

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE

Twelfth Session  
Geneva, February 25 to 29, 2008

### ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”), at its first session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according *ad hoc* observer status to a number of organizations that had expressed their wish to have a role in the works of the Committee (see the Report adopted by the Committee, WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13, paragraph 18).
2. Since then, an additional number of organizations have expressed to the Secretariat their wish to obtain the same status for the subsequent sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee. A document containing the names and other biographical details of the organizations which, before December 6, 2007, requested representation in the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee is annexed to this document. The biographical details on the organizations contained in the Annex were received from each organization.
3. *The Intergovernmental Committee is invited to approve the accreditation of the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document as ad hoc observers.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED REPRESENTATION  
AS OBSERVERS IN SESSIONS OF  
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Abantu for Development Uganda (AFOD)

*Association Internationale de la Promotion et de la Défense de la Propriété  
Intellectuelle*/International Association for the Promotion and Defense of Intellectual Property  
(AIPDPI)

Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions

The Global Coalition for Biocultural Diversity, International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE)

New England Conservatory of Music (NEC)

Abantu for Development Uganda (AFOD)

Main objectives of the Organization:

Abantu for Development Uganda (AFOD) is an independent public Policy think tank engaged in public policy research, analysis and advocacy. It was established and registered as a non-governmental organization in December 1996 and started operations in January 1997. AFOD was formed by young professionals with the following aim:

To Influence development and governance policies for the promotion of social justice through policy research and advocacy.

Objectives:

- Promotion of national and regional policies that support the utilization of natural resources and enhance the livelihoods of resources dependent communities;
- Promotion of transparency and accountability in the formulation and implementation of public policy and policy processes;
- Capacity building to ensure inclusion in the ongoing global and regional processes that affect the livelihoods of poor and resource dependent communities.

AFOD's strategic commitment is to work towards the full democratization of policy making at the global, regional, national and local levels. AFOD works with Government and other actors in the policy making process to broaden the range of policy choices available to address pressing public policy problems. During the process that has led to the formulation of this Strategic Plan, the original objectives as set out above were revisited and reformulated to capture the vision and mission of AFOD.

Main activities of the Organization:

Improving the quality of research

AFOD undertakes the following actions in order to improve the quality of its policy research work :

- Recruitment of high caliber and highly motivated professional growth;
- Mobilizing adequate and stable financial resources to support AFOD's policy research and policy advocacy work;
- Conducting and promoting in-house training on methods of data collection, analysis and quality writing;

- Strengthening the AFOD Library of Economics and Public Policy by providing adequate financial resources, acquiring up to date policy relevant literature and linking it to other key information sources ;

- Establishing a systematic external peer review system for AFOD Policy Research Series.

### Institutional Capacity Indicators and Baseline Organizational Development Assessment for AFOD

## UNDERSTANDING THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT

### Flash Back: Three Years of Policy Research and Policy Advocacy

Before looking at the key policy drivers that provides the context for the Strategic Plan and AFOD's readiness to grow and influence the environment, it is useful to look at the achievements and impacts of AFOD since it started its operations. These achievements can be divided into two dimensions: Programmatic and Institutional.

Over the last three years, AFOD engaged in a series of policy processes both at the Regional and national level. At the Regional level, AFOD has contributed to the ongoing dialogue on the transboundary movements of Living Modified Organisms as well as the ongoing trade negotiations within the World Trade Organizations. Over the last three years, AFOD participated and continues to work with civil society organizations around the world to monitor national compliance to the environmental governance norms contained in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

At the regional level, AFOD continued to work with partner civil society organizations in the three countries of East Africa and from other countries in Africa to promote norms of environmental governance as well as engage in trade policy reforms. AFOD envisages further engagement in key policy processes such as the proposed development of an environmental protocol for the Great Lakes Region and the proposed regional environmental impact assessment guidelines for Lake Victoria in the area of trade policy makers to advocate for more equitable partnerships under the context of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the World Trade Organization and the African Growth and Opportunity Act. AFOD also develops projects to monitor and advocate for the speedy implementation of key peace initiatives in the region.

AFOD engaged in a series of national policy processes in the area of governance and has made contributions to key policy processes including an advocacy campaign to influence the NGO law reform process, developing an access to information legislation and facilitation of judicial training programmes on environmental rights for Magistrates. AFOD also participated in mobilizing other civil society organizations to contribute to key reform processes in the fisheries and forestry sector and other macro-economic policy processes such as the Plan for Modernization of agriculture. As a member of the Inter-Institutional Trade Committee (IITC), AFOD has facilitated the operations of several sub committees including TRIPS, agriculture, services, etc.

