

AGENDA ITEM 13(v)
REPORTS FROM WIPO COMMITTEES
CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND BALTIC STATES GROUP (CEBS)

WO/GA/56/10 – IGC

Madam Chair,

1. The CEBS Group extends its thanks to the Chair of the IGC, Ms. Lilyclair Belamy and the Vice-Chairs for their efforts, commitment and leadership of the IGC. We equally thank the Secretariat for preparing relevant documents and for general dedication to the work of this Committee.
2. Based on the current IGC mandate, we welcome that Member States have had an opportunity to engage into negotiations during the two IGC sessions devoted to the topic of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. We welcome the fact that these matters will remain in the main focus of the agreed renewed mandate of IGC for 2024/2025 biennium, without the prejudice of the outcome of the negotiations.
3. 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.
4. 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. Thanks to the contribution of Australia to the WIPO Voluntary Fund the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities has been secured (for a time being).
5. We stand ready to engage in further work during the September Special Session of IGC dedicated to the topic of Genetic Resources. We also look forward to the relevant informal discussions planned during an interregional meeting, which will take place in Beijing at the end of July. The CEBS Group continued to discuss GR's associated matters relevant to the IGC ongoing discussions during regional CEBS consultations organized by the Polish Patent Office on June 30,

2023. We thank the Secretariat Team as well as IGC Vice-Chair Mr. Jukka Liedes for their engagement in this event.

6. In this context, let me reiterate that the CEBS Group favours the evidence-based approach, which we consider instrumental for substantive discussions on reaching the common understanding of the key issues. Further discussions are needed about Chair's Text of a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources. We look forward to the continuing discussions on a solution acceptable to all WIPO Member states during the upcoming IGC Special Session.
7. We thank respective WIPO Members for proposing hosting the Diplomatic Conference on GRs in 2024. We look forward to the discussions, during the Preparatory Committee scheduled in September, 2023, about the Rules of Procedure, dates and venue of the Diplomatic Conference.
8. Having said this, Madam Chair, we welcome the agreement reached during IGC 47 on the proposed mandate of work for 2024/2025 biennium. We would like to endorse the proposed recommendation as contained in the report (WO/GA/56/10) 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.

Thank you.