

**9(vi) The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) ([WO/GA/55/6](#)) ([WO/GA/55/11](#))**

**Statement No. 1**

**Thank you, Madam President,**

Botswana aligns herself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

We thank the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the report.

**Madam President,** my delegation finds that it is regrettable that even though the work of the IGC has been ongoing for years now, there is still no tangible outcome reached. Traditional knowledge, cultural expressions and genetic resources are of great importance to Botswana as TK is provided for in our Industrial Property Act, and we are considering protection of expressions of folklore in our Copyright and Neighbouring Rights. . And my delegation like other delegations, believes that these give a tremendous opportunity to spur creativity and innovation for socio-economic and cultural development. Which makes it important to ensure the genetic resources, and associated traditional knowledge and cultural expressions used in IP development, commercialisation and other uses benefit communities where they originate. It is only through an international instrument that the protection of these cultural aspects can be harmonised thus preventing misappropriation.

**Madam President,** Therefore, my delegation supports the review of the work of the IGC for more focus, transparency and inclusiveness. It is my delegation's considered view that the Chair's text as it is, is balanced as it takes into consideration all interests, therefore can be the basis for finalisation of the text towards convening the diplomatic conference to adopt a binding instrument on the protection of genetic resources and associated traditional practices.

**Madam President**, my delegation remains committed to show flexibility and engage constructively with other member states to progress the work of the IGC.

Thank you Madam President.

### **Statement No. 2**

**Thank you, Madam President,**

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

My delegation supports the proposal made by the Africa Group to convene diplomatic conferences for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and expressions folklore, and that of the design law treaty. And urges other member states to support the proposal.