AFOD's activities over the last nine years have mainly focused on policy research and analysis of key issues, organizing a series of policy dialogue meetings and drafting of key policy and legal documents for partner Government departments and agencies.

The experiment over these three years has essentially demonstrated that AFOD's expertise and skills are highly demanded not by Government agencies but also by development partners and vulnerable communities.

#### Thinking Ahead: Key Policy Drivers over Next Year

In order for AFOD to strategically position itself to be able to influence policy at all levels, we must have a good understanding of relevant key policy processes and policy drivers at the global, regional, national and local level. This is important if we are to ensure that we remain at the cutting edge of policy research and advocacy and make sure that our policy ideas contribute to the bettering of human and environmental conditions through appropriate policy reforms.

#### Global Policy

In our view, AFOD's Five Year Strategic Plan will be implemented in a global policy environment driven by two major policy processes. First, global trade negotiations will continue within the mandate set by the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organizations. Key areas that will dominate the negotiations and will have significant implications at the national level include trade and environment; trade in services, investments, and agriculture and Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

The second major international policy process that will provide the context for the operations of many policy focused civil society organizations is the World Social Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) Implementation Plan which was adopted in September 2002 in Johannesburg. The summit, coming 10 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and only two years after the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), produced new commitments on the part of Governments and non-government actors aimed at moving the world towards achieving the objectives of sustainable development. Yet, all these commitments are being made amidst continuing environmental degradation; growing poverty especially among communities directly dependent on natural resources in rural and urban areas; widening gap between the rich and the poor and limited implementation of sustainable development commitments by many countries around the world.

Over the next 5 Years, AFOD will work with partners to engage in and contribute to these emerging policy processes ensuring that Governments become more accountable in undertaking new commitments, work towards implementation of existing and new commitments in a context of transparency and participation by all the affected parties.

### The Shifting Paradigms in Policy

#### Making at the National Level

At the national level, three major trends are likely to provide the basic context for AFOD's policy research and policy advocacy work.

First, the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) which entered its implementation phase with its key principles on participation, decentralization, accountability and farmer empowerment presents a golden opportunity for policy focused NGOs to create impact. The priority for AFOD is to ensure that PMA programmes are compliant with natural resources policies and remain focused to eradicating poverty.

Secondly, there is growing recognition of trade as a panacea for economic growth and development. However, 5 years of policy work in the area of trade has demonstrated that Uganda's trade policy is in a state of stagnation owing to overlaps in institutional mandate, lack of prioritization at the policy level, under funding of trade policy making institutions but most importantly lack of participation. AFOD's role in this area is to work towards demonstrating national trade policy formulation, work with government to formulate negotiating positions and working to create synergistic linkages between trade policy, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.

Thirdly, over the last decade, there have been significant shifts in the making of environmental related decisions in the country. Increasingly, development decisions that have significant implications for environmental sustainability are being removed from mainstream environmental policy institutions to the political arena. Consequently, decisions whether to develop a multi-storied hotel in a wetland, degazetting a forest reserve for a palm oil project or a sugar cane plantation are made as a matter of political expedience rather than policy decisions based on “genuine” scientific understanding. In this regard, public interest research and advocacy organizations must have to confront increasing hostility and sometimes brutality on the part of “well connected” businessmen and corporate interests.

### Making Policies Work for Poor People

AFOD is convinced that one of the biggest challenges facing public interest policy research and advocacy organizations is to ensure that emerging global, regional and national policies are transformed into “REAL” opportunities for poor people. AFOD would like to take the lead in working with local partners of civil society, local governments, etc to ensure that progressive policies are effectively implemented to increase natural resources productivity, generate incomes for the poor and promote the inclusion of poor people in national policy making.

The key overriding policy context is the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), New partnership for African Development (NEPAD) The Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) Privatization of extension services under the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and the continuous reforms in the decentralization process. AFOD works with partners to promote accountability and transparency in the services delivery process including ensuring that local partner CSOs contribute to key local policy processes such as the District Development Plans, the District Environment Action Plans, as well as the development of district ordinances among others.

