

(vi) Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)
(doc. WO/GA/55/6)

Madam Chair,

1. The CEBS Group extends its thanks to the Chair of the IGC, Ms. Lilyclair Belamy and also to the former Chair of IGC, Mr. Ian Goss, for their efforts, commitment and leadership of the IGC, each of them chairing one IGC session on genetic resources preceding the General Assemblies. We equally thank the Secretariat for preparing relevant documents and for general dedication to the work of this Committee.
2. Based on the renewed mandate, we welcome that Member States had once again, after limitations caused by Covid-19 pandemic, the full opportunity to engage into restarted negotiations during the two IGC sessions particularly devoted to the topic of genetic resources.
3. Let me reiterate that the CEBS Group still favours the evidence-based approach, which we consider instrumental for substantive discussions on reaching the common understanding of the key issues. The CEBS Group notes the progress made at 42nd session of IGC on the Consolidated Document Relating to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources. At the same time, we regret that due to the divergent views of Member States at 43rd session of IGC, we were unable to reach consensus on transmitting Rev. 2 to the stock-taking IGC 47. Indeed, we believe that further discussions are needed also about Chair's Text of a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, which can complement our deliberations. At the same time, we look forward to the revised version of the Chair's text to be crafted by the Chair for IGC 47.
4. Furthermore, we take positive note of other agreed activities such as organization of virtual meetings of experts or issuing the online survey on information systems, registers and databases of GRs, TK and TCEs.
5. Although we have not been able to reach an agreement on the methodology for our future work yet, in our view it should be based on sound and inclusive working methods, which would ensure further narrowing gaps among different groups and Member States positions and allow us to constructively engage on balanced protection of GRs, TKs and TCEs.
6. We would also like to emphasize that the involvement of the indigenous peoples and local communities is crucial in the process and we encourage efforts to enable their participation.
7. Having said this, Madam Chair, we would like to endorse the proposed recommendation as contained in the report (WO/GA/55/6) and reassure you of the CEBS Group's readiness to engage constructively in future work of IGC. We hope to achieve a realistic and universally acceptable outcome of this Committee.
8. Thank you.