

**Item 19. Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) (WO/GA/50/8 Prov.)**

Mr. Chair,

1. The CEBS Group extends its thanks to the Chair of the IGC, Mr. Ian Goss from Australia, for his tireless efforts in advancing our work on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions with a view to have positive outcome on these three issues during the current biennium. Equally, we appreciate efforts of the Vice-Chairs Mr. Jukka Liedes and Mr. Chery Faizal Sidharta as well as the Friend of the Chair Ms. Margo Bagley and the facilitators Mr. Pauk Kuruk and Ms. Lilyclair Belamy in trying to reconcile divergences. We also thank the Assistant Director General Minelik Alemu Getahun and the Secretariat for their dedication to the work of this Committee.
2. The CEBS Group notes the progress made by the IGC on GRs during its sessions 35 and 36. Our Group attaches great importance to the debate we have had during meetings of different formats, including at the innovating setting of contact groups as well as at the *ad hoc* Expert Group. Though divergent views on certain core issues remain, we are confident that our debate contributed to better understanding on potentially achievable compromises and landing zones. While GRs will next be considered at the stocktaking session during IGC-40, we take note of the Chair's intention to submit his own text on GRs for our consideration before the IGC-40.
3. We also note the progress made by the IGC on TK and TCEs during IGC-37. Unanimous support for continuing the work on the basis of rev2 texts shows positive engagement of the membership, however, important gaps on core issues still remain to be narrowed and more efforts in this respect are needed during three remaining sessions of the IGC under the current mandate of 2018/2019.
4. Our Group remains supporter of the evidence-based approach and sound and inclusive working methods. It is important to carefully assess all challenges and implications of practical application of any proposals. While seeing a merit in balanced protection of GRs, TK and TCEs, we underscore the importance that any new instrument shall not discourage creativity and innovation.
5. Mr. Chair, we acknowledge the importance of the active participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the IGC.

Therefore we note with concern that the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities is exhausted and hope for additional voluntary contributions to the fund. We are also open to consider alternative funding options so as to ensure participation of representatives of Indigenous and Local Communities in further work of the IGC.

6. Having said this, Mr. Chair, I would like to reassure you that the CEBS Group will continue its constructive engagement in the work of the IGC with a view to reaching realistic and universally acceptable outcome in fulfilling the current mandate.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.