



## 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSIONS OF THE WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

### **SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT ON THE REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS (IGC) AGENDA ITEM 18**

#### **Mr President**

South Africa aligns itself with the statement presented by the distinguished delegate of Senegal on behalf of the African Group.

#### **Mr President**

South Africa has been persistently enthusiastic about achieving the mandate of the IGC, in the same way, as we were when the IGC was born in 2000.

We reiterate the call for a balanced and equitable Global IP system that accommodates all legitimate interests of the WIPO Member States, consistent with the Development Agenda of WIPO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As previously stated in this forum, enough facts and explanation as to why there is a need for an international legally binding instrument for the protection of GR, TK and TCEs have been put forward.

#### **Mr President**

The IGC has made considerable progress in the 2016/17 biennium, particularly thanks to the combined efforts of the Chairman, Secretariats, Member States and other stakeholders. Today the three texts for the protection of the genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions have been refined,

improved and consolidated, with clear options and variants, reflecting the different positions. There are largely two major approaches, the rights approach and the measures approach.

**Mr President**

The challenges are more political than technical and with good will between negotiators the two approaches which are not exclusive could be negotiated to a win-win situation for both parties. The Africa's Group's proposal on the renewal of the mandate will allow the Committee to deal with the political challenges and the outstanding technical issues on the three texts, leading us to a diplomatic conference on GRs in 2019 and another/others shortly after, on the other two texts.

I thank you