrial designs; and annual maintenance fees for the protection of the patents, trademarks and industrial designs.

All revenue from fees related to the processing of IP Rights will be recognized when the application is due for service. All revenue from fees such as renewals, modifications, abandonment, transfers, confirmations and adjustments will be recognized when the service has been performed.

Revenue from other fees will be recognized when ARIPO's services have been provided.

The distribution of fees between ARIPO Office and Member states is as follows:

- 5% of the application fees shall be due to the Member state in which the application is filed and 95% shall be due to ARIPO Office;
- 50% of the designation fee shall be due to the designated member state and 50% shall be due to ARIPO office;
- 50% of the annual maintenance fee shall be due to the designated member state and 50% shall be due to the ARIPO Office.

Fees due to Member States are held in favour of the Member States and, on request, are transmitted to the Member States.

Contributions from Member States are recognized as revenue at the beginning of the financial year to which they relate.

## **2.11 Operating expenses**

Expenses are recognised when incurred rather than when paid.

## **2.12 Taxation**

The Organization's receipts and accruals are exempt from income tax in terms of paragraph 2(e) of the Third Schedule of the Zimbabwe Income Tax Act (Chapter 23:06).

## **3 Critical judgements in applying the organisation's accounting policies**

In preparing the financial statements, the Administrative Council is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts presented in the financial statements and related disclosures. Use of available information and the application of judgment is inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from these estimates which may be material to the financial statements. Significant judgments include:

### **a) Impairment testing**

At the reporting date, the Organisation reviews the carrying amounts of the assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). The determination of value in use requires the estimation of future cash flows and a discount rate.

### **b) Useful lives of property and equipment**

The Organisation reviews the estimated useful lives of property and equipment at the end of each reporting period considering expected physical wear and tear.

### **c) Going concern**

The Organisation assesses the appropriateness of the going concern assumption at each statement of financial position date. The assessment requires judgmental estimates and assumptions regarding future cash flows and the discount rate used to determine the present value of cash flows.

### **(d) Functional currency**

During the year the organisation has been operating in an environment where a combination of United States Dollars (USD) and the local currency were in use. The organisation, based on the requirements of IPSAS 4, assessed its functional currency and adopted the United States Dollar (USD) as its functional currency.

## **4 Financial risk management**

The Organization's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk including price risk, credit risk and liquidity risk.

### **a) Market risk**

#### **(i) Price risk**

Price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

The Organization is not exposed to price risks as it does not hold any equity securities or commodities.

#### **(ii) Foreign exchange risk**

The Organization is exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from bank account balances denominated in Zimbabwe Dollar (ZWL). The ZWL balances were: 2023: ZWL505 794 (USD83) [(2022: ZWL6 742 058 (USD9 852))]. The Organization manages this risk by maintaining the bulk of its cash balances in United States Dollar (USD) bank accounts and only liquidating funds into local ZWL on a need basis.

#### **(iii) Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the Organization will be adversely affected by the changes in the level of volatility of market interest rates. The Organization has fixed interest-bearing assets or liabilities therefore has no significant exposure to interest rate risk.

### **b) Credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents held at banks and accounts receivable. The Organization's receivables are mostly from its Member States, representing governments and from staff. Therefore the risk related to credit is insignificant.

	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
<b>5 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Member States Trust Fund	11 016 162	10 180 773
Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe RTGS	83	9 852
Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe FCA	804 528	1 222 319
UBS AG Switzerland	6 794 657	3 679 071
Swiss Bank Reserves	96 665	1 757
Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe Revolving Fund FCA	143 346	33 988
CBZ Bank Zimbabwe FCA	227 837	294 116
UBS Investments ARIPO	164 482	-
Petty cash	103	1 309
	<b>19 247 863</b>	<b>15 423 185</b>
<b>6 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
Staff debtors	176 670	265 610
Sundry debtors	3 180	14 475
Value Added Tax (VAT) Refundable	42 871	34 721
Prepayments	57 440	17 969
	<b>280 161</b>	<b>332 775</b>
<b>7 FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH SURPLUS OR DEFICIT</b>		
Long-term investments represent real estate and United States of America government bond investments made through Union Bank of Switzerland on behalf of the organization and selected Member States (through funds held in trust). The investment tenure is 6.44 years with an estimated gross return of 3.72%, a maximum net estimated return of 4.96%, and a minimum net estimated return of 1.5%. The funds were invested in the ratio 80% US bonds and 20% real estate.		
The fair value of the investments as at 31st December 2023 are as follows:		
Opening balance	2 103 081	-
Additions	-	2 137 213
Fair value loss:	66 723	(34 132)
Member State fair value gain/loss as at 31st December 2023	55 484	-
ARIPO fair value gain/loss as at 31st December 2023	11 239	2 103 081
<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>-</b>
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include the following:		
Bond investments	2 169 804	1 690 241
Real estate investments	377 089	412 840
	<b>2 169 804</b>	<b>2 103 081</b>