AFOD also works with vulnerable community groups to raise the consciousness of their rights, amplify their voices in the policy making process and work with them to influence policy change to respond to the interests of the poor people. AFOD’s recent engagement with Uganda Network on toxic free malaria Control (UNETMAC). A coalition of civil society organizations both National Regional & international organization advocating for using other alternatives than using indoor residual spraying (IRS) using Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) has demonstrated how a civic conscious and empowered community can hold government accountable for adhering to environmental laws and regulations. During the period of this strategic plan, AFOD has increasingly identified and worked with such communities to ensure that their experiences and concerns are captured in the process of policy and government decision-making.

## Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

### Contributing to the Consolidation of Regional Integration

AFOD is increasingly adopting a regional approach in its programme of work with the Great Lakes region providing the geographical context for our operations.

Over the next 5 years, the countries in Eastern Africa will engage in different policy process in key fields of trade, environment, agriculture, science and technology. A number of processes are particularly important to note here. First, more than ten countries which are members of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (ASERECA) are engaged in processes to develop and implement policies on biotechnology and biosafety. AFOD needs to play a leading role in contributing to these policy processes, ensuring transparency and accountability in decision making over genetically modified organism, Intellectual property while undertaking research in alternative forms of agricultural science and technology.

Secondly, in the area of trade, key policy decisions are likely to be taken on the creation of a customs union for East African Community States while negotiations for Economic Partnerships Agreements (EPAs) under the Continuo Partnership Agreement between the EU and ACP are likely to take centre stage. In both cases, AFOD must position itself to contribute independent policy ideas and engage policy makers at various levels to enrich the negotiating positions of the countries in the sub-region and ensure that the emerging instruments are responsive to the needs of the poor people.

Thirdly, the context of AFOD's work programme has also been determined and impacted upon by the pace and direction and democratic reforms as well as the intensity and scale of conflicts in the sub-region. Some of the countries are going through delicate processes of transition towards building stronger democratic and accountable government. The success of these "democratization" projects could open up new opportunities for participation and engagement while the reverse could have severe negative implications for public interest organizations such as AFOD. In this area, AFOD will work with partners in Governments, civil society and the international community to contribute to the strengthening of democratic initiatives in the region.

On the other hand, ongoing trends suggest that conflicts mainly over natural resources are likely to continue both at the regional, national and local level. The scale, intensity and trends in environmental conflicts are likely to be determined largely by the growing scarcity and associated competition over natural resources. AFOD's work in this area must contribute to the promotion and maintenance of positive peace through peace and conflict research and advocating for mechanisms for conflict prevention and management. AFOD undertakes projects that assist regional and national policy makers to understand the linkages between ecological scarcity and conflicts while developing policy options to address these conflicts. AFOD also focuses on analyzing the relevance and adequacy of existing conflicts management structures especially in addressing issues of resource scarcity and access while helping communities to cope with the effects of environmental scarcity and stress.

During the twentieth century, developments in western science and technology accelerated rapidly on all fronts, e.g. in transportation, computer systems and biotechnology. These have had huge impacts on the structure of global society, on political and economic power, and, above all, on the control of and access to the diverse biological resources necessary for sustainable livelihoods.

AFOD on the context of intellectual property rights, aims at advancing its importance in Uganda. As a developing nation the concept of intellectual property rights has not been receiving a great deal of attention. Intellectual property (IPR) in Uganda consists of any ideas, concepts, insignias, and symbols that are unique and original to the owner. IP has various broad categories: copyright, trademarks, patents, designs, and other types of information. The concept is best thought of as a bundle of rights protected by law. Trade secrets, expertise, and know-how are instances of confidential company information that are also covered by IP laws.

This is because innovation has not been emphasized as a result; even people who invent do not know how to protect their intellectual property. To advance the cause of the rights and wrongs of the laws that promote and protect intellectual property at the national and all lower levels, education in intellectual property is required and must be advocated. We must make individuals, industries, and our government aware of the concept of IP, and only then can they take positions on the issue in order to effect change. AFOD focuses on concept of intellectual property rights and covers most of the industrious sectors in Uganda.

Uganda has lost a lot as a result of money of the weak legal frame works in the protection of intellectual property rights. Their promotion is also lacking.

The awareness program of AFOD is to give light to Uganda especially on the origins of Intellectual property; definition and justification of IP; past and current economic importance; international IP, Conventions; requirements for patent protection; priority rights; infringement and revocation; defenses; remedies; the application process and required documents; computer technology and IP. Tortuous protection of IP. Confidentiality and trade secrets, character merchandising and franchising.

