



# IP AFRICA NEWS

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# LIBYA



In a significant policy shift, Libya's Ministry of Commerce and Trade has retracted its earlier mandate on the annual submission of legalized powers of attorney (PoAs). Originally issued on 14 February 2024, the directive required agents to renew and submit legalized PoAs annually to uphold trademark registrations, with similar conditions applied to commercial register documents. Under the prior directive, failure to comply would have resulted in the cancellation of a trademark proprietor's registration

However, as of October 2024, the Ministry has abolished this annual requirement, nullifying the February decision. This change aims to streamline administrative processes for trademark holders and related agents, reducing the procedural burden of maintaining valid PoAs.

# NIGERIA



The Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, and Creative Economy, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, held a significant stakeholders' forum on October 14, 2024, to discuss the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS). Led by Hannatu Musa Musawa and Doris Uzoka-Anite, the forum convened in Abuja, brought together representatives from the Federal Ministry of Justice, relevant government agencies, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Nigeria Copyright Commission, and other key private sector players.

The objective was to review and finalize recommendations for the NIPPS, paving the way for government approval to accelerate its implementation and strengthen intellectual property (IP) protection in Nigeria.





The Chairman of the Interministerial Steering Committee highlighted that updates to the NIPPS final draft reflect stakeholders' input, focusing on necessary improvements to the policy's legal and institutional frameworks. This revised draft has now been distributed to stakeholders for their final feedback. It retains the situational analysis from the original draft, which informs the policy's strategic direction and objectives. Additionally, new sections detailing programs and projects aimed at achieving these strategic goals have been incorporated, alongside a comprehensive roadmap for stakeholder-driven implementation.

The finalized NIPPS policy emphasizes key priorities, including updated and new IP legislation, the establishment of restructured IP institutions, enhanced funding for research and development, capacity-building for IP professionals, and greater support for IP commercialization and collateralization in Nigeria. The policy also prioritizes technology-driven solutions, IP education, and public awareness.

The committee has established a detailed implementation framework to ensure the strategy's effective rollout. This framework will focus on institutional structuring, communication, resource mobilization, and a robust system for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.



The Intellectual Property Skills Acquisition, Learning, and Youth Entrepreneurship (IP SALAYE) program has launched its second edition, aiming to equip young Nigerian entrepreneurs with critical IP skills. This WIPO-backed initiative builds on its pilot phase, which ran from October 2023 to April 2024 and mentored 28 participants in Abuja, by expanding to reach 150 youth corps members in Abuja, Lagos, and Kano.

Designed for Nigerian youth currently in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), IP SALAYE integrates the WIPO IP Management Clinics (IPMC) to foster IP awareness as a key strategy for business growth and financing. The program's two-stage, six-month curriculum will guide participants through identifying local challenges and creating market-ready solutions, with the top 16 teams advancing to intensive IP mentorship sessions.

The application deadline for this cohort has been set for November 25, 2024. Eligible applicants include NYSC members stationed in Abuja, Lagos, or Kano, passionate about technology-driven solutions. The IP SALAYE program's mission is to elevate entrepreneurial skills, facilitate IP protection, and nurture innovative startups with the potential for IP registration in Nigeria, culminating in a 'Demo Day' to showcase achievements and IP success stories.

## ARIPO | UGANDA

### **ARIPO AND UGANDA HOST INAUGURAL WOMEN IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONFERENCE**

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) hosted the first-ever Women in Intellectual Property Conference from August 28-30, 2024, in Kampala, Uganda. This landmark event featured key speakers like ARIPO Director General Bemanya Twebaze and Uganda's Vice President, Jessica Alupo, alongside representatives from ARIPO, AfriPI, and URSB.

The conference aimed to spotlight the gender gap in intellectual property (IP) and explore strategies to support women's participation in IP fields. Discussions centered on policy solutions, economic growth through inclusive innovation, and the importance of gender equality in fostering sustainable development.

Sessions included presentations on IP's role in business growth, with case studies from music, fashion, and tech, illustrating IP's potential to protect innovations and enhance SME competitiveness. Panel discussions and peer learning allowed attendees to share experiences in IP registration, brand-building, and strategies for overcoming legal and market challenges.



# KEY CONTACTS

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