

Agenda Item 13 (v)

**The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)**

Doc. WO/GA/56/10 (*not yet available*)

Delegation of Spain on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Chair,

1. On behalf of the EU and its Member States, let me first reiterate our commitment to engage constructively in the work of the IGC.
2. During the last session of the IGC, the Committee successfully adopted the recommendations for the mandate renewal for 2024-2025. The EU would like to reiterate its support to this proposed mandate and encourage its adoption by the General Assembly. As we see it, the mandate renewal based on the terms agreed during IGC 47 allows us to continue the work that this Committee has been doing for several years, while at the same time it accommodates the new circumstances that arise from the convening of a Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources.
3. Chair, the EU and its Member States stand ready to continue the substantive work in the IGC as foreseen in its new mandate.

Thank you.

[REACTIVE STATEMENT

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States reiterate their position that any international instrument on TK or TCEs should be non-binding and should support a balanced, flexible and measures-based approach.
2. For this reason, we would like to submit to this General Assembly a proposal of Joint Recommendation on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. In our view, this document provides an appropriate and proportionate basis for protection of TK and TCEs, by supporting the appropriate use and effective, balanced and adequate protection of traditional knowledge and/or traditional cultural expressions within the intellectual property system.
3. We believe that technical discussions are still necessary to fill the remaining gaps, including between those Member States of WIPO that support convening a diplomatic conference.
4. Therefore, the proposal for a Joint Recommendation put forward by the EU intends to serve as a basis for further discussions during the next mandate with a view to finalising an agreement that promotes balanced and effective protection of TK and TCEs.
5. Finally, we recall that the draft IGC mandate for 2024-2025, adopted at the 47th session, provides that discussions on TK and TCEs will continue without prejudging the nature of the outcome.

Thank you.]