AFOD intends to adopt a dynamic approach that will involve different stakeholders in the area of IP rights. AFOD was established in 1996 with a vision to be a leader in policy research and advocacy in the areas of intellectual property rights and biosafety, trade policy governance, environmental democracy and peace and conflict and monitoring implementation of policies at local, national and regional levels. Its programs are to promote positive attitudes and self determination through service learning pedagogy.

This program is intended to promote interest organizations in Eastern Africa in the ongoing regional dialogues on the implications of emerging IPR regimes in developing countries. Activities to achieve this objective will entail policy research to understand the implications of IPR on local communities, the implications of IPR on protection and development of indigenous knowledge and greater involvement of CSOs in Uganda on the ongoing dialogues and negotiations within the World Trade Organization.

Secondly, this programme will focus on influencing and contributing to the formulation of national and international regulations in Uganda and is the reason why we are very much interested in attending the Intergovernmental Committee.

#### Additional Information:

The Abantu for Development Uganda was registered as an NGO in 1996, No. S.1514/1714 and it is a member of the Uganda National NGO Forum and networks with other national and international organizations. It was also incorporated in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in the year 2000 and began its operations. In July 1997, AFOD acquired its own rented office premises from which the organization now operates to conduct its policy research and advocacy programmes.

At the time of AFOD's registration, there were already a multitude of registered NGOs operating in Uganda. The first question one would ask therefore is: why form another NGO? What is it that was new that AFOD was bringing into the NGO landscape and therefore what is it that differentiates AFOD from other NGOs? In our view, AFOD has three key programmatic and operational factors that differentiate it from other NGOs:

First, by the time AFOD was formed, there were two distinct categories of NGOs involved in research and policy advocacy. One group focused on policy or basic research while the other group focused on policy advocacy. The formation of AFOD was predicated upon the growing appreciation that the two are closely intertwined and that in order to effectively engage government and other partners in the policy development process, policy research would have to be the basic foundation of policy advocacy. Consequently, AFOD's policy advocacy programmers must have a strong policy research component. This helps the organization in developing alternative policy ideas and options and through proactive policy advocacy; these options are put on the policy-making agenda. AFOD has therefore over the last 4 years emerged as an effective government partner in the policy development process.

Second, it was recognized that there were few Ugandan NGOs, which had the capacity to analyze international policy trends and practices to be able to make sure that these trends and practices inform national policy debates.

AFOD was formed with the view that it would create an enabling environment and research infrastructure that would motivate its researchers to be at the cutting edge in as far as international public policy processes especially in the areas of trade, intellectual property rights, biotechnology, Peace and environment.

Thirdly, AFOD's formation was triggered by the growing appreciation that there has been considerably limited participation of civil society organizations in policy debates at different levels. While human rights CSOs had evolved and gained recognition by governments and other actors, CSOs operating in the areas of trade and environment were largely not very effective in holding government accountable to set policies and standards. Indeed, AFOD's first project entitled "Promoting Environmental Accountability" focused on building civil society oversight over Government implementation of environmental NGOs to associate freely, access to justice in environmental matters especially for natural resources dependent communities.

Fourth, AFOD was formed at a time when the political momentum to reconstitute the East African Community had gathered pace. The East African Cooperation Secretariat was fully operational, the three countries forming the East African Community had signed a Memorandum two years before and the Treaty Establishing the East African Community had reached stages in its negotiations. The founders of AFOD believe that by the nature of AFOD's activities, it will make significant contributions towards achieving one of the fundamental principles of the Community-making it people centered. AFOD was therefore formed with a national board with representation from all regions of Uganda and intends to make it Regional.

Finally, AFOD was formed at a time when Government policies were increasingly marginalizing communities whose livelihoods are entirely dependent on environmental resources. For example, in Uganda, almost six years of implementation of the National Environment Policy (1994) had demonstrated that in the absence of oversight by public interest civil society organizations, Government and corporate entities would continue to marginalize resources dependent communities denying them the opportunity to participate effectively in making decisions that impact on their livelihoods. AFOD therefore seeks to work with vulnerable community groups, provide them with pro bono legal assistance and advisory services, and amplify their voices in the policy-making arena.

