



Internal Audit and Oversight Division

Reference: EVAL 2013-06

Evaluation Report

Support Services to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

December 9, 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of this evaluation was to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of support services provided by the WIPO Secretariat to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). The IGC is currently undertaking text-based negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on one or more international legal instruments. This assessment looked at the extent to which support services have met the needs of the IGC, and identified lessons for this and other multilateral processes. The evaluation was conducted from February to September 2013 using a combination of methods including a desk review, semi-structured interviews and a survey of IGC participants and observations of two IGC sessions.

The evaluation found that:

- (a) Preparatory services were efficient and effective with IGC participants rating key services between 69%-96% positively¹. Necessary improvements to services were identified in the electronic updates provided, the website, the registration process and publications.
- (b) Services provided during and after the IGC sessions were rated between 73%-94% positively. Necessary improvements to services were identified in communicating progress to participants during the sessions, webcasting and facilities for facilitators.
- (c) Services provided to representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities were found to be efficient and effective with them rating key services from 85% to 93%. Necessary improvements to services were identified in support provided for the indigenous caucus meeting and the Indigenous Panel and with the selection process for the WIPO Voluntary Fund.

In conclusion, the overall needs of the IGC were being met by WIPO with a 96% positive rating from participants. In providing the necessary expertise, the Secretariat was found to be playing its role effectively. However, given the current juncture reached in the negotiations, participants suggested that the Traditional Knowledge Division (TKD) could be even more pro-active in undertaking its activities as detailed in this report.

Summary of recommendations

The Traditional Knowledge Division should take the lead in:

Recommendation 1: Improving the preparatory support services provided for pre-session updates and publications/reports.

Recommendation 2: Improving the support services provided during the IGC sessions to communicating progress during the sessions, webcasting and secretarial support for facilitators.

Recommendation 3: Increasing the support services provided to representatives of indigenous people and community groups for the caucus meeting and Indigenous Panel.

Recommendation 4: Providing the necessary expertise to the IGC and increasing the level of awareness without overstepping its mandate.

¹ Between the lowest and highest positive rating i.e. between good and excellent.