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Objectives

The protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations.

1.2 General

1. With respect to the objectives and principles of the TRIPS Agreement, paragraph 5(a) of the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, adopted on 14 November 2001, reads as follows:

In applying the customary rules of interpretation of public international law, each provision of the TRIPS Agreement shall be read in the light of the object and purpose of the Agreement as expressed, in particular, in its objectives and principles.¹

2. Paragraph 19 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, adopted on 14 November 2001, provides that, "[i]n undertaking [the work referred to in that paragraph], the TRIPS Council shall be guided by the objectives and principles set out in Articles 7 and 8 of the TRIPS Agreement".²

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Current as of: February 2019

¹ The text of the Declaration can be found in document [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/2](#).

² The text of the Declaration can be found in document [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#).