Since its formation, AFOD has largely operated without a strategic plan. This situation has led to several undesirable consequences including the inability on the part of the Organization's leadership to predict with certainty relevant policy processes as well as the manpower and financial resources needs to respond to key institutional challenges. In order to remove this uncertainty, AFOD started a process to develop a 5 years strategic plan which was commissioned in 2006. The planning process crystallized into a strategic planning meeting, which brought together AFOD staff, Research Associates, Board Members as well as selected partners from like-minded organizations.

The theme of this 5 Years Strategic Plan is "Extending the frontiers of Public Policy research and advocacy". This will be achieved through deepening our policy research and analysis activities and building key partnerships and alliances with Government, like-minded civil society organizations and international development partners. We believe that it is through such partnerships that AFOD's policy ideas can influence policy making for the betterment of humanity and especially the more vulnerable and poor communities.

Secondly, AFOD will work towards the promotion of civil society organizations participation in setting the global, regional, national and local development policy agendas.

We would like to see increased “inclusion” of civil society particularly in East Africa in the ongoing policy dialogues at various levels of policy making.

Thirdly, AFOD believes in what we call, for lack of a better word “reverse accountability”. We would want to see more transparency and accountability on the part of governments, international development partners and corporate personalities. In the spirit of “reverse accountability to our constituents and partners in the way we transact business.

In the 5 Years Strategic Plan, we have set ourselves ambitious targets covering programmatic developments, creating new partnerships, mobilizing new and additional financial and human resources and generally bringing AFOD policy ideas to bear on the key policy processes that impact on poor people. The plan is to build on our experience of nine years on the ground, seek to optimize current and projected strengths while minimizing weaknesses. It presents the totality of what AFOD would like to achieve over the next 5 years while setting a stag for Uganda’s leading independent policy research and advocacy organization.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Uganda.

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Organization Representative:

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*Association Internationale de la Promotion  
et de la Défense de la Propriété Intellectuelle/  
International Association for the Promotion and Defense  
of Intellectual Property (AIPDPI)*

Main objectives of the Organization:

The AIPDPI is a non-profit making association (NGO) which provides professional advice and intellectual property services for any organization, association and/or institution based in Latin America or the Caribbean, which so requests.

AIPDPI seeks in particular to promote innovation, biodiversity, the conservation of genetic resources, the environment, traditional knowledge, technology transfer, access to drugs, access to intellectual property tools, access to intellectual property and/or equitable sharing of the benefit resulting from intellectual property from/for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Association also aims to combat biopiracy, illegal appropriation and/or misappropriation of any intellectual property right against the populations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

AIPDPI is a non-profit making association governed by Article 60ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, and is a public charity undertaking non-aligned and clearly non-profit making activities.

The Association aims to cooperate with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, *inter alia* in:

- the assistance required for the defense and/or promotion of intellectual property rights at all the necessary stages for achieving the aims envisaged;
- the search for and analysis of prior art (in particular patents) and the determination thereof;
- the search for a patent portfolio;
- the search for and analysis of freedom of use;
- the search for and determination of rules and legal information relating to patents, marks, and industrial designs;
- the filing of registration applications for patents, marks and industrial designs;

- the defense, promotion and invalidation of patents, marks, copyright and industrial designs;

- negotiations relating to access for bioprospection;

- the preparation of benefit-sharing agreements;

- the negotiation of agreements for access to drugs;

- the negotiation of license agreements;

- advice to governments, institutions, associations, communities and/or other organized groups in relation to the legal aspects of intellectual property concerning the Association's aims and the information relating to the benefits which would stem from their intellectual property;

- collaboration with and/or assistance to governments, institutions, associations, communities and/or other organized groups involved in negotiating treaties;

- the settlement of intellectual property disputes, in particular concerning patents, marks, industrial designs and copyright;

- the negotiation and promotion of licenses, in particular compulsory licenses;

- negotiations for equitable sharing of benefits stemming from intellectual property rights;

- the search for partners with a view to optimum use of intellectual property rights.

#### Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property Matters:

The Association is therefore particularly active in many intellectual property fields. It also aims to promote the innovation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America and the Caribbean, by providing assistance in particular with patents, marks, designs, geographical indications, appellations of origin, copyright, etc. It also seeks to represent certain institutions, associations, communities and/or other organized groups within international institutions, in particular in relation to WIPO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

Latin America and the Caribbean.

Full Contact Information:

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Organization Representative:

Mr. Andreas Pigni, President of AIPDPI.

Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions

Main objectives of the Organization:

- 1. Bringing together a group of intellectuals who are interested and concerned with the folk traditions of Egypt.
- 2. Locating and studying folk traditions as well as the individuals still practicing these traditions.
- 3. Promoting and developing folk traditions.
- 4. Raising the awareness of the public and officials to the importance of folk traditions.
- 5. Creating an extra curriculum activity for students of folklore and similar disciplines.

Main activities of the Organization:

- 1. Lectures and presentations by specialists.
- 2. Collection and archiving of folk traditions.
- 3. Organizing conferences and workshops.
- 4. Inviting traditional artists and craftsmen to interact with members of the Society.
- 5. Interacting with other international organizations which have similar interests.
- 6. Representatives of the Society attend conferences and workshops in Egypt and abroad.
- 7. Supporting and supplying Folklore Magazine financially and intellectually.

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

It is the folk tradition of each country which gives its identity. Over the centuries, Egypt has accumulated, preserved and transmitted valuable traditions. On the national level, it is very important that these traditions be accredited to its people.

On the individual or group level, tradition bearers should be given due rights and encouragement for preserving their cultural traditions.

Additional Information:

Our Society is only four years old, however, the accomplishments it undertook are various and important:

A. In the area of research we have done three major projects:

1. Documenting and developing the Art of Tally in Upper Egypt.
2. Documenting and archiving the Hilaliyya Epic.
3. Surveying the traditional Egyptian components that need be exhibited in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.
4. Describing the life in the traditional quarter of El Zawya El Hamra.

B. The Society members meet once every week for a lecture, presentation or a discussion of relevant issues.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Egypt.

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Organization Representative:

Dr. Ahmed Morsi, Professor of Folklore and Chairman of the Society.

The Global Coalition for Biocultural Diversity,  
International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE)

Main objectives of the Organization:

The Global Coalition is the arm of the ISE dedicated to promoting dialogue and exchange between indigenous peoples, scientists, environmentalists, and policy makers in order to develop shared objectives and strategies to defend the biological and cultural diversity of the Earth.

The ISE was established in 1988 and is itself committed to achieving a greater understanding of the complex relationships, both past and present that exist within and between human societies and their environments. It seeks to bridge the concerns of ethnobiologists and indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities, in particular as they relate to the conservation of biological, cultural and linguistic diversity

Main activities of the Organization:

To date the Global Coalition in conjunction with the ISE has been responsible for the creation of the ISE Code of Ethics which has been developed over a period of 10 years and has involved input from hundreds of people and organizations representing indigenous peoples groups, the scientific community, research bodies and NGOs from a wide range of ethno-scientific disciplines. The Global Coalition is currently developing a multi-lingual, multi-media toolkit to complement the Code of Ethics and facilitate its implementation in diverse applications.

The Global Coalition is also assisting with raising funds to ensure that representatives of indigenous and local communities can attend and fully participate in the bi-annual congresses of the ISE.

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

The “founding father” of the ISE and inaugural Director of the Global Coalition was the late Dr. Darrell Posey who made a lifelong commitment and enormous contribution to raising awareness about the need for looking beyond intellectual property as mechanisms for protecting traditional knowledge. The Code of Ethics of the ISE is founded on principles and practices of working in effective partnership and collaboration with indigenous communities in the important field of ethnobiological studies which includes recognition of both customary practices and intellectual property tools in providing appropriate recognition, protection and promotion of traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

The ISE was originally registered in Brazil and now has 501(c)3 status (charitable tax status) in the United States with its administrative base in Bristol, Vermont, USA.

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Organization Representative:

Mr. Maui Solomon, President-Elect.

New England Conservatory of Music (NEC)Main objectives of the Organization:

New England Conservatory, founded in 1867, is the oldest independent school of music in the United States. The mission of New England Conservatory is the education and training of musicians of all ages from around the world, drawing on the talents of an accomplished faculty, and nurturing individual excellence in a challenging and supportive community dedicated to the highest standards of performance, teaching, and scholarship. In so doing, NEC aspires to ensure that music has a central place in public life and that the broader value of a rigorous musical education is recognized.

