

WIPO General Assembly

Sixtieth (33rd Extraordinary) Session
Geneva, July 7 to 15, 2026

REPORT FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)

prepared by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The WIPO General Assembly, at its Fifty-Eighth (27th Ordinary) Session in July 2025, agreed on the mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) for the 2026/2027 biennium.

2. The IGC's mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium, which is set out in document [WO/GA/58/14](#), reads as follows:

“Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, reaffirming the importance of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Committee), noting the different nature of these issues and acknowledging the progress made, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, as follows:

- “(a) The Committee will, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027, in a Member State driven process, continue its work on the protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), with the objective of finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to intellectual property, which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of TK and TCEs.

- “(b) The Committee’s work on TK and TCEs in the 2026/2027 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee, including text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching common understanding on core issues.
- “(c) Noting the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge adopted in 2024, the Committee will, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027, continue to discuss intellectual property issues concerning GRs and their interlinkage with TK and TCEs, without normative work on GRs.
- “(d) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on open and inclusive working methods for the 2026/2027 biennium, including an evidence-based approach with actual examples, including national/regional experiences, as set out in paragraph (e). This work program will make provision for 3 sessions of the Committee in 2026/2027, including thematic, cross-cutting, and stocktaking sessions.
- “(e) The Committee will use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/4 (The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles) and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/5 (The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions: Draft Articles), as well as any other contributions of Member States, such as conducting/updating studies covering, *inter alia*, examples of national experiences, including domestic legislation, impact assessments, databases, and examples of protectable subject matter and subject matter that is not intended to be protected; and outputs of any related activities conducted under the capacity-building and technical assistance program of the Secretariat (the Traditional Knowledge Division). The Secretariat is requested to continue to collect, compile and make available online information on national and regional *sui generis* regimes for the intellectual property protection of TK and TCEs. Studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.
- “(f) In 2026, the Committee is requested to submit to the General Assembly the results of its work. The General Assembly in 2027 will take note of discussions on GRs, and take stock of progress made on TK and TCEs, and based on the maturity of the text(s) on TK and TCEs, including levels of agreement on objectives, scope, and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.
- “(g) The General Assembly requests the Secretariat to continue to assist the Committee by providing Member States with necessary expertise and funding, in the most efficient manner, of the participation of experts from developing countries and LDCs, taking into account the usual formula for the IGC.
- “(h) The Secretariat is requested to facilitate the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in WIPO’s normative work related to TK and TCEs. With a view to deepening interaction, the Secretariat is also requested to organize, within existing resources, a hybrid Expert Workshop, following similar arrangements *mutatis mutandis* to those as agreed at the Twentieth Session of the Committee under Agenda Item 8.

WORK PROGRAM – 3 SESSIONS

Indicative Dates	Activity
March 2026	IGC 52 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Duration 8 days.
September/October 2026	IGC 53 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Duration 8 days.
March/April 2027	IGC 54 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Take note of discussions on GRs and take stock of progress made on TK/TCEs and make a recommendation. Duration 8 days.
July 2027	WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s)."

3. Paragraph (f) of the mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium requests the IGC, in 2026, to submit to the WIPO General Assembly the results of its work. It further provides that the WIPO General Assembly in 2027 will take note of discussions on GRs, take stock of progress made on TK and TCEs, and based on the maturity of the text(s) on TK and TCEs, decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.

II. IGC SESSIONS IN 2026

4. Pursuant to the mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium and the work program for 2026 and 2027, the IGC has held one session since the WIPO General Assembly in 2025. IGC52 was held from March 4 to 13, 2026, and undertook discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs.

5. The session included four information-sharing sessions, in line with the mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium, which calls for practical, experience-based discussions and an evidence-based approach drawing on national and regional experiences.

6. The Committee discussed intellectual property issues concerning GRs and their interlinkage with TK and TCEs, without undertaking normative work on GRs.

7. The Committee also addressed certain cross-cutting issues relating to TK and TCEs and worked, including text-based negotiations, on the basis of documents [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4](#)

and [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5](#). It agreed to continue its work on the basis of these documents at its next session.

8. The Committee also discussed a proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United States of America, contained in document [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/6](#), concerning the preparation and circulation of a questionnaire on the use of *sui generis* protections for TK and TCEs, and agreed to continue consideration of this proposal at IGC 53.

9. *The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the “Report from the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore” (document WO/GA/60/7).*

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