

**AGENDA ITEM 19**

**STATEMENT OF ZIMBABWE IN THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION 63<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLIES: 14-22 JULY 2022**

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The delegation of Zimbabwe thanks the proponents of this proposed declaration at this critical moment of global setbacks in health, climate, escalated military tensions, food shortages, among other challenges disproportionately and negatively impacting most of us developing countries. As we have stated under agenda item 2, Zimbabwe is of the view that any special technical assistance for countries in emergency situations should be considered for all countries in dire need of such technical assistance to create resilience in intellectual property systems.

For more than two decades, Zimbabwe has suffered an inordinate economic, social and humanitarian ordeal as a result of unilateral coercive measures imposed by some of the proponents of this initiative. The illegal economic sanctions, which must be lifted, have undermined the intellectual property ecosystem of Zimbabwe.

The imposition of unilateral coercive measures is in flagrant violation of Human Rights Council Resolution [27/21](#) on human rights and unilateral coercive measures. The resolution stresses that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the UN Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, and highlights that in the long-term, these measures result in social-economic problems and raise humanitarian challenges in the targeted States.

It is important to respect the ethos, purpose and objective of WIPO and avoid any attempts to politicize issues within this technical organisation. We therefore urge constructive discussion on creating harmonious, de-politicised, non-discriminatory emergency intervention for countries in dire need of intellectual property resilience mechanisms and intervention.

I thank you