New England Conservatory seeks to bring music to the world at large, focusing on excellence in all of its educational programs and activities: the College, the Preparatory School, the School of Continuing Education, and a program of community collaborations and innovative initiatives. The Conservatory strives to be an institution of indispensable importance to our region, the nation, and the world, widely known for its high quality, creativity, and innovation. In setting these objectives, NEC chooses to remain an independent institution, believing that society benefits from having mature centers of excellence whose sole reason for existence is the pursuit of a single, central discipline. In turn, the Conservatory benefits from the ability to make decisions independently, while collaborating with a rich array of educational, cultural, and civic organizations, both in this region and beyond.

NEC is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music of which it is a charter member, and by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Main activities of the Organization:

Recognized nationally and internationally as a leader among music schools, New England Conservatory offers rigorous training in an intimate, nurturing community to 750 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral music students from around the world. Its faculty of 225 boasts internationally esteemed artists-teachers and scholars. Its alumni go on to fill orchestra chairs, concert hall stages, jazz clubs, recording studios, and arts management positions worldwide. Nearly half of the Boston Symphony Orchestra is composed of NEC trained musicians and faculty.

The oldest independent school of music in the United States, NEC was founded in 1867 by Eben Tourjee. Its curriculum is remarkable for its wide range of styles and traditions. On the college level, it features training in classical, jazz, contemporary improvisation, world and early music. Through its Preparatory School, School of Continuing Education, and Community Collaboration Programs, it provides training and performance opportunities for children, pre-college students, adults, and seniors. Through its Outreach Projects, it allows young musicians to engage with non-traditional audiences in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, museums, and other cultural institutions throughout the greater Boston community.

NEC presents more than 600 free concerts each year. These programs by outstanding students and distinguished faculty range from solo recitals to chamber music to orchestral programs to jazz and opera scenes. Many of these concerts are given in Jordan Hall, its world-renowned, 100-year old beautifully restored concert hall that, in 1994, was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Every year, NEC's opera studies department also presents two fully staged opera productions at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in Boston.

NEC is co-founder and educational partner of "From the Top," a weekly radio program that celebrates outstanding young classical musicians from the entire country. With its broadcast home in Jordan Hall, the show is now carried by National Public Radio and is heard on 250 stations throughout the United States. NEC is also a founding partner of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, a multicultural, world class symphony orchestra of gifted young musicians from the countries of the Western hemisphere.

#### Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

Insofar as the New England Conservatory is a training institution for musicians who engage in international careers, NEC's relationship with IP matters is at least two-fold. Item two below explain NEC's interest in the activities of the IGC:

1) Career Development: Educating young artists of their privileges and responsibilities related to IP in a global artistic environment. Keeping faculty abreast of current issues related to IP for their own engagement with intangible property in their careers, as consumers and advocates.

2) Creative and Scholarly Engagement with "World" Musics: Educating composers and arrangers, students and faculty alike, who are acquiring/giving training in the "world music" arena about the important issues being discussed by the IGC. Providing artists with knowledge about the needs and expectations of traditional practitioners, and assisting them in processing their own roles, privileges and responsibilities. Facilitating on-going education for musicology faculty who teach world music courses on timely issues related to cross-border musical appropriations.

#### Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

New England Conservatory is primarily active in the United States of America. Our student body comprises students from 46 states and 39 countries. Approximately 30% of our students are from outside the United States. We enroll a large number of students from Asian countries (approximately 66% of non-US students) as well from Europe (approximately 12% of non-US students) and the Middle East (approximately 9% of non-US students).

Additional Information:

Felicia Sandler, the representative we propose participate as an Ad Hoc Observer to the IGC meetings has been interested in the issues being discussed there. She conducted a month-long research trip to Geneva in the summer of 1997, meeting regularly with Wend Wendland to discuss the work of his committee which was engaged at that time in the fact-finding missions. Her dissertation, *Music of the Village in the Global Marketplace: Self Expression, Inspiration, Appropriation or Exploitation?* was developed from her research at WIPO, and her involvement with the re-drafting of the Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of the Heritage of Indigenous People in 2000 at the UNOHCHR. She has continued to read all documents forth-coming from the meetings of the IGC, has presented papers related to the topic of cross-border appropriations in music at international conferences, and developed a course for the Liberal Arts department here at NEC to begin the academic exploration of issues being discussed at the IGC. It would be extremely beneficial to the development of a truly informed forum for discussing these issues here for our organization to acquire a firsthand experience of the discussions taking place in the IGC.

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Organization Representative:

Mrs. Felicia Sandler, Music Theory Department, Faculty.

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