## 7 FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH SURPLUS OR DEFICIT

Five member states and ARIPO invested their funds and the breakdown of the investment is as follows;

	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
The Gambia	203 050	196 806
Ghana	304 575	295 209
Malawi	1 015 250	984 030
Uganda	230 677	223 584
Sao Tome	50 763	49 201
<b>Total Member State investments</b>	<b>1 804 315</b>	<b>1 748 830</b>
ARIPO investment fund	365 489	354 251
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>2 169 804</b>	<b>2 103 081</b>

The investments are carried at fair value through surplus or deficit. The fair value of the investments as at year end are as follows:

Bond investments	1 792 715	1 690 241
Real estate investments	377 089	412 840
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>2 169 804</b>	<b>2 103 081</b>
Member State fair value gain/loss as at year end	55 484	(28 381)
ARIPO fair value gain/loss as at year end	11 239	(5 750)
<b>Total fair value loss</b>	<b>66 723</b>	<b>(34 131)</b>
<b>Member States balance as at year end</b>		
Opening Balance	1 743 420	-
Addition	-	1 777 213
Fair value gain/loss on Investments	55 484	(28 381)
Transaction charges on Investments	(6 312)	(5 412)
	<b>1 792 592</b>	<b>1 743 420</b>

**8 Intangible asset**

	<b>Software USD</b>	<b>Work in progress USD</b>	<b>Total USD</b>
<b>Cost/Valuation</b>			
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>	4 469 024	-	4 469 024
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	4 469 024	-	4 469 024
Additions	-	86 000	86 000
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	4 469 024	86 000	4 555 024
<b>Accumulated amortisation</b>			
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>	(3 091 076)	-	(3 091 076)
Amortisation for the year	(446 902)	-	(446 902)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	(3 537 978)	-	(3 537 978)
Amortisation for the year	(446 904)	-	(446 904)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	(3 984 882)	-	(3 984 882)
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	931 046	-	931 046
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	484 142	86 000	570 142

The Intangible asset relates to POLITE + application system, a customised Intellectual Property Rights system that was developed by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



## 9 Property and equipment

	Land	Buildings	Computers & Equipment	Furniture And Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Total
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
<b>Year ended 31 December 2022</b>						
Opening carrying amount	262 708	7 002 569	49 831	341 337	30 076	7 686 521
Additions	-	1 927	169 342	1 850	74 650	247 769
Cost/valuation			-			-
Accumulated depreciation			-			-
Depreciation:						
Charge for the year	-	(210 944)	(33 850)	(61 782)	(22 363)	(328 939)
<b>Closing carrying amount</b>	<b>262 708</b>	<b>6 793 552</b>	<b>185 323</b>	<b>281 405</b>	<b>82 363</b>	<b>7 605 351</b>
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>						
Cost/valuation	262 708	8 438 717	1 509 532	711 064	230 461	11 152 482
Accumulated depreciation	-	(1 645 165)	(1 324 209)	(429 659)	(148 098)	(3 547 131)
<b>Closing carrying amount</b>	<b>262 708</b>	<b>6 793 552</b>	<b>185 323</b>	<b>281 405</b>	<b>82 363</b>	<b>7 605 351</b>
<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>						
Opening carrying amount	262 708	6 793 552	185 323	281 405	82 363	7 605 351
Additions	-	-	107 199	630	90 153	197 982
Revaluation	457 292	(3 113 717)	-	-	-	(2 656 425)
Disposals:						
Cost/valuation	-	-	(41 655)	-	(3 100)	(44 755)
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	38 065	-	3 100	41 165
Depreciation:						
Charge for the year	-	(170 598)	(67 069)	(61 322)	(30 257)	(329 246)
Elimination on revaluation	-	1 695 868	-	-	-	1 695 868
<b>Closing carrying amount</b>	<b>720 000</b>	<b>5 205 105</b>	<b>221 863</b>	<b>220 713</b>	<b>142 259</b>	<b>6 509 940</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>						
Cost/valuation	720 000	5 325 000	1 575 076	711 694	317 514	8 649 284
Accumulated depreciation	-	(119 895)	(1 353 213)	(490 981)	(175 255)	(2 139 344)
<b>Closing carrying amount</b>	<b>720 000</b>	<b>5 205 105</b>	<b>221 863</b>	<b>220 713</b>	<b>142 259</b>	<b>6 509 940</b>

**10 MEMBER STATES PAYABLES**

	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
Botswana	244 627	505 308
Cape Verde	10 656	510
Gambia	373 781	324 515
Ghana	301 436	228 887
Kenya	91 257	40 884
Lesotho	2 708 647	2 505 615
Liberia	186 065	98 391
Malawi	358 368	267 103
Mozambique	50 195	29 218
Namibia	80 943	160 551
Rwanda	127 373	554 673
Seychelles	11 699	416
Sierra Leone	573 072	457 137
Sudan	1 816 551	1 631 063
Eswatini	2 860 911	2 684 772
Tanzania	62 953	66 659
Uganda	353 354	122 181
Zambia	214 917	137 183
Zimbabwe	935 900	652 325
Sao Tome & Principe	41 062	23 538
	<b>11 403 767</b>	<b>10 490 929</b>

**11 FEES AND MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE- DEFERRED**

	2023 USD	2022 USD
<b>Fees received in advance</b>		
Balance as at 1 January	2 177 969	2 061 813
Fees earned in the current period, deferred from the following periods:		
2022	(2 152 192)	(1 955 234)
Fees received in current period, deferred to the following periods:		
2023	-	2 071 390
2024	2 060 325	
2025 and beyond	23 015	-
	<b>2 109 117</b>	<b>2 177 969</b>
Balance as at 31 December		
Split as follows:		
Current	2 086 102	2 152 192
Non-current	23 015	25 777
Total	<b>2 109 117</b>	<b>2 177 969</b>

**12 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Employee benefits comprise of short-term employee benefits that include salary, allowances, grant on initial assignment, grants for the education of dependent children and paid annual leave.

The Organization has recognized liabilities for the following short-term benefits, the value of which is based on the amount payable to each staff member at the reporting date:

Accumulated leave – staff members are eligible for 30 days annual leave and may accumulate up to a maximum of 60 days leave. The Director General is eligible for 34 days annual leave and may accumulate up to a maximum of 68 days leave.

Gratuity - contract employees are eligible to an annual gratuity of 25% of their annual base salary up to a maximum of four years for staff members on four year contracts and maximum of five years for staff members on five year contracts. Gratuity is expensed as it accrues and subsequently paid out into a Gratuity Fund Account. Gratuity liability relates to gratuity expense accrued in prior periods and was not paid out at the time.

	End of service grant US\$	Leave pay US\$	Gratuity US\$	Total US\$
Balance as at 1 January 2022	1 790 837	153 617	-	1 944 454
Payments made during the year	(167 953)	(78 676)	-	(246 629)
Movement during the year	312 901	110 211	-	423 112
Balance as at 31 December 2022	<b>1 935 785</b>	<b>185 152</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 120 937</b>

**13 OTHER INCOME**

	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
Interest income	150	75
Search request fees	10 735	8 490
Profit on disposal of property and equipment	480	-
Miscellaneous income	32 422	65 292
Staff revolving loan interest	6 795	18 357
Academy subscriptions	320	250
Subscriptions	-	50
Tax and Duty Rebates	3 492	-
Exchange Gain	99	-
Fair value gain on investment	11 239	-
	<b>65 732</b>	<b>92 514</b>

**14 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES**

	2022 US\$	2021 US\$
Audit Fees	15 988	9 653
Bank charges	50 666	41 531
Communication costs	105 658	95 926
Diplomatic Events	6 807	3 514
Exchange loss	4 957	5 749
Investment fair value movement	-	5 749
Insurance	96 012	67 998
Miscellaneous expenses	28 468	3 054
Networking	1 907	4 967
Office Expenses	85 507	78 683
Other amounts	-	4 887
Repairs and maintenance - fixtures and fittings	28 073	8 015
Repairs and maintenance - buildings	107 346	29 349
Repairs and maintenance - equipment	13 200	11 477
Repairs and maintenance - vehicles	8 401	7 105
Supplies and consumables	97 697	86 254
Security	41 788	34 763
Unrecoverable VAT	2 052	
	<b>694 527</b>	<b>498 674</b>

**15 RELATED PARTIES**

The Organization is governed by the Administrative Council composed of representatives of all member countries. They do not receive remuneration from the Organization. The Organization is managed by a Director General and by officers (key management personnel) who are remunerated by the Organization. The aggregate remuneration paid to key management personnel includes salaries, allowances, travel and other entitlements paid in accordance with the ARIPO Staff Rules and Regulations and applicable to all staff...

The Organization key management personnel are as follows:

Director General – Bemanya Twebaze

Director Finance – Ben Mulenga

Director Legal & International Cooperation – Pierre Runiga

Ag. Director Business Transformation & Development – Grey Njowola

Ag. Director IP – Flora Mpanju

**15 RELATED PARTIES**

Their combined aggregate annual remuneration and post employment benefits are as follows:

	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
Short-term employee benefits (annual salaries and allowances)	663 379	417 280
Medical benefits paid for the year	14 780	11 845
Long-term employee benefits (leave days accrued and gratuities due)	65 116	105 119
	<b>743 276</b>	<b>534 244</b>
<b>15.1 Receivables from key management</b>		
Staff loans	3 500	9 717
Staff advances	6 667	-
	<b>10 167</b>	<b>9 717</b>

Staff loans are extended to purchase vehicles, furniture or other requisites. Interest on loans is at 5% per annum.

**16 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE**

There were no events after the reporting date that have an impact on the Organization that warrant adjustments or disclosure in the financial statements for the period ended..

**17 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements were approved for issue by the Administrative Council on 1 July 2024.

## STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Original Budget US\$	Final Budget US\$	Actual Amounts US\$	Difference Final Budget And Actual US\$
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Fees from Protocols	8 791 548	8 791 548	9 014 660	223 112
Contributions from Member States	795 150	795 150	795 150	-
Contributions to reserve fund	95 000	95 000	95 000	-
Other Revenue	85 000	85 000	65 732	(19 268)
	<b>9 766 698</b>	<b>9 766 698</b>	<b>9 970 542</b>	<b>203 844</b>
<b>PROGRAMME TITLE</b>				
Efficient Delivery of IP Rights	46 700	43 900	19 013	24 887
Promote IP Development Policies	48 694	48 694	31 748	16 946
Stakeholder Engagement/Int. Cooperation	34 000	34 000	19 359	14 641
IP Information Hub & Capacity Building	444 986	438 986	366 930	72 056
Diverse, Inclusive High Performing Org.	282 500	287 965	240 698	47 267
Digital Tools	134 300	134 300	142 173	(7 873)
Communication & Marketing	110 900	110 900	93 850	17 050
Financial Sustainability	52 000	46 000	33 965	12 035
Governance, Risk & Control	28 467	28 467	22 158	6 309
<b>RUNNING COSTS</b>				
Personnel costs	5 379 348	5 219 904	4 683 380	536 524
Operating Costs	638 777	638 777	694 526	(55 749)
Annual meetings and conferences	2 080 248	2 131 923	1 475 701	656 222
Capital expenditure	347 000	454 769	283 981	170 788
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8 445 373</b>	<b>8 445 373</b>	<b>7 137 588</b>	<b>1 307 785</b>
<b>Surplus as per actual budget statement</b>				<b>2 832 954</b>
<u>IPSAS adjustments to surplus/(deficit) for the year:</u>				
Member States share of fees				-
Depreciation and amortisation				(776 150)
Capital expenditure				283 982
Capital expenditure-prepayment				-
<b>Adjusted surplus for the year per IPSAS</b>				<b>2 340 786</b>

ARIPO's budget and financial statements are prepared using two different bases. The Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Changes in Net Assets and Cash Flow Statement are prepared on a full accrual basis, whereas the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts is prepared on a modified accrual basis in accordance with ARIPO's Financial Regulations and Rules.

As required by IPSAS-24, the actual amounts presented on a comparable basis to the budget shall, where the financial statements and the budget are not prepared on a comparable basis, be reconciled to the actual deficit amount presented in the Statement of Financial Performance as shown above.



## NOTES

[illegible]





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