



NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION

Office of the Director-General

**GOODWILL MESSAGE AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE COMMUNITY OF
MY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GUIDE (MIPLG)
SATURDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 2020**

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Nigerian Copyright Commission, I wish to extend our sincere felicitations to the organizers of this event and the founders of **My Intellectual Property Guide Community (MIPLG)** for coming up with the excellent initiative of creating a virtual interactive community of intellectual property (IP) experts and stakeholders.

I note that the principal aim of creating this community is to provide insight on IP developments in various African countries and globally. I do hope that this will enable industry stakeholders, experts and policy makers to draw useful lessons that could be transposed to our domestic initiatives of building a stronger IP culture in Nigeria.

Intellectual property rights are assuming greater prominence in today's world, as it is becoming the catalyst for growth and development in many economies. Its intricate intersection with different areas of human endeavour has made it a crucial part of multilateral and bilateral relations. The most topical issues for the African continent is probably the coming into force, earlier this year, of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. The negotiation of the second phase of that Agreement which will soon commence will center on IP. A forum of this nature is therefore timely and apt, as it will be possible for experts to rub minds on the IP issues that are likely to drive this leg of the negotiations.

Nigeria is transiting from being an IP dependent country to a major player and producer of IP assets. This is much evident in our vibrant creative and entertainment sectors whose products have become international commodities well received across the globe. This is an area where

Nigeria must maximize its comparative advantage especially in the context of the new continental arrangement.

The Nigerian copyright Commission, under my watch, remains committed to working with all genuine and interested stakeholders to create the enabling environment for Nigeria to reap from the gains of its abundant intellectual resource. It is therefore my belief that, working with MIPLG, we can realise this commitment and collaborate with other agencies across Africa to ensure that Nigeria and the continent maximise the IP system.

Once again, I congratulate the organizers of this event, and I wish participants a very successful outing.

Thank you

John O. Asein
Director General
Nigerian Copyright Commission