ARIPO MEASURES ON COVID-19

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday, 11 March 2020, declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic and called all countries to activate and scale up their emergency response mechanisms. On 17 March 2020, the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe declared COVID-19 a National Disaster and enumerated some measures that would help stem the spread of the virus.

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) understands the seriousness with which Zimbabwe and the World at large have taken the issue of COVID-19 pandemic and appreciates the need to mitigate against the spread of the virus especially in the workplace.

In this regard and to contain the spread of the virus as well as ensuring continuity of its business operations, ARIPO:

- Informs the users that the Office remains operational;
- Advises users to continue taking advantage of its 24-hour online services to file applications and make online payments; and
- Discourages walk-in enquiries AND urges users to make enquiries by email and telephone during its operating hours which remain unchanged

The Office will continue to closely follow the situation in consultation with the relevant international bodies and authorities in the host country, Zimbabwe, and is committed to ensuring that work and cooperation continue during this time.

The Office will keep you updated on the situation as it evolves.

Fernando Dos Santos
Director General