



**FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATIONS
(FICSA)**

Resolution 70/1

The Council of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA), at its 70th session (Kuala Lumpur, 13 to 17 February 2017) decided to issue a Resolution relative to the situation at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The text of this Resolution has subsequently been approved by postal vote on 2 June 2017.

The Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA),

Noting that for the last two years the relations between the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the WIPO Staff Association have considerably worsened,

Noting also that the unlawful dismissal of Mr. Moncef Kateb, former President of the WIPO Staff Council and the WIPO Staff Association, marked the beginning of a long process of bullying of duly-elected staff representatives,

Noting further that undue and intolerable pressure is being exerted upon WIPO staff and their representatives, making the daily working atmosphere unbearable in the Organization,

Recalling that the unlawful dismissal of Mr. Kateb was referred to the Special Rapporteurs for Human Rights and the WIPO Appeal Board, which concluded that his dismissal was unjustified,

Noting further that, as a sign of further confrontation, the management of WIPO has dissolved the duly-elected WIPO Staff Council,

Noting finally that the management of WIPO has organized the election of its own Staff Council, in violation of the rules that govern the running of international organizations,

Affirming that such action will not reduce tensions or re-establish a peaceful climate in full respect of the rules and procedures unanimously agreed upon among international organizations to guarantee the rights of staff and their representatives throughout the international system,

Considering the Government Accountability Project's recent news article informing that the WIPO Director General has filed a criminal defamation lawsuit against the journalist who covered the demonstration of staff against the WIPO Director General, a lawsuit which is in contradiction to the United Nations' policy of opposing the criminalization of defamation charges which are seen as a technique used by repressive governments to silence journalists,

Sharing the concerns of the Fox News journalist who recently wrote that WIPO failed to inform the UN Security Council Committee monitoring North Korea sanctions, as well as the UN Panel of Experts that reports sanctions violations to the committee, of the fact that WIPO received an international patent application from North Korea in which intellectual property protection is being

sought on a lower-cost process for producing ultra-high-grade sodium cyanide (a chemical used to make the nerve gas Tabun),

Convinced that the WIPO Director General has become a political liability for the entire United Nations common system,

Requests that the matter of staff relations be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and urges him to instruct the management of WIPO to respect the rightful and long-recognized Staff Council of the WIPO Staff Association as the official interlocutor between staff and the Director General as well as his Administration; and

Requests finally that the diplomatic missions representing the Member States at the General Assembly of WIPO and at the General Assembly of the United Nations hold the WIPO Director General unequivocally accountable.
