

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UGANDA ON AGENDA ITEM 19

Uganda fully aligns itself with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the Africa Group and Indonesia on behalf of Like Minded Countries.

Uganda reaffirms its faith in the ongoing IGC negotiations and notes the progress made.

We are all cognizant of the fact that the current IP system is not sufficient to protect TK and TCEs. The WIPO documents (**Updated Draft Gap Analysis on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, and Updated Draft Gap Analysis on the protection of TCEs**) have provided incontrovertible evidence of this.

Despite this and other studies, workshops and seminars undertaken by the Secretariat, negotiations continue to suffer inertia under the guise of trying to reach understanding thereby prolonging the process of now nearly twenty years.

Mr. Chair

My delegation is optimistic that counting on the commitments of member states during their opening statements to engage constructively, we should all demonstrate this commitment by ensuring that there is a result out of these negotiations sooner rather than later.

The Chair of the IGC, Mr. Ian Goss has done a commendable job in ensuring the process moves forward especially on core issues he highlighted in his statement. We believe that these and any other outstanding issues are not insurmountable and do call upon all member states to exercise a maximum level of political will and flexibility to move the process forward.

Mr. Chair development is a shared destiny for all and this organization can ensure that destiny by providing for the means to do so including protection of TK and TCEs.

I thank you Mr. Chair