



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SIGNING OF THE KAMPALA PROTOCOL ON VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION OF COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS BY THE HON. CHIPOKA MULENGA, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY.**

The Hon. Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga, MP, is scheduled to attend the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) Council of Ministers' meeting to be hosted by the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Hon. Mulenga will join other Council of Ministers in Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls town from 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. While in Zimbabwe, the Minister will sign the Kampala Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights as a show of acceptance.

The Kampala Protocol which was adopted in Kampala, Uganda on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 has already been signed by nine (9) of the 20 ARIPO Member States. The Protocol will come into force three months after five States have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.

The Protocol will help promote creators from the ARIPO Member States and Africa's creative industry by ensuring that they benefit from their creative works. Benefits will include providing an effective means of presumption as to authorship and or ownership and enhancing an effective and efficient

network between the National offices in charge of Copyright and Related Rights and the ARIPO secretariat.

The Protocol will also establish a Regional Database for Copyright and Related Rights for the ARIPO Member States. It will create a conducive environment to ensure respect for the copyrighted works and facilitate the promotion of creative industries in the ARIPO Member States and Africa. The Protocol also aims at ensuring that creators benefit from their creative works, facilitating commercialization, stimulating more creativity, expanding markets, attracting foreign direct investment and facilitating the enforcement